



Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter, and Happy Valentine's Day! With this in mind, I have endeavoured to spread the love by sharing a poem by one of our Year 6 children, Harrison. I'm sure you'll agree it's perfect for today.

February half-term marks the halfway point of the academic year, and what a busy and successful year it has been so far. In addition to all the exciting learning in school, the children have enjoyed various enrichment opportunities, including a whole-

school theatre trip, overnight stays in Malham Cove, sporting and chess competitions, to name a few. We also had an unexpected visit from our friends at Ofsted, who have given us a well-deserved glowing report. Furthermore, we have recently opened the doors to Rainow Restaurant, which offers tastier meals than ever before. I am also delighted to report that Reception Class is thriving, and enjoyed their first primary school trip to the Peak Wildlife Park last week, linked to their *Arctic and Antarctic* topic. Mrs. Daley had this to say:

"Reception Class enjoyed a fabulous day at Peak Wildlife Park. We saw animals from the Arctic, including polar bears and Arctic foxes, and explored the various exhibits throughout the zoo. Both the children and staff had a highly enjoyable day, and the children's behaviour and attitude were outstanding—they were a delight to take out."

On another positive note (and not to jinx it!), we have achieved our best ever attendance rates at this time of year, at over 97%, which puts us in the top 20% of schools both locally and nationally. Our children are among the top 10 attenders out of 123 schools in Cheshire East, which is yet another terrific achievement and a testament to the joint effort and commitment to ensuring our children feel safe, happy, and eager to learn. So, that just leaves me to thank you all for your continued and unwavering support in making our school the special place it is to teach and learn. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term.



Valentine's Poem

Harrison Gadsbey, Year 6

Love is as red as the setting sun,
Love tastes like a sweet iced bun.

Love smells like roses and is a master of art
Love looks wonderful, like a pounding heart.
Love sounds like the gentle lapping of waves,
It feels like a rollercoaster taking on the
braves.



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts...



School Attendance

School attendance since the start of Sep 24:

97.1% which is **OUTSTANDING**

Please see our [Attendance Policy](#) for more information.

Please remember that you do not have the right to take children on holiday in term time and doing so may result in a fine.



Rowan the Raven



Bramble the Badger



Fern the Fox



Speedwell the Squirrel



Oakley the Owl



The Busy Bees

Rainow School Learning and Life Values

[CLICK ON ANY BADGE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Our Rainow Values underpin all that we do at school. They are desirable traits that we constantly encourage the children to try and display. In addition to the usual awards, **Well done to all the recipients!**

| | Badge | Badge | Other Award | Courtesy Award |
|---------------|---|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rec | Elisza (Bees) Elliott (Owl) | Frank (Raven) Georgie (Badger) | Dora Frankie | Imogen Emmett |
| Year 1 | Hattie (Bees) Remy (Badger) | Elijah (Squirrel) Karina (Squirrel) | Doug Alexander | Florence Emilia |
| Year 2 | Sophie (Owl) Bronte (Fox) | Leo (Owl) Penny (Fox) | Edith Safi | Elise Winston |
| Year 3 | Ethan (Bees) Jacob (Badger) Toby (Badger) | Fred (Bees) James (Squirrel) | Isla Fred | Jack Wilson |
| Year 4 | Charlie (Raven) Archie (Owl) | Mollie (Squirrel) Oscar (Fox) | Jake Libby | Hugo Ted |
| Year 5 | Henry R (Squirrel) Lily-Belle (Badger) | Elodie (Fox) Alexis (Badger) | Alex Oliver | Isla Ava |
| Year 6 | Jesper (Raven) Eibhin (Owl) | Daniel (Fox) Ava (Raven) | Edha Scarlett | Marion |



Y6 SPECIAL AWARD—

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Gabe for being charming, intelligent, kind, creative and hard working.

A fantastic Year 6

Lily: for being calm, intelligent, diligent, incredibly hard working, kind and caring.

A tremendous student.



Chess Club Update...National Primary Schools' Chess Championships...Regional Stage

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a busy and thriving Chess Club run by two of our brilliant parents, Alex and Mark. They have been very active this academic year, practising and entering various competitions. Here is some news about their latest major achievement at the National Primary Schools' Chess Championships:

"Our U9s placed 2nd, winning 3 out of their four matches and only losing a tight match against Bolton Junior Boys' School 3-2. This was William, Fred, Arlo, Archie, Ted and Rowan.

The U11s placed joint 3rd, winning two matches out of four. They were very unlucky to lose out on 3rd place by a tiebreak, having had a much tougher draw than the other 3rd placed teams (but that's life!). This was Fraser, Martha, Elanor, Lily, Josh and George C.

Without exception, they played brilliantly on the day, and showed genuine team spirit. I particularly noticed how kind they were to each other when there were disappointing losses. At the presentation ceremony, they were specifically commended as a team for their debut performance, and for their excellent attitude and conduct.

Both teams have qualified for the semi-finals of the competition in June. It's in Nottingham, so we will have to see nearer the time whether we can make it work."

Thank you to Alex and Mark for their passion and commitment to ensuring our Club goes from strength to strength.



Friends of Rainow School (FRS)—Our School PTA...Your FRS Needs YOU!

We are always in need of new volunteers and fresh ideas to help us bring our school community together and raise much needed funds for school. You don't have to commit to every event or meeting, just a little time makes a huge difference. Contact us at friendsrainow@rainowprimary.co.uk or message our Chair, Rachel on 07786 001336 to find out how you can help. Alternatively, just contact your class rep via your class WhatsApp group.

Save the Dates

We have an exciting line-up of events for the rest of the year. Put them in your diary NOW!

- Friday 28th March - Easter Family Bingo
- Friday 4th April - Break the Rules Day
- Friday 4th April - Year 2 Cake Sale
- Thursday 8th May - FRS Meeting 7pm at The Robin Hood
- Friday 6th June - Outdoor Family Movie Night
- Sunday 6th July - Family Treasure Hunt

Thank you

A huge thank you to Year 4 parents and other volunteers for braving the freezing weather and running a fabulous cake stall last Friday. You raised a fantastic **£243!**

Other Ways to Support the FRS

Buy a lottery ticket at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk (just search for Rainow Primary School).

Make a donation via Givey - <https://www.givey.com/friendsofrainow>



A look ahead... **Rainow Round-Up**

31st January—14th February 2025

Brimstone Butterflies...Can you lend an hour?

This spring we are taking part in an exciting conservation project with Macc Wild Network. In March, they will be coming into school to tell us all about the beautiful Brimstone butterfly and how we can help to provide a habitat for them and the children will be getting involved in planting lots of trees. **During the February half term holidays we are looking to get a team of people together on Wednesday (19th) am and Thursday (20th) am between 9 am and 12 noon to clear the land in preparation for this. Feel free to drop in to help, even if only for an hour—the more, the merrier!**

Midday Vacancy...Come and Work with Our Lovely Children!

We are currently looking to employ a Midday Assistant to work with our lovely children for at least 2 lunchtimes per week, likely to be Wednesday and Thursday (tbc.), 11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. Please see the application form on our website [here](#) and return to sbm@rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk or drop it in at the school office.

Mid-Year Parents' Evenings

Mid-year Parents' Evenings are a chance to look through your child's books, enjoy their achievements, and discuss how we can support their next steps. **Dates of this years' evenings are Tuesday 4th and Wed 5th March.**

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT THROUGH THE ARBOR APP A.S.A.P

Free School Meals...2 Minute Job

Free School Meals are provided to children from families who meet certain criteria, including income eligibility. By applying and qualifying for Free School Meals, your child will not only receive free, nutritious meals but also contribute to the overall well-being and development of their education.

We understand that some families may be hesitant to apply, but we assure you that the process is straightforward and designed to support families who may be experiencing financial difficulties and it takes less than 2 minutes to apply.

To apply for Free School Meals, we kindly request that you use the following link: [Cheshire East Free School Meal Link](#) Thank you for your attention on this matter. Should you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact us in the office: admin@rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk

February

Fri 14th **School closes for half-term**
Mon 24th **School reopens for children**
Well-Being Launch Day 3— TAKE NOTICE

March

Tues 4th Mid-Year Parents' Evenings 1 of 2
PE: Whole School Quidditch Day
Wed 5th Mid-Year Parents' Evening 2 of 2
Thur 6th World Book Day
Fri 28th FRS: Easter Bingo ***NEW**

April

Fri 4th FRS: Y2 Cake Sale ***NEW**
Fri 4th FRS: Break the Rules Day ***NEW**
School closes for EASTER
Tues 22nd **School reopens for the children**
Well-Being Launch Day 4—STAY ACTIVE

May

Mon 5th **May Bank Holiday, school closed**
Thurs 8th FRS: Meeting—Robin Hood ***NEW**
Mon 12th Key stage 2 SATs week commences for year 6 pupils
Fri 16th FRS: Movie Night ***NEW**
Thur 22nd **School closes for children**
Fri 23rd **School closed for staff—INSET day**

June

Mon 2nd **School reopens for children**
Well-Being Launch Day 5—GIVE
Fri 6th FRS: Summer Event ***NEW**

July

Sun 6th FRS: Treasure Hunt ***NEW**
Fri 18th **School closes for summer break**

Diary Dates



HANDY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SUMMARIES:

2024-25 [HERE](#)

2025-26 [HERE](#)