



Welcome back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wednesday 6th Sept

Welcome back to a new school year! It was lovely to visit all the classrooms on Tuesday and see all the children making a fantastic impression on their new teachers. Everyone has settled well and all the classes were getting into their new routines quickly. The teachers have worked hard both in and out of school, to plan some exciting and interesting learning - I've already seen a 'lock hunt' in the playground and some QR codes being used for research into underground animals!

Who's learning what?

Foundation:

The children are learning 'all about me' in our foundation unit. They will be getting to know each other and finding out about likes and dislikes. They will be talking about celebrations and having a party in the role play area. Save me a fairy cake!

Year 1 and Year 2:

The first term's topic is 'A Dark, Dark Night', where children will be learning about nocturnal animals, shadows and silhouettes. They will be using the book 'A Dark, Dark Tale' to inspire some story writing. Sounds spooky!

Year 3 and Year 4:

Our lower KS2 children will be finding out about 'Secrets' in their first term. This will involve a fantastic trip to Castleton to find out about the secrets of the caverns. Hope I can bag a place to go with them!

Year 5 and Year 6:

'Underground' is the title of the first topic for Y5&6 and will involve work on underground animals, WW1 and the trenches and the stone age, bronze age and iron age. I wonder if we have any budding archaeologists...

Each year, we decide on the areas we want to focus on and improve as a school in our 'Developing Excellence Plan. This year we have three priorities: Improving behaviour, raising standards in writing and ensuring that **all** of our children attain well.

Uniform

As we are starting the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the agreed dress code at Rawmarsh Ashwood. Wearing a uniform gives our children a sense of belonging to the school community and fosters equality and school pride.

Our school uniform consists of a white polo shirt or plain white collared shirt, red jumper or cardigan and black or grey trousers or skirt. Badged jumpers, cardigans and polo-shirts are available to order from the school office. This year, we are also trialling some 'sew-on' badges, for those parents who would like to add them to thinner cardigans or jumpers.

Footwear:

We ask that children are sent to school in sensible black footwear. Trainers are acceptable if they are black, but not if they are brightly coloured.

Website: www.ashwoodprimary.org

Telephone: 01709 710847

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Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School
Ashwood Road,
Parkgate,
Rotherham
S62 6HT

PE Kit:

For indoor PE, children should bring a round-necked white t-shirt (no buttons) and black or dark blue shorts. **Please ensure your child's name is written clearly on the labels.** Full indoor PE kits, including a bag, are available to order. Outdoor PE kit consists of a dark coloured tracksuit and trainers, with their white t-shirt underneath. It is helpful if kit is stored in a drawstring bag that hangs below the peg, as there is limited space for rucksack type bags in our cloakrooms.

Jewellery:

We ask that children do not wear jewellery to school. Stud earrings are acceptable, but **MUST** be removed on PE days by parents, if the child cannot do so themselves. We appreciate that studs cannot be removed when newly pierced, which would mean your child missing PE for 6 weeks. Please consider this if you are thinking about having ears pierced. Watches are permitted.

Make-up, nail polish, false nails and tattoos:

Our policy is that children should not be wearing any of the above to come to school. Mrs Sharp has some make-up remover which can be employed at short notice!

Hair:

In line with policy at our partnership schools, we ask that pupils hair is neat and suitable for school. Excessive use of products is not acceptable, along with unnatural hair colours, or shaved patterns.

School Meals:

Our new catering seems to be going down well with the children so far. Please remember, if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can apply through the Rotherham council website. The school is given money to support the learning of pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium, so it's not just about their lunch! If your child has just moved from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 (Y3), they will not receive a free dinner through the universal free meals scheme.

Holidays and absences:

We are no longer able to authorise family holidays during term time, but it is really important that you let us know in writing, to Mrs Sharp. If at all possible please avoid late May and early June as this is the assessment period for SATs and Phonic screening. The Wickersley Partnership Trust have more information about the consequences of term time holidays on their website. If your child is ill, please telephone school to inform us on the first day and then on subsequent days if necessary. Where possible, we ask that you please make medical appointments outside of school hours if you can.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs K Levesley
Headteacher

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