



Rowner Junior School

Newsletter 7 - March 2023

<p>DATES FOR March: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change</p>	
<p>PE/outdoor learning days</p>	
<p>Year 3 - Miss Dymond and Miss Finn</p>	<p>Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day; Tuesday and Friday.</p>
<p>Year 4 - Miss Pollitt and Miss Winzar</p>	<p>Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day; Monday and Friday.</p>
<p>Year 5 - Mr Corlett and Miss Daly</p>	<p>Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day; Monday and Wednesday.</p>
<p>Year 6 - Mrs Southern and Mrs Walton</p>	<p>Children are to wear their PE kit into school on their PE day; Wednesday and Thursday.</p>
<p>Key dates for March</p>	
<p>Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March</p>	<p>The Readathon is taking place this week. Please encourage your child to read at home and ensure any sponsorship money is collected and brought into school.</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st March</p>	<p>Year 6 Teacher - Parent meetings - More information to follow</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd March</p>	<p>1. Year 4 Teacher - Parent meetings - More information to follow 2. World book day - children invited to wear their pyjamas to school.</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th March</p>	<p>Dance Live! 2023 at Portsmouth Guildhall.</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th March</p>	<p>Y4 Ancient Greek Day (information to follow)</p>
<p>Monday 20th March - Friday 24th March</p>	<p>Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Week. More information to follow by email.</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st March</p>	<p>Science in Schools Parent Show. More information to follow.</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd March</p>	<p>Friends of Rowner Spring Disco - 17.00 - 18.30 (more information below)</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd March</p>	<p>Autism Aware support group. 13.00 - 15.00. Location to be confirmed.</p>

Friday 24th March	Non-uniform in exchange for chocolate for the Chocolate Raffle (see information below).
Monday 27th March	Y6 SATs meeting for parents of children in Y6. 15.15 - 16.00 in Sycamore class This is for parents / carers only.
Tuesday 28th MArch	GroundForce Day (see information below).
Wednesday 29th March	Bay House gathering for Year 6 learners attending in September
Thursday 30th March	Y5/6 Mobile Planetarium in school
Friday 31st March	Last Day of term. Start of the Easter holiday. School finishes at 14.00
Upcoming dates for April <i>(Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)</i>	
Monday 17th April	INSET day - no children on school site
Tuesday 18th April	Children return to school

A GFM Family Welcome

This welcome awaits Year 6 learners from Gomer Junior and Rowner Junior who will be attending Bay House in September. The Bay House senior team are extending an invitation to our Year 6 families, on **Wednesday 29 March** at **15.30-16.15** in the Main Hall, Bay House to join them to:

- Learn about changes since the most recent Ofsted inspection
- Hear about exciting site developments
- Provide an opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions
- Provide Year 6 learners (who choose to attend) to take part in an activity whilst parents/carers congregate in the main hall

If attending, please complete this [Google form](#) in order that refreshments can be catered for. For those children going to Brune Park in September, there will be a similar opportunity provided at a later date. For learners going to a non-GFM school, you will be contacted by your chosen school accordingly.

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Our attendance for the year is currently **93%**. Following on from our recent Ofsted and the Department of Education's drive on improving attendance, attendance remains a high priority at Rowner Junior School.

We pride ourselves on working alongside our parents/carers in ensuring that their child(ren) attends school regularly, but understand that sometimes there may be barriers to this. The protocols that the school follows for non-attendance are there to be as supportive as possible. Our intention is to identify and address the challenges that are resulting in the poor attendance.

As part of our attendance protocols we do the following:

- Keep parents/carers updated on attendance via letters, newsletters and our websites
- Report to parents/carers on how their child is achieving in school and how their child's attendance is impacting on this
- Monitor individual learner attendance
- Review attendance on a regular basis and identify any learner falling below 90%. If your child's attendance is below 90%, we identify, monitor and review trends and patterns in attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be notified of this in a letter. In most cases, we will monitor this, however in some cases you might be invited in for a meeting to complete an attendance plan. In an attendance plan we will look at what the barriers to school are from the school's parents and pupils perspective and draw an action plan to amend this. This will be reviewed regularly.

We hope that the supportive process above will lead to improved attendance. However if the poor attendance continues then a referral will be made to the Legal Intervention Team, who will work with families on overcoming the barriers to their child's poor attendance.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff about your child's attendance then please email enquiries to arrange a meeting.

100%	0 days off school
97%	5 days off across the school year
95%	10 days off across the school year
90%	20 days off across the school year
85%	30 days off across the school year

EASTER events at RJS and help for Friends of Rowner

This year the following events will be taking place to raise funds for the children of the school:

Wednesday 22nd March: Friends of Rowner Easter Disco. 17.00 - 18.30. Entry is £1 and food and drinks will be available to purchase. As before, we recommend no more than £2 for food and drink.

Friday 24th March: Non school uniform day in exchange for chocolate. A reminder that no football/sporting kits are to be worn. Children are invited to bring in an item for the chocolate raffle, Easter egg, chocolate bar etc.

Monday 27th March - Thursday 30th March: Children can purchase tickets towards the Chocolate Raffle. 20p a ticket. As per previous raffles, we will once again be doing an electronic raffle, so physical tickets **will not** be handed out to children. Their names will be added onto the electronic raffle related to the number of tickets they require e.g. 5 tickets purchased and their names will be put into the raffle 5 times.

Friday 31st March: Chocolate Raffle.

Currently, we have a few parents that support the Friends of Rowner, however we really do need more parental support with this. Without your support, it will be increasingly more challenging to run these events for the children and to raise additional funds for the school.

If you are interested, please make contact with Miss Sewell via enquiries@rowner.gfmat.org

Happy Easter

Wishing you all a lovely Easter holiday. We do hope the weather is fine and that all families have some time together to rest. We have had another wonderful term full of learning, activity and smiles. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Tuesday 18 April**. Please note that Monday 17 April is an INSET day.

Industrial Action

INDUSTRIAL ACTION from members of the NEU is currently scheduled for Thursday 2 March, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. Please see the email sent to you on Thursday 23 February regarding the March strikes. If there are any changes to this we will inform you as soon as we know e.g. the government are talking with the NEU which may change their position.

Jewellery

We have seen an increase in children wearing more jewellery - rings, necklaces, large hooped earrings. A reminder of our expectations for jewellery:

Jewellery: Children should not wear any jewellery (with the exception of watches) apart from a single or pair of **stud earrings** in pierced ears. The school cannot accept any responsibility or liability for mislaid personal jewellery. To help keep your child safe, earrings need to be removed for PE lessons. We suggest they are not worn at all on PE days.

Learning and Pastoral Team (LAPS)

This term, we have introduced a LAPS Team to the school that will complement the work already carried out by Mrs Fuller. We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Connor and Mrs Baker Le-Cras are our new Learning Mentors. They have a dedicated area in school - The LAPS Ledge in the lower school corridor in order for them to work with and help our children. We are currently furnishing this area to make it comfortable. They will be on the playground every day at the start and end of the day in order that they are available for parents/carers to speak to with any matters that need to be brought to the schools' attention. Our Learning Mentors will support pupils who may be struggling with their learning, behaviour and social or emotional needs. They will do this by working in partnership with staff and parents/carers to identify and address pupils' concerns. Other key work will include:

- Developing a 1:1 mentoring and small group sessions for our learners
- Develop the social and independence skills of our learners - whilst providing support when it is needed. Monitor attendance and work with key colleagues and families to improve low attendance

Outdoor Learning/Groundforce Day

We are hosting two 'Ground Force Days' this year and our first is this month - **Tuesday 28 March**. The whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, at different times, throughout the day. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child will be very much appreciated. Adults will be working outside and can work with other adults or their child. Please bring some tools with you to help - secateurs, rakes, spades etc would be really useful as we have a limited supply (make sure they are named). Donations of good quality plants, old metal pots and pans for the mud kitchen, scaffold planks, bricks and tarpaulin would be very much appreciated. Please complete this [Google form](#) to commit to helping on the day. Children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting grubby or paint on and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Please ensure Y3 have trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is Friday 17 March. Due to our recent British Heart Foundation awareness and fundraising, we **will not** be selling red noses in school or dressing in red. However, if your child already has a Red Nose or Comic Relief accessories, they are very welcome to wear them (named) with their school uniform.

SATs meeting

If your child is in Year 6, they will be completing their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) w/b 8 May. The children will not be at school on 8 May (King's Coronation) so we are keen to ensure they are as prepared as possible for their SATs week.

We are inviting parents / carers to attend a meeting on Monday 27 March (Sycamore class) from 15.15 - 16.00. The session will talk through what your child can expect during SATs week and how you can support your child as well as give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

The session is for adults. Please make arrangements for your child.

We have included a Y6 SATs meet [Google form](#) for you to indicate if:

- you will be joining us for a SATs information session on Monday 27 March
- you require Home Learning to be provided for your child at Easter

Please note, SATS are not about passing or failing, but instead show the level your child is working to. Your child will be given a 'scaled score' (a score of 100 or more means a pupil is meeting the expected governmental standard) which we will share with you. Your child's secondary school will use the scaled score to help inform them which class your child will be learning in. Please complete this form by Friday 10 March. It closes at midday.

School crossing

As you would have noticed, Sue, the School Crossing Patrol Officer who is normally directly outside of school, has not been here for a period of time. We have received notification from Hampshire County Council that she has handed in her resignation and therefore will not be returning to her role. We are sure that you will all join us in thanking her for her services.

Hampshire County Council also informed us that they have recently completed a survey to determine whether the number of children crossing and the volume of traffic meet the requirement for someone else to take on this role. Their findings have shown that a new Patrol Officer is not justified and therefore they will not be recruiting a School Crossing Patrol Officer for outside school.

Science in Schools community workshop

British Science Week is on 10 - 19 March. In light of this, the children will be taking part in workshops on Tuesday 21 March that are being run by the Royal Institute of Science.

On this day, parents and carers are also invited into school to attend a workshop from 15.15 - 16.15. We will send further information out about this closer to the time.

Secondary School Places

Secondary School places for Y7 September 2023 will be announced on Wednesday 01 March. The GFM transition will be comprehensive and we have already been working with our secondary colleagues on transition matters. For those children not attending a GFM secondary school, your child's school will be in touch after offer day.

Staffing

At the GFM, we strive to motivate each other to be greater and aspire further, this includes pupils, our community and our staff. Mrs Southern has committed and dedicated many years of service to the school and is a truly valued member of our community that continues to work tirelessly for the pupils in her care. We are therefore exceedingly proud that she has been successful in securing a promotion within the GFM as Head of Year at The Enterprise Academy starting in September 2023. **She will be remaining** at Rowner for the remainder of this academic year.

We wish her all the very best in her new role and are thrilled to have retained her in our GFM family.

World Book Day and Readathon Event

World Book Day this year is on **Thursday 02 March**. It has been noted that: 'Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational backgrounds or income.' - Just 10 minutes daily shared reading benefits every child's future.

As per a recent email, next week we are running a **Read for Good Readathon** and we'd love your child to join in. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audiobooks to blogs - it's all about reading for fun. To take part in the **Read for Good Readathon**:

1. **Take a look at what they plan to read** and help them complete their list of books they hope to read over the 5 days. Remember they can read whatever they want: books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes! Sharing books is fine too (in fact recommended) as well as listening to audio books. They could read a number of chapters, or several smaller books or poems. Write their list on the sponsor form
2. **Help your child find sponsors among family and friends.** The easiest way to sponsor a child is at <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor> (which family and friends can use too) or return the sponsor card with a cheque(s) made payable to 'Read for Good' or cash sent to school.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They will be helping children in hospitals receive books, as well as helping themselves. Additionally, our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone. For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit www.readforgood.org.

Children are also invited to wear their PJ's or Onesies into school on this day (Thursday 2 March).

YOU SAID/WE DID

You wanted to know if we would be closed for Industrial Action in March. We sent you an email regarding this on 23 February. You told us our timings, during the last strike action, were challenging to your day. We have amended these by providing you with an earlier notification of whether or not your child's class will be opened or closed. We have maintained the registers being open until slightly later to accommodate additional travel time that may be required of some families.