



Rowner Junior School

Newsletter 5 - January 2024

PE days	
YEAR GROUP TEACHING STAFF	YEAR GROUP PE DAYS
Year 3 - Miss Dymond and Miss Finn Additional teaching support from Mr Hill and Mrs Freeland on Monday, Tuesday and Friday morning.	Monday and Wednesday
Year 4 - Mrs Thomson and Miss Winzar	Monday and Thursday
Year 5 - Miss Daly and Miss Harding	Wednesday and Friday
Year 6 - Miss Pollit and Mrs Walton Additional teaching support from Mrs Lovisetto and	Tuesday and Thursday
DATES FOR December: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change	
Tuesday 2nd January	Pupils return to school Lunch only for children in receipt of FSM
Thursday 4th January	Year 6 Fire Safety session
Monday 15th January	Year 6 height and weight - school nurse
Wednesday 24th January	Autism Hampshire parents meeting 1.30pm-2.45pm
Friday 26th January	Selected pupil from Dance Live! to go to Fareham College for Dance Live! hair and make-up practise. <i>(if your child is involved, Mrs Knoll will confirm this with you).</i>
Upcoming dates for February <i>(Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)</i>	
Friday 9th February	1. INSET DAY 2. Dance Live at Portsmouth Guildhall
Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February	Half term
Monday 19th February	Y4 swimming lessons
Monday 26th February	Y4 swimming lessons

A Happy New Year to you all.

A Very Happy New Year to you all. We do hope that you are all well and are rested after the holiday. We are sure that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day and have the correct uniform for both school and PE.

After school clubs

After school clubs will begin the week commencing 22nd January. A google Form will be shared with you this week for your child to sign up to a club if they wish to.

If your child takes part in Dance Live and Lego league, these clubs will continue and your child does not need to reapply for these. Because of this, we will not add them onto the Google Form.

Dance Live will commence again Monday 8th January.
Lego League will commence Wednesday 10th January.

Attendance Matters

We have a duty to monitor pupils' attendance very carefully. The school reviews the attendance of our learners on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). This is then followed up by:

1. Letters to parents informing them that their child's attendance is below 90%. This is done half termly. We will be sending out letters in the coming weeks for the second half of the autumn term.
2. Meetings with parents whose child's attendance shows no improvement or remains below 90% over an extended period. At this meeting, we look at the barriers to schooling from the perspective of the child, school and parent. An action plan is then put into place to address the barriers.
3. If attendance does not improve, then the school will make a referral to the Legal Intervention Team, who will work with family and school to improve attendance.

Please note, schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless exceptional circumstances dictate. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.

Curriculum

The children have an exciting Spring Term of learning ahead of them. Want to know more about what your child is learning and why? In addition to talking to the class teacher you can access our website for more information. Please see below:

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

Contact Information

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

Lunches

LUNCH continues to be provided by GFM Catering at the cost of £2.80 to those children not in receipt of FSM. Menus are available on our [website](#) which will be updated in due course. We currently offer three different hot meals at lunch time: a red (meat) option, a green (vegetarian) option as well as a jacket potato option with a choice of fillings.

Unless your child is eligible for Free School Meals, **payment must be made via Tucasi before your child has their lunch** (or you can pay cash at the office). In extenuating circumstances, this might not be possible however payment must be made as soon as possible. If a debt of £11.20 is reached then we will request that you provide your child with a packed lunch and that all debts are cleared before your child is able to order a school lunch.

If you are unsure as to whether you are eligible for Free School Meals then please speak to a member of the office or SLT.

Read, Read, Read

Reading is important. Please, please, please ensure your child is reading regularly and where appropriate, to you. We have systems in place to encourage children to choose a variety of genres in addition to their banded book.

Reporting an Absence

Reporting an absence is best achieved by using the function on the front of the website using the 'Attendance Matters' blue box. This is a really efficient method of communication for you and the school. Alternatively you can call 01329 280299, selecting option 1 and leave a message. Many thanks for your cooperation with this

School Uniform

School Uniform should still be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2024. Thank you for your support with this. Children who have long hair need to have it tied back on PE or sports club days - please ensure your child comes to school with their hair tied back or a hair tie for the lesson. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children.

Swimming lessons

During the spring and summer term, our swimming programme will take place for years 4, 5 and 6. Year 3 do not take part.

This will form part of the PE curriculum for the spring and summer term and will take place at Brune Park school. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and therefore **all** children are expected to take part. Children need to have the appropriate swimwear, **not beachwear**, boy's trunks should be above the knee in length and girls must wear a one piece swimming costume. Goggles are permitted if your child would prefer to wear them. Long hair needs to be tied back and we encourage jewellery to be left at home – no earrings please on the days when they are swimming. We encourage children to wear swimming caps. Children will also need to bring a towel and waterproof bag to bring their kit into school. If children wear their swimming costumes to school as it is a morning session, please ensure they have underwear to change into. All swimming kit and school uniform needs to be named.

For your information, year groups will take part in swimming at the following times:

Year 4: Monday 19th Feb, Monday 26th February, Monday 4th March, Monday 11th March, Monday 18th March, Monday 25th March

Year 5: Monday 22nd April, Monday 29th April, Monday 13th May, Monday 20th May, Monday 3rd June

Year 6: Monday 10th June, Monday 17th June, Monday 24th June, Monday 1st July, Monday 8th July, Monday 15th July

You Said / We did

At the start of December, members of the Kings Group Academy (KGA) Leadership team joined us at Rowner to talk about the merger with KGA. We understand that not all parents were able to attend this meeting, however key questions raised by yourselves were shared with Nick Cross, CEO of KGA. Some of these included:

Q. Will the chosen logos/colour(s) and uniforms change?

A. KGA will be respectful of historical preferences and traditions for the individual schools. Any changes would come out of careful discussion, consultation and happen slowly; recognising any financial pressures a change in uniform would place upon families. However, as the GFM will cease to operate as a separate entity on merging, anything carrying these graphics would need to change as soon as is practical.

Q. Will the names of the GFM schools change after the merger?

A. Yes, in time all 5 schools will change to "King's Academy....." For example, King's Academy Rowner.

As we get closer to the official merger date, more communication will be shared with families. We will have a link to share with you also so you can see the progress being made. Next month, we will be sending you a survey so you can share your opinions of the school and provide feedback.