



30th September 2026

Dear All,

After four weeks into the new school year, it is wonderful to see our classrooms settled, routines established, and children building strong, positive relationships with their new teachers.

Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Experiences

Our oldest children have already kicked off the year with memorable residential adventures:

- **Year 5 at The Hive:** Our Year 5 pupils visited The Hive outdoor centre in Epping Forest. Sleeping overnight in ecopods, the children immersed themselves in environmental science and developed essential teamwork skills through practical outdoor activities, including shelter building.
- **Year 6 on the Isle of Wight:** Year 6 ventured across the sea for a week on the Isle of Wight. The children challenged themselves with adventurous outdoor pursuits, explored famous geographical landmarks including The Needles and Alum Bay, and searched for fossils along the beach.

Communication & Year Group Information

- **Year Group Website Pages:** Please make sure to regularly check your child's year group page on our school website at www.rapsch.co.uk. There is a wealth of information specific to your child's year group available there to keep you informed about their learning journey, schedules, and activities.
- **Speaking to Class Teachers:** If you ever need to pass on a message or have a quick query, remember that you can always speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the school day once all children have been safely dismissed.

Key Reminders & School Expectations

Scooters and Bikes

To keep all children, parents, and visitors safe, **scooters and bikes must not be ridden through the school grounds at any time**. Please ensure your child always pushes their scooter or bike while on the school site. Supervising children on site before and after school remains a parent's responsibility.

School Uniform

Wearing school uniform creates a shared sense of belonging and unity while providing practical clothing for the wide range of learning activities children experience each day.

- **Footwear:** Children must wear **plain, black shoes**.
- **Labelling:** Please remember to clearly mark every item of clothing and footwear with your child's name and class so lost items can be swiftly returned.
- **Pre-Loved Uniform:** Pre-loved uniform sales are held at regular intervals throughout the term.
- **Uniform Policy:** For full details and reminders on our uniform expectations, please visit our school website at www.rapsch.co.uk.

Keeping Everyone Safe

At Roger Ascham Primary, the safety, happiness, and well-being of our children mean everything to us. We know children thrive best when they feel safe, supported, and valued.

Our whole staff team and our dedicated **Safeguarding Team** (Mr Desoer, Ms Natai [DSL], Mrs Bain, Ms Alexander, Mr Sadiq, and Mrs Desoer)—work together to look after our school community. The Safeguarding Team work together to:

- Offer help & advice: Guidance on wellbeing, mental health, safety, and child protection.
- Work with external agencies: Teaming up with local health professionals, Early Help, and social services when extra support is needed.
- Train staff: Keeping all staff up to date with annual training and updates so we can spot and raise concerns quickly.
- Policies & contact: Our policies including our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy are on our school website. Please feel free to contact any member of staff or the safeguarding team directly if you need help or support.

Operation Encompass: We are in partnership with Waltham Forest schools, the Police, and the Local Authority through [Operation Encompass](#) to offer compassionate support to families experiencing domestic abuse.

Safe Collection: To keep everyone safe at home-time, please remember to notify the school office or your child's class teacher in advance if someone different will be collecting your child.

If we have not received direct confirmation from you, our staff are required to double-check before releasing any child. Please be supportive and understanding if a teacher asks for verification—they are simply following our safeguarding policies to ensure every child goes home safely.

Belonging, Attendance, and Punctuality

Our school is a place where we want every child to know they belong—a safe place where they come to learn, have fun, and thrive. We provide a broad range of exciting learning opportunities designed to ignite children's interests and help shape their futures. However, children can only benefit from these experiences if they attend school every day.

The school has a legal duty to ensure all children receive their entitlement to the best possible education. As parents and carers, it is your legal duty to ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time. If we have concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, we will raise these with you directly and work collaboratively to provide support.

The school is unable to authorise requests for term-time absence.

Food, Snacks, and Allergy Safety

We actively promote healthy habits for life and ask for your support with the following:

- **Playtime Snacks:** Please send children in with **fresh fruit only** for breaktime snacks. Cereal bars, biscuits, and processed snacks are not permitted.
- **Water Bottles:** Children should bring a named, reusable bottle containing **water only**.
- **Grape Preparation:** If sending grapes in lunchboxes or snacks, they **must be quartered lengthways** to remove their roundness and prevent choking hazards.
- **Good Eating Habits:** We teach children to sit down while eating to significantly lower the risk of choking.
- **No Nuts in School (Benedict's Law):** In line with statutory guidelines and Benedict's Law, do not send nuts or any products containing nuts (including Nutella) into school under any circumstances. While we can never completely guarantee a nut-free environment, we must all do everything we can to provide a safe environment to protect children with life-threatening allergies.
- **No Food Sharing:** Please speak with your child about the importance of never sharing food or drinks with friends at school due to severe allergy risks. We will be discussing allergy safety and signs to watch out for during whole-school assemblies next week.

Community Safety & Local Area Reporting

There is a limit to what we as a school can control beyond our gates. We have neither the authority nor the capacity to police or clean public pavements and surrounding roads. Traffic, illegal parking, and dog fouling are issues frequently raised by parents.

If you witness issues around the local area, please help us all and report them directly to Waltham Forest Council using the links and details below:

Traffic and Parking Issues

- **Unlawful Parking & Immediate Enforcement:** To request immediate enforcement for an illegally parked vehicle (e.g., blocking driveways or yellow lines), call the parking team directly on **0203 092 0112 (Option 4)** or submit a report online via the [Waltham Forest Request Parking Enforcement Portal](#).
- **Damaged Lines or Signs:** Report faded yellow lines or broken parking signs via the [Waltham Forest Parking Sign and Line Portal](#).
- **Traffic, Speeding & Road Faults:** File official reports for dangerous traffic layouts, signal faults, or pavement safety via the [Waltham Forest Highways Problem Form](#).
- **General Street Hazards:** Track and report potholes or street layout hazards via the local [Waltham Forest FixMyStreet Page](#).

Dog Fouling and Street Cleanliness

- **Official Council Report:** Log exact map locations of dog fouling on local pavements using the [Waltham Forest Dog Fouling Report Form](#).
- **Enforcement & Irresponsible Owners:** Report repeat offenders or request dog warden investigations using the [Waltham Forest Dog Enforcement Form](#).
- **Street Cleaning Requests:** Request street sweeps for broader litter or cleanliness concerns via the [Waltham Forest Street Cleaning Report](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Desoer