Head's Message

Rainow Round-Up

17th July—4th September 2026

Caring, Learning, Achieving

A very warm welcome back to school as we begin another exciting academic year at Rainow. A special welcome goes to all the new children and families who have joined our school community this September. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and that your time with us will be both happy and rewarding. There is always a wonderful sense of anticipation at the start of a new school year, and it has been a pleasure to see the children returning with such enthusiasm, positivity and readiness to learn.

As ever, our main channels of home-school communication remain the **Round-Up**, **email** and **Arbor** (still the most reliable option given our picturesque but occasionally signal-challenged location!). I publish the Round-Up every fortnight on a Friday and it contains all the key information you need about school life, celebrations, events and important reminders. Most families receive a copy electronically, although paper copies are always available on request. The final pages include both **'A Look Ahead…'** and **'Diary Dates'**, helping families plan ahead wherever possible. Teachers will continue to share class-specific information through **Tapestry** (Reception), **Class Dojo** (Years 1-5) and **Google Classroom** (Year 6).

As this is our first edition of the year, today's Round-Up is longer than usual. Once we are fully underway, I aim to keep each edition concise, informative and full of photographs and updates that showcase the wonderful things happening across school.

The new academic year has begun exceptionally well. The children have returned happy, settled and eager to learn, and it has been lovely to see old friendships quickly rekindled alongside new ones beginning to flourish. The first few days of term are always focused on re-establishing routines, building confidence and helping everyone settle back into school life. The children have approached this brilliantly and have been a credit to themselves and their families. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am looking forward to sharing another busy and successful year with you all. Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.



New Reception Class 2026

We are delighted to have welcomed 17 new children to Rainow this September (with 11 Reception places still available if you know any families looking for a school place!). They have made a fantastic start, settling quickly into school life, learning new routines, making friends, and exploring all that Reception has to offer. Next week brings another important milestone as they begin staying for lunch. I am pleased to report that there have been very few tears, and most of those have been from parents rather than children! We have already been hugely impressed by how confidently and enthusiastically they have embraced school life. They really are a wonderful group.

Reception parents may notice some particularly tall and responsible-looking children helping in the classroom and around school. This is part of our much-loved Buddy Programme, where every Reception child is paired with a Year 6 pupil. Their buddies help them settle in, provide a friendly face at playtimes and events, and model what it means to be part of the Rainow family. It is one of the many things that makes our school so special, and our Year 6 pupils take this important role very seriously.

Important Reminders

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Attendance...A School Strength to Maintain and Improve

We place great importance on excellent attendance and class whole-school attendance of around **97% and above** as our standard. Last year, our overall attendance was **96.8%**, which was excellent. For 2026–27, we aim to maintain this level and, if possible, improve it further. **Please remember that we cannot authorise holidays during term time**. Absence is only permitted for illness, medical/dental appointments, or in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher. Failure to follow these regulations may result in a fixed penalty fine. **Please take some time to read our attendance policy here.**

Medical...New Allergens & Anaphylaxis Guidance

If your child has any medical condition or allergy that we need to be aware of, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we can ensure all relevant records and healthcare forms are up to date.

Our Administering Medicines Policy and our new Allergens and Anaphylaxis Policy can be found here.

Uniform...A Birthday Treat

We always greatly appreciate the vast majority of parents who support our well-established school dress code. We also understand how expensive uniform can be so further details of cost effective ways of purchasing uniform can be found **here**.

Please label *all* clothing and lunch boxes. Taking a few minutes to do this can save hours of hunting and upset! There is a lost property box which is worth a visit if you do lose something. Children should not wear jewellery, nail varnish or make-up for school. **Your child is allowed to wear non-uniform on their birthday! (if there birthday is in a school holiday, they can choose a day just before or after the school break).**

Universal Infant Free School Meals

All pupils in the Reception Class and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) are eligible to have a free school meal every day (known as Universal Infant Free School Meals).

Other Free School Meals...2 Minute Job

Free School Meals are now available to children from families who are in receipt of universal credit—there is a simple application process. There is another level of funding known as Pupil Premium which can bring additional funding and benefits to school which allows us to allocate resources more effectively and enhance the educational experience for our entire school. To apply for Free School Meals and / or Pupil Premium, please 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 the office.

Morning Snacks...Nut-Free School

Most children bring or buy a healthy snack at morning playtime (10.20 a.m. for R, C1, C2 and 10.40 a.m. for C3—C6). We suggest it is not too large, as they eat lunch at approx. 12.15 p.m. (younger children eat slightly earlier). Snacks can only be ordered and paid for through our Arbor app on half or full-term basis.



The choices available for sale are as follows:



Monday:	**Toast (35p), Bagel (35p), Teacake (35p)**
Tuesday:	**Toast (35p), Bagel (35p), Teacake (35p), or a Pizza Bite (50p)**
Wednesday:	**Toast (35p), Bagel (35p), Teacake (35p)**
Thursday:	**Toast (35p), Bagel (35p), Teacake (35p), or a Cheesy Oatcake (50p)**
Friday:	**Toast (35p), Bagel (35p), Teacake (35p), or a Bacon Butty (£1.20)**

Due to severe allergies, we are a nut free school. Please ensure packed lunches & snacks are nut-free.

Should you send grapes / blueberries / small tomatoes to school please ensure that they are sliced, not whole.

Teaching and Learning

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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

For parents new to school, and a reminder for other families, we would like to share with you our school Learning and Life Values. We pride ourselves at Rainow in making sure children develop a lifelong love of learning. We believe that equipping children with the skills and knowledge of *how* to learn is equally, if not more, important than what to learn.

Our friendly woodland creatures have been designed to help encourage and remind us all about desirable and effective learning behaviours.

Children might be awarded a special badge to take home from time to time to recognise improvements against a Learning Value. It is our long term goal that children no longer need an extrinsic reward such as a badge, certificate or reward, but we realise that rewards can work to motivate children in the short term. We also believe that our badge system works to help keep our Learning Values at the forefront of all of our minds. We will be working hard to teach children about each value, whilst at the same time educating them about how the reward should really come from the joy of learning, or the sense of achievement itself, rather than the prize at the end.

Curriculum

We aim to deliver an engaging, stimulating, and relevant curriculum in which knowledge, ideas, and skills have been carefully planned to progressively build upon one another, day by day and year after year. We will provide a wide range of exciting teaching and learning opportunities to captivate and inspire your children, including class trips. Your class teacher will send more detailed information about curriculum coverage and keep you updated throughout the year, including through our Meet and Greet parents' evenings (see page 5). Further information about the Rainow curriculum can be found **here**.

Our School Motto and Vision

Motto:

Caring, Learning, Achieving

Vision:

Growing a community of life-long learners
*who will **care** for each other,*
*who will work hard to **learn** new things every day,*
*and who will **achieve** more than they thought possible.*



A Taster to Whet the Appetite for New Families (and those who missed it!)

We always finish the year with a retrospective video montage.

Click on the TV above to relive some of our favourite moments.

Please note, this video is unlisted and must only be shared within the Rainow School Community

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Be Friendly, Polite and Well-behaved

The children's behaviour and attitudes to learning at our last **OFSTED inspection (Dec, 2024)**, were described as 'exemplary' and the foundation of outstanding teaching and learning.

We believe that effective education is built on excellent relationships and a relevant, interesting, and exciting curriculum. We develop mutually respectful relationships with our children, and these relationships are strengthened through the use of consistent and straightforward 'School Rules' and our 'Be Polite' courtesy code. All the children (not Reception quite yet!) will know our three simple rules and the physical actions that correspond with each one—feel free to test them! We will work hard in school to adhere to these rules, and it would be even better if you could reinforce them at home.

Our Behaviour Policy can be read **here** and our Anti-Bullying Policy is **here** (both policies are reviewed annually and will be updated this term).





Thank you

Speaking of being polite, I know that the teachers and other staff greatly appreciated their generous end of year gifts at the end of last term. On behalf of the staff, many thanks.

For those of you new to school, or in case you missed it, the final Round-Up letter can be found **here** with, among others, links to videos, academic results etc.

Parent Survey Results

We used the summer to analyse our end-of-year Parents' Survey. We are delighted to say that the vast majority of you are extremely happy with all aspects of school life. Any comments about areas for future improvement will be considered when we finalise our School Development Plan (SDP) over the coming weeks. A summary of the Parent Survey can be found **here**.

Supervision at Drop-offs and Pick-Ups

Please can I remind parents to supervise their children if they are using the playground before or after school and **do not allow them to play on the banks or climb our gates or fences.** The school is not liable for any accidents that may occur whilst parents / carers are waiting on the playground with children and it is confusing for children if rules set in school time are broken out of school.

Important Reminders

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Parent-Teacher Meetings...Reporting...format for this year

Communication with Class Teachers

If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance so that we can work together to resolve any issues promptly. Teachers are available before and after school for brief messages or quick questions. If you require a longer conversation, please contact the teacher to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.

Opportunities to Meet Teachers

- **Class Meet & Greet / Information Evening** (see diary dates): An opportunity to visit school and hear useful information about your child's class and the year ahead.
- **Autumn Term Parents' Evening** (after October half term): Individual meetings to discuss your child's progress.
- **Spring Term Parents' Evening** (early March): A chance to look through your child's books and discuss achievements and areas for development.
- **End-of-Year Report** (July): A written summary of your child's progress and achievements.

Assemblies



Children take part in a variety of assemblies each week. Some are held just for their class, while others bring together the infants or juniors.

- **Monday Assembly** – A whole-school celebration of children's progress and achievements from the previous week. We will present school badges and certificates at this assembly.
- **Friday Assembly** – A time to share awards and achievements from outside school. ***Please feel free to send in any certificates, trophies, medals, or photos that your child would like to share.***
- **Birthdays** – We also celebrate children's birthdays in Friday assemblies, singing *Happy Birthday* together. Children can choose whether they would like to come to the front to mark their special day.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are excited about the return of our wide range of extra-curricular clubs, some of which rely on staff goodwill and others that will incur a charge to parents. We will endeavour to provide a wide range of clubs, not just sports, to appeal to as many children and age-ranges as possible. This will be reviewed half-termly.

FIND THE CLUBS TIMETABLE ON THE WEBSITE HERE.

Parking / Traffic

As you will all be aware, drop-off and pick-up times can become congested and potentially dangerous around Round Meadow.

To help keep our community safe and happy, please adhere to the following rules:

- **Never park on the yellow zig-zig lines (this includes 'quickly' dropping off)**
- **Never obstruct junctions.**
- **Never block residents' driveways.**
- **Make sure pedestrians can safely use the pavements.**
- **Adhere to the speed limit at all times.**
- **Ensure safe entrance and exit to the Church Car Park.**



There is plenty of space to park further around Round Meadow and onto Miller's Meadow.

Setting off a few minutes earlier and walking a few metres further, are small prices to pay to ensure the safety of our children and a happier community.

FRS Rainow Round-Up

17th July—4th September 2026

The Friends of Rainow School (FRS) is our registered charity comprised of parents, staff and other family members who volunteer their time to raise money and put on events to enrich the educational and social experiences of all children during their time at Rainow School.

The last year saw an increase in the number of volunteers and we're so grateful for all the support. We are **happy to announce that we raised £13589** which is a phenomenal amount and reflects the generosity of families and the hard work and time given by all volunteers (including the children themselves at times). Thank you to everyone!

Recent purchases with this money include

- building work to create partition walls within one of the upstairs rooms. This has provided space for small, focused group work to happen.
- Upgrades to the Y1 garden so this can be utilised as a learning space.
- Rainow values badges which help to celebrate and encourage the nurturing and learning ethos of the school.
- Y6 hoodies and teddies for Reception class – part of the 'rites of passage' as children enter and leave the school.
- Classroom resources – requested by teachers

As we mentioned at the end of last term we are working on plans for a **sponsored Bubble Run** in the autumn term. We'll confirm the date soon but it's likely to be a Friday afternoon during school time at the end of September/ October. Parents are invited to participate with their children or spectate, as is your wish, and we'll send out sponsorship forms. We will be inviting local businesses to sponsor one of the bubble stations so if you own a business and may be interested in this opportunity please email friendsrainowschool@gmail.com to hear details first. There will be longer and shorter routes around the school grounds including the woodlands. Lace up your trainers and get running!

We'd like to highlight an easy way to **get involved with fundraising - playing the school lottery.** You've got to be in it to win it so sign up **at** **www.yourschoollottery.co.uk** and search for **Rainow Primary School.**

Here's to another great year!







A Note from Mr Norris...

The FRS works tirelessly to raise thousands of pounds each year for the school, making a significant contribution to a wide range of resources and experiences, including IT equipment, theatre trips, picnic benches, books, teddies, and much more. They also help fund larger projects and have been instrumental in creating many of the wonderful facilities we enjoy today, including our amazing Calm Club, fantastic Woodland Classroom, and Play Parks.

Last academic year, the FRS supported the installation of our new pond and contributed towards the creation of our modern workspace and office. As the school has continued to grow, this additional space has become invaluable, providing an important environment for both work and learning.

The FRS plays a vital role in enhancing your child's school experience, particularly at a time when school budgets are increasingly stretched. It is also a wonderful way to get to know other families and become more involved in the school community. Please do consider supporting the FRS in whatever way you can, as every contribution makes a real difference. Thank you.

A look ahead... Rainow Round-Up

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Breakfast and After School Club

We are delighted to be able to offer such excellent before and after school care in our clubs.
Further Information, including how to book, can be found here:
http://www.rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk/page/after-schoolbreakfast-clubs/1121

Diary Dates

A calendar for the year ahead is given below.
Further details will be provided closer to the events but this should provide a useful overview.

September 2026

Mon 7th	Reception class stay until 1.45 p.m. All week
Mon 14th	Reception Class start full-time Year 2 Info. Evening (5 p.m.) Class 4 Info. Evening (5.30 p.m.)
Tues 15th	Year 1 Info. Evening (5 p.m.) Reception Info. Evening (6 p.m.)
Wed 16th	Year 3 Info. Evening (5 p.m.)
Thurs 17th	Year 5 & Year 6 Info. Evening (5 p.m. re. Residential, then split off into separate classes)
Thurs 24th	Individual and Sibling Photographs

October

Tues 6th	Year 5 &6 Residential Commences
Fri 8th	Year 5 & 6 Residential Ends
Thurs 15th	Flu Vaccinations
Fri 16th	Just One Tree (Eco Event)
Thurs 22nd	Year 5 Bikeability
Fri 23rd	**School closes for Half-term**

November

Mon 2nd	**School reopens: AUTUMN 2** Well-Being Launch Day 1 - KEEP LEARNING
Mon 9th	Year 6 Bikeability
Tues 10th	Year 6 Bikeability
Fri 13th	Children In Need Fundraiser
Mon 16th	Anti-Bullying Week commences Parents' Evenings (1:1) commence (tbc.)
Fri 27th	Xmas Fair (tbc.)

December

Tues 15th	Rec & KS1 Xmas Performance (Matinee)
Wed 16th	Rec & KS1 Xmas Performance (Evening)
Thur 17th	Children's Christmas Lunch and Parties (tbc.)
Fri 18th	Whole School Church service **School closes for Christmas**

January 2027

Mon 4th	**School reopens: SPRING 1** Well-Being Launch Day 2—CONNECT
Wed 6th	Whole School Trip to New Vic Theatre—The Borrowers

February

Tues 9th	Safer Internet Day
Fri 12th	**School closes for half-term**
Mon 22nd	**School reopens: SPRING 2** Well-Being Launch Day 3— TAKE NOTICE

March

Mon 1st	Mid-Year Parents' Evenings this week (tbc.)
Thur 4th	World Book Day
Thurs 25th	**School closes for EASTER**

April

Mon 12th	**School reopens: SUMMER 1** Well-Being Launch Day 4—STAY ACTIVE

May

Mon 3rd	**School closed for early May Bank Holiday**
Tues 4th	**School reopens**
Mon 10th	Key stage 2 SATs week for year 6 pupils
Thur 27th	**School closes for children: HALF TERM**
Fri 28th	**INSET DAY—TEACHERS ATTEND**

June

Mon 7th	**School reopens: SUMMER 2** Well-Being Launch Day 5—GIVE

July

Fri 16th	**School closes for Summer**

A HANDY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SUMMARY For 2026-27 IS HERE