Raynsford

Church of England Academy

April 2026

Welcome

Welcome back to the summer term at Raynsford! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

As we begin a new term, we are looking forward to another exciting period of learning, enrichment and opportunities for all of our children. There is plenty to look forward to, and we are excited to continue building on the fantastic experiences and achievements from last term.

Recent Events

Last half term was a very busy and exciting period across the school, with a wide range of opportunities for our children to engage, explore and thrive. To name just a few:

Our **PTA Easter Egg Hunt** was a wonderful success, bringing lots of smiles and excitement to the children. Thank you to our PTA for organising such a fantastic event.

We also enjoyed a **lovely church service**, providing a valuable opportunity for reflection and coming together as a school community.

Year 3 had an excellent trip to the *Chiltern Open Air Museum*, where they were able to step back in time and experience Anglo-Saxon life through hands-on activities such as crafts, games and writing with quills.

Our immersive curriculum continues to be a real strength:

- **Year 4** took part in an *Ancient Greece Immersive Day*, including their own mini-Olympics and learning about Greek culture and mythology .
- **Year 5** explored the *Benin Kingdom*, engaging in creative activities such as weaving and sculpting inspired by historical guilds .
- **Year 1** enjoyed their *Great Fire of London Day*, creating Tudor houses with families. Unfortunately, due to the weather, we were unable to carry out the planned fire demonstration, but the learning and creativity were still fantastic .
- **Year 2** also had a successful immersive experience linked to their learning, further bringing their curriculum to life.

Reception pupils enjoyed a local walk around Henlow, identifying features from the past and present and developing their understanding of how their local area has changed over time.

During **Science Week**, themed around *Curiosity*, the children took part in a range of engaging activities. A highlight included a visit from a marine biologist, where pupils explored how whales stay warm in cold environments—definitely a memorable hands-on experience! We also welcomed our **Living Eggs**, which the children loved observing as part of their learning about life cycles.

We were proud to raise **£312.58 for Comic Relief**—thank you to everyone who supported this important cause.

World Book Day was, as always, a highlight, with fantastic costumes and a real buzz around reading across the school. Alongside this, our **Book Fair** was well supported—thank you to all families who contributed, you helped raise £596.48, which we will be able to spend on new books for our school library and classrooms.

Year 5 had a brilliant trip to *Hazard Alley*, learning important life skills around safety in a fun and engaging way.

Finally, **Year 6** enjoyed a visit to Henlow Academy to watch a performance of *Matilda*. This was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and see the outcomes of secondary school drama in action

Blood Cancer UK

We are very proud of all the children for taking part in the Walk of Light Step Challenge to raise money for Blood Cancer UK. The children did an amazing job, moving around the MUGA each day for the month of March.

Each house also competed on taking the most steps, a huge congratulations to our winner – Blue House: who will be taken to the local park as a reward. Date TBC

Please can all sponsorship donations be brought in to school or donated directly to the fundraising page.

Garden Competition

A reminder that children have been invited to take part in our **School Garden Design Competition**, following the letter sent home recently.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to share their ideas for our school garden, helping to shape a space that supports learning, wellbeing and creativity. Designs might include plants, features, areas for wildlife, or spaces for calm and reflection.

There will be prizes for some of the most imaginative and thoughtful entries, and even more excitingly, a selection of ideas will be brought to life as part of the real garden development.

Please ensure all designs are returned to school by **Friday 17th April**. We are really looking forward to seeing the children's wonderful ideas!

Bikeability

We are pleased to be offering **Bikeability training** for our pupils this term.

- **Year 3** will take part in *Level 1 Bikeability* on **Tuesday 21st**.
- **Year 5** will complete *Level 2 Bikeability* between **Monday 27th and Thursday 30th**.

Further information has already been shared with parents in these year groups. Additional details can also be found via the Parent Info and FAQs sections of the bikeability website.

To support the smooth running of the training, please note the following:

- All children should store their bikes in the designated area outside, next to the Year 3 classroom. This area will be fenced off for safety.
- **Year 5 parents** are asked to take bikes home at the end of each day and bring them back into school the following morning.

Please note that we are unable to take responsibility for the security of children's bikes overnight, particularly as members of the public use the site each evening.

Head Lice Reminder

We would like to ask all parents and carers to please check their child's hair regularly.

We had a number of reported cases of head lice just before the end of term and over the Easter holidays. Regular checks and prompt treatment, where necessary, help to prevent the spread within school.

In line with NHS guidance, children can continue to attend school while treatment is being carried out.

Thank you for your support in helping us manage this.

Class Photographs

Class photographs will be taking place on **Thursday 23rd April**.

Children should come to school in full school uniform on this day to ensure they are ready for their photograph.

Further information, including ordering details, will be shared with parents via ParentMail in due course.

Maypole Celebration

We would like to invite all parents and carers to join us for our annual **Maypole Celebration** on **Friday 1st May from 1:45pm**.

You will have the opportunity to watch children from Reception through to Year 6 take part in some wonderful Maypole dancing—and there may even be a chance for you to join in too! Our fantastic PTA will also be serving cream teas and refreshments for you to enjoy.

Please enter the school via the pavilion side gate. At the end of the event, you are welcome to take your child home with you.

For parents and carers with children in **Rayndrops Preschool**, you are welcome to collect them from **1:40pm** so they can enjoy watching their siblings participate. Please note that children will then be your responsibility.

We are hoping for a lovely sunny afternoon. Please ensure your child comes to school with a hat, water bottle and sun cream applied before school, as we are unable to apply sun cream during the day.

We look forward to seeing many of you there for what is always a special community event.

Year 2 School Trip

Year 2 are looking forward to their upcoming school trip to **Waltham Abbey Gardens** on **Tuesday 5th May**.

This visit will support their learning about *plants and lifecycles*, with children taking part in a range of engaging, hands-on activities including exploring plant parts, collecting natural materials and creating artwork inspired by their surroundings.

Children will travel by coach and will need to bring a packed lunch, along with a water bottle and suitable clothing for the weather.

Further details can be found in the letter sent to parents.

School Meal Price Increase

We would like to inform parents and carers of a price increase to school meals from our catering provider, which came into effect from **1st April 2026**.

We apologise that we are only able to share this information with you now.

The updated prices are as follows:

- **Nursery Meals:** £2.61 (previously £2.53)
- **Infant Meals (KS1):** £2.61 (previously £2.53) *(for those not eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals)*
- **Junior Meals (KS2):** £3.05 (previously £2.95)

We understand that any increase in cost can be challenging and appreciate your understanding. As always, we remain committed to ensuring that all children receive high-quality, nutritious meals each day.

If you believe your child may be eligible for **Free School Meals**, we strongly encourage you to apply via the Central Bedfordshire website or contact the school office for support.

Key Dates

We will share more details regarding our key events nearer the time:

Tuesday 21st April	Year 3 Bikeability
Thursday 23rd April	Class photographs
Friday 24th April	PTA – Quiz night
Monday 247th – Thursday 30th	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 1st May	Maypole Celebration
Tuesday 5th May	Year 2 School Trip
Monday 11th – Thursday 14th	Year 6 Statutory KS2 SATS
Sunday 17th – Wedensday 20th	Year 6 residential
Wednesday 20th May	Reception – Bee Keeper visitor
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	**Half term – School closed**
Monday 1st June	School INSET – School closed
1st June – 12th June	Year 4 statutory Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 8th – Friday 12th June	Statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th June	Healthy Eating Week
Monday 15th June	Reception School Trip
Tuesday 16th June	Year 1 School Trip
Friday 19th June	PTA Organised Summer Fayre
Monday 22nd June	Diversity Day
Wednesday 24th June	Sports Day
Tuesday 7th July	Year 6 Production
Wednesday 8th July	School Disco
Friday 10th July	End of year school reports sent home
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Prom
Friday 17th July	End of year church service

Thank You

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It truly makes a difference to the opportunities and experiences we are able to provide for all of our children. Parents, carers and friends of Raynsford can also keep up to date with everything happening in school by visiting our school Facebook page.