Raynsford

Church of England Academy

May 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our May newsletter.

It has been another incredibly busy and exciting month at Raynsford, with so many wonderful opportunities for our children to learn, explore and create lasting memories beyond the classroom.

From celebrating together at our annual Maypole event, to educational visits, special visitors and important milestones for our older pupils, it has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm, resilience and positivity shown by children across the school.

As always, thank you for your continued support—it makes such a difference to the experiences we are able to provide for all of our children.

Staffing Updates

We would like to let families know that **Mrs Faulkner** will be leaving Raynsford at the end of this half term.

Since joining us in January, she has made a valued contribution to Year 1 and school life, and we thank her for all she has done during her time with us. We wish her every success in her next adventure.

Mrs Vero will also be stepping down from her role as Midday Supervisor. Mrs Vero has been part of the Raynsford team since 2022, and we would like to thank her for her support and care for our children over lunchtimes during that time.

Many children will still continue to see her each morning, as she will remain part of our Breakfast Club team, but we would like to wish her well as she steps away from her lunchtime role.

We are also very pleased to share that we have recently appointed **Mrs Down** and **Miss Stephens** as new Midday Supervisors, and we look forward to welcoming them to the Raynsford team over the coming weeks.

Bikeability Success

Children in Year 3 and Year 5 have recently taken part in Bikeability training.

This was a fantastic opportunity for children to develop confidence, road awareness and essential cycling safety skills that will support them both now and in the future.

Well done to all of the children who took part and approached the sessions with enthusiasm and determination.

Maypole Celebration

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual Maypole Celebration earlier this month.

It was wonderful to see so many families and friends of Raynsford coming together to enjoy this special tradition, with children from preschool through to Year 6 performing beautifully and representing the school so well.

A special thank you also goes to our fantastic PTA for serving delicious cream teas and refreshments throughout the afternoon, and for helping to create such a lovely community atmosphere. We are incredibly grateful for the time and support they continue to give to our school.

Fire Brigade Visit & Great Fire Re-enactment

What an exciting day it was for Years 1 and 2!

The children were lucky enough to be joined by members of the **Shefford Fire Station team**, who delivered a fantastic fire safety talk. Children learnt about the important role firefighters play in keeping our communities safe and were fascinated by the specialist equipment firefighters wear to protect themselves.

They also had the opportunity to explore a real fire engine and, most excitingly of all, have a turn using the fire hose - an experience they absolutely loved!

Later in the day, Year 1 were finally able to complete their postponed **Great Fire of London re-enactment** after poor weather had previously prevented it from taking place. The children watched in amazement as the fire spread across the houses they had created themselves, bringing their history learning to life in a truly memorable and exciting way.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, and the children thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

Year 2 Visit to Waltham Abbey Gardens

Year 2 had a fantastic time on their recent school trip to **Waltham Abbey Gardens** as part of their science learning about plants.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of engaging hands-on activities designed to deepen their understanding of how plants grow. They explored the different parts of plants and vegetables, learning, for example, that we eat the flower part of a cauliflower, the root of a carrot and the stem of celery.

The children also took part in outdoor learning, discussing what plants need to survive and playing interactive games linked to their learning. Later in the day, they enjoyed creating nature artwork using leaves, petals and other natural materials they collected, before making their own plant pots and planting seeds to take home.

The staff at Waltham Abbey Gardens commented on how brilliantly behaved the children were and how impressed they were with their knowledge and enthusiasm.

We are incredibly proud of how well Year 2 represented Raynsford.

Reception Learning

Our Reception children in **Asia Class** have had a wonderful few weeks immersing themselves in their topic of Growing.

As part of their learning, the children have explored the different features of plants and developed their understanding of what plants need in order to grow and thrive. They also enjoyed visiting the sensory garden, where they planted their very own sunflower seeds.

The excitement in Reception has been incredible, as just five days after planting, all 30 pots had shoots beginning to appear!

The children are now eagerly waiting to see what happens next as they continue to observe and care for their growing sunflowers.

Rayndrops Police Visit

Our children in **Rayndrops Preschool** had a very exciting visit this month from a Police Officer.

The children enjoyed learning about the important role the police play in helping to keep our communities safe, including what it means to be a *safe stranger*. They asked some fantastic questions and were really engaged in learning more about life in the police force.

Of course, one of the highlights for many children was having the opportunity to see the police car up close!

A wonderful hands-on experience for our youngest learners, helping to build understanding of the people who help us in our community.

Year 6 SATs Week

This week, our Year 6 children have completed their statutory SATs assessments.

We are incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and determination they have shown throughout the week. They approached each day with a positive attitude and gave their very best effort, which is all we could ever ask.

We would also like to thank the rest of the school community for the fantastic respect shown throughout the week. Children across the school have helped maintain a calm and purposeful atmosphere, showing great consideration and support for our Year 6 pupils.

Looking Ahead to June

As we move towards June, some year groups will be preparing for important statutory assessments.

Our Year 1 children are working incredibly hard in preparation for their Phonics Screening Check, whilst Year 4 pupils are continuing to build confidence and fluency ahead of their Multiplication Tables Check.

These assessments provide an opportunity for children to demonstrate all of the fantastic learning they have developed, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they are putting in.

Summer Fayre – Save the Date!

We are excited to share that this year's **Raynsford Summer Fayre** will take place on:

Friday 19th June 2026
2:30pm – 5:30pm

This year's Summer Fayre will be a little different, with families invited to join us from the end of the school day and enjoy the fayre together.

There will be stalls, games and fun for the whole family, and we are looking forward to what promises to be a fantastic community event.

Full details regarding arrangements will be shared with families separately.

Weather Reminder

Although we are now well into the summer term, the British weather can still be incredibly unpredictable!

Please ensure your child comes to school each day with suitable outdoor clothing, including a coat or waterproof jacket where needed. We actively encourage children to enjoy outdoor learning

Illness Reminder

As we move through the summer term, we are seeing the usual spread of seasonal bugs and illnesses.

A polite reminder that if your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, they should remain at home for **48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea** before returning to school.

This helps to reduce the spread of illness across school and protect both children and staff.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure the school office is informed by **9:00am**, and on each subsequent day of absence, in line with our attendance procedures.

Key Dates

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

Sunday 17th – Wednesday 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 has been another busy and exciting month at Raynsford, with so many wonderful opportunities for the children, and your support continues to make these possible.

Parents, carers and friends of Raynsford can also keep up to date with everything happening in school by visiting our school Facebook page.