Raynsford

Church of England Academy

November 2025

Welcome

It has been another busy and purposeful month at Raynsford Academy, filled with opportunities for our children to reflect, remember, and show kindness and respect. As we move through the autumn term, we continue to be incredibly proud of how our pupils live out our FRIEND values each day, supporting one another, showing empathy, and giving their very best in everything they do.

This half-term we are focusing on our value of **Respectful**, encouraging children to consider how they show respect for themselves, others, and the world around them.

Remembrance

Our pupils have shown great thoughtfulness during last week and this week of remembrance. On Wednesday 5th November in the afternoon, our children took part in a meaningful walk, with Miss Goggins, through the local area, visiting the memorial to learn about the fallen soldiers from Henlow. They reflected deeply on the stories behind the names and made connections with local families. The children laid winter flowers, shared a prayer, and visited St Mary's Church to locate several soldiers' burial sites. They conducted themselves with such respect and maturity, showing what true ambassadors of Raynsford Academy they are.

Many of our pupils also joined the wider community on Sunday to lay wreaths on behalf of Raynsford Academy, Rainbows, and Girl Guides. Today, everyone united as a school to observe a **two-minute silence**, reflecting on the courage and sacrifice of others, and giving thanks for the peace we enjoy today.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week we celebrated **Odd Socks Day** to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, a fun and colourful reminder that it's okay to be different! Throughout the week, children have explored what it means to show kindness, to include others, and to stand up for what is right.

FRIEND Value Award – Forgiving

Last half term, our school value was Forgiving, and we have been so proud of how our children have demonstrated this in their words and actions

Forgiveness helps us to rebuild friendships, show understanding, and move forward together as part of our Raynsford family.
A huge congratulations to our value award winners for showing this so beautifully:

- Reception: Ottilie
- Year 1: Ava
- Year 2: Athena

- Year 3: Arabelle
- Year 4: Daisy
- Year 5: Jack
- Year 6: Elliot

They have each shown what it truly means to forgive and to live out our FRIEND values. We are so proud of them all! 💫

🧠 Enrichment & Learning Highlights

Our classrooms have been full of curiosity and creativity this term, with pupils diving deep into hands-on learning experiences that truly bring the curriculum to life.

- **Year 5 – Forensic Science Workshop (10th November)**

Linked to their History topic *Crime and Punishment*, Year 5 took part in a fascinating Forensic Science Workshop. The children became real-life detectives for the afternoon, examining evidence, analysing clues, and piecing together a 'crime scene investigation' to identify the culprit. It was a brilliant way to explore how justice has evolved over time while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills.

- **Year 2 – Space Immersive Day (17th November)**

Year 2 will soon be travelling beyond the stars with a Space-themed History Day led by Mike Culley, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Pupils will journey through the Space Race and the story of Neil Armstrong's Moon landing, before creating their own craters and even handling genuine meteorites. A perfect blend of science and imagination!

- **Professor Jeff Wilson-Mantilla Visit (17th November)**

We are very lucky to be welcoming Professor Jeff Wilson-Mantilla, a world-renowned palaeontologist from America, who is currently in England to give lectures at various conferences and universities. He will be visiting Raynsford at 1:30 pm on Monday 17th November to speak to the children in Asia Class, as well as Years 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The whole group will gather in the hall for what promises to be an inspiring 30-minute talk, offering pupils the chance to learn from a leading expert in his field.

- **Year 4 – Verulamium Museum Trip (19th November)**

Year 4 are preparing for an exciting trip to St Albans' Verulamium Museum to bring their Roman topic to life. They will explore ancient artefacts and exhibits, learning first-hand about Roman Britain and daily life over 2,000 years ago. We're very grateful to the PTA for funding half of the cost of this trip, helping us make such valuable learning opportunities possible.

- **NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' Workshops (12th November)**

This week, children in Years 2, 5 and 6 will take part in the NSPCC's national safeguarding programme, *Speak Out. Stay Safe*. Through age-appropriate sessions, children will learn about speaking up, identifying safe adults, and understanding how to stay safe both in school and at home. The sessions include fun and engaging resources, including a visit from the NSPCC's mascot Buddy!

- **Year 3 – Viking Immersive Day (26th November)**

To finish the month, Year 3 will step back in time for an action-packed Viking Day, led by *The History Playground*. Children are invited to come dressed as Vikings to take part in hands-on activities exploring Viking life, weaponry, and culture, even finishing the day by learning an ancient Norse song!

Sporting News

It's been another exciting few weeks for sport at Raynsford, with our pupils showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit.

- **Year 5 & Year 6 Football Matches**

Our football teams represented the school with pride, passion, and a great sense of fair play. Year 5 delivered a dominant 8–1 victory, showing excellent teamwork and confidence on the ball, while Year 6 fought hard in a close 2–1 defeat, demonstrating resilience and determination until the final whistle.
Both teams played with heart and respect — a wonderful display of our FRIEND values in action

- **Year 5 & Year 6 Table Tennis Festival – 10th November**

Eight of our talented pupils represented Raynsford at the Table Tennis Festival hosted by Henlow C of E Academy, competing against 12 local teams. The children showed superb focus, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout a series of fast-paced matches.
Our Year 5 team finished 6th and Year 6 finished 4th, narrowly missing a top-three spot. A huge well done to all involved, you were brilliant ambassadors for Raynsford!

You can find more detailed match reports on our School Facebook Page

Staff Farewells

As you are aware, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Charles at the end of this month. Miss Charles has worked across a number of year groups since February 2023.

I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success as she takes the next step in her journey. She will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike.

We are in the process of recruiting and will be able to update you with our staffing plans very soon.

Introducing: *The Raynsford Reporter*

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new **pupil-written newspaper — *The Raynsford Reporter*!**

This exciting new feature has been created by two of our budding journalists, **Bella** and **Emily**, who wanted to give families a real insight into what life is like as a pupil at Raynsford Academy. Each month, they'll be writing and editing their own issue, sharing stories from across the school, interviews with classmates and staff, and reflections on what they've enjoyed learning.

The Raynsford Reporter will appear at the end of each month, giving readers a chance to see the school through the eyes of our children, in their own words.

We are very excited to read their first issue at the end of November

Key Dates

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

• WB:10th November	Anti bullying week
• Wednesday 12th November	NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe workshops
• Thursday 13th November	Individual School Photographs
• Friday 14th November	Children in Need – Non uniform
• Monday 17th November	Year 2 Astronaut Visitor
• Monday 17th November	Palaeontologist Visitor

• Tuesday 18th November	Reception Starters September 2026 Parent tour
• Wednesday 19th November	Year 4 trip to Verulamium
• Friday 21st November	PTA Quiz Night
• Wednesday 26th November	Year 3 Vikings workshop
• Thursday 27th November	Non Uniform Day – bring a gift (Christmas gift Sale)
• **Friday 28th November**	**Inset day: School closed**
December – more information regarding these events will follow	
• Monday 8th December	Year 6 Immersive Day
• Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch Special visitor
• Friday 12th December	Gift Sale
• Monday 15th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativities (afternoon)
• Tuesday 16th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativities (evening)
• Wednesday 17th December	Preschool Carol Concert KS2 Carole Concert
• Friday 19th December	Christmas Church Service

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support this term, it makes such a difference. Together, we ensure that every child at Raynsford continues to *thrive in a safe environment, is celebrated for their uniqueness, and is empowered to meet their full potential.*