Raynsford

Church of England Academy

October 2025

Staff Farewells

As you are aware, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Constantinou this Wednesday 8th October. She has been working in our Owlet classroom and has contributed greatly to the children and the wider school community during her time with us.

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.

Parents' Evenings

Just a reminder that our Parent's Evening will take place from today:

- **Tuesday 7th October, 3.30pm – 7.30pm**
- **Wednesday 8th October, 3.30pm – 5.30pm**

All appointments will be held in the **school hall**. Please enter and leave via the **main school entrance**.

Children's books will be available for you to look through. In addition, our PTA and Governors will be kindly offering **tea and coffee for a small donation** and displaying our **pre-loved uniform items**, which you are welcome to help yourself to free of charge.

Harvest Festival

Last week, we celebrated our Harvest Festival with a wonderful sense of community and gratitude.

Preschool and Reception children shared a lovely joint celebration in school, filled with songs, smiles, fantastic art work and plenty of enthusiasm.

Pupils in Years 1 to 6 joined together for a special service at St Mary's Church, where we reflected on the importance of thankfulness and helping others.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Reverend Shaun and everyone at St Mary's Church** for welcoming us so warmly and supporting our celebrations.

A huge thank you also to all our parents/carers and families for your generous donations. Your kindness will make a real difference to those in need within our local community, through the 'Need Project'. Please remember we are happy o receive donations throughout the year, which we will continue to share with the church and the Need Project.

School Development Focus

At Raynsford Academy, we are continually working to strengthen the education and experiences we provide for all our children.

This year, our **School Development Plan** focuses on key priorities such as raising standards in writing, enhancing our wider curriculum, and continuing to develop inclusive practice for all pupils. Staff are already embedding new approaches and sharing great practice across school.

Priority	How it links to our vision	Our focus
1. Raise standards in Writing	Empower pupils to meet their full potential	Develop high-quality teaching of writing across the school, improve handwriting and presentation, and create more opportunities for purposeful, cross-curricular writing.
2. Strengthen the wider curriculum	Celebrate uniqueness	Ensure all subjects are well-planned, engaging, and progressive from EYFS to Year 6, including a rich continuous provision in Year 1.
3. Inclusion and SEND	Ensure all thrive in a safe environment	Further develop the "Owlet Room" provision, strengthen adaptive teaching strategies, and work closely with families and outside agencies to meet individual needs.
4. Distinctiveness and ethos	Celebrate uniqueness	Embed our Christian distinctiveness, values, and character education across all aspects of school life, with strong links to St Mary's Church and our local community.
5. Wellbeing and personal development	Safe environment & empowerment	Promote pupil and staff wellbeing, explicitly weaving diversity and wellbeing into our curriculum so it is clear and celebrated.
6. Leadership and professional development	Empower staff and pupils	Grow leadership capacity across the school, ensuring subject leaders and staff are confident, supported, and accountable in driving improvement.

If you'd like to find out more about our ongoing priorities and how they shape daily life at Raynsford, please visit the School Development section of our website for further details.

Attendance

As we move further into the term, we are continuing to monitor attendance carefully and appreciate the ongoing efforts families make to support regular school attendance. At Raynsford Academy, we place great importance on **excellent attendance**, as every day in school counts. Regular attendance helps children make the most of learning opportunities, build strong friendships, and feel settled, confident, and part of their class community.

The **expected attendance for all pupils is above 95%**, and we are unable to authorise holidays during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. When a child's attendance falls below **90%**, it is classed as **persistent absence**, and the Local Authority may become involved.

Please also be aware that **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)** can be issued by the Local Authority for **unauthorised absence totalling five or more school days** (which can be consecutive or cumulative)during the previous ten school weeks. The penalty is **£80 per parent, per child** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160 per parent, per child** if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.

We know that occasional illness and unforeseen circumstances can occur, and we encourage families to contact us early if you need support in improving attendance. By working together, we can ensure every child has the best possible chance to thrive and succeed

School Uniform Reminder

As the weather begins to turn colder, please can we remind families to ensure children come to school with a **warm, waterproof coat** each day, along with **hats and gloves** when needed.

All items should be **clearly labelled** with your child's name to help us return any misplaced belongings quickly. School fleeces can be worn as part of the school uniform, but please remember school hoodies are for PE days only.

PE lessons will continue to be outside, so suitable clothing should be worn (e.g. joggers instead of shorts)

Our **pre-loved uniform** continues to be available in the front reception area, please do take a look if you need any extra items, or if you have good-quality uniform to donate.

Our School Governors

Our **Governing Body** plays a vital role in helping to shape the strategic direction of Raynsford Academy. Governors work closely with school leaders to ensure the very best outcomes for all pupils, providing both **support and challenge** to help us continue to improve.

Together, they monitor key areas such as teaching and learning, safeguarding, finance, and wellbeing. At Raynsford, our governors meet regularly through three main committees — **Finance**, **Personnel**, and **Audit & Risk**, Curriculum and Standards as well as through the **Full Governing Body** meetings each term.

We are extremely grateful for the time and commitment our governors give voluntarily to the school. For example supporting our children walk to the church for our recent harvest festival and serving tea and coffee during our Parents Evening.

You can find out more about our current governors and their roles on the Governance page of our school website.

PTA

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic **PTA** supporting our school.

The PTA works tirelessly to **organise events, raise funds, and create memorable experiences** for our children and families. From discos and summer fairs to Christmas excitement and organising all the pre-loved uniform.

The money raised directly benefits our children, helping to fund additional resources such as iPads, enrichment opportunities including contributions to school trips (keeping parent/carer costs low), and school improvements.

The group is always looking for new members and volunteers, whether you can spare a few hours to help at an event or simply share ideas. If you'd like to get involved, please speak to the school office or contact a member of the PTA team. Your support, big or small, makes a real difference!

Key Dates

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

- Tuesday 7th / 8th October — Parents Evenings
- Friday 10th October — World Mental Health Day
- Wednesday 15th October — Reception 2026 Parent tour
- WB: 20th October — Black History Month celebration
- Wednesday 22nd October — Reception 2026 Parent tours
- WB: 27th October — Half Term
- Wednesday 5th November — PTA: Bonfire bake sale
- 5th – 7th November — Remembrance
- WB:10th November — Anti bullying week
- Friday 14th November — Children in Need
- Thursday 27th November — Non Uniform Day – bring a gift (Christmas gift Sale)
- **Friday 28th November** — **Inset day: School closed**