Raynsford

Church of England Academy

September 2026: part 2

September Parent Update

It has certainly been a busy start to the new school year! Over the past couple of weeks, we have shared a number of letters, reminders and updates with families. We appreciate that there has been **a lot of information to take in**, so we thought it would be helpful to bring the key messages and important dates together in one place.

Alongside a brief summary of our recent correspondence, we have also included **a few new updates about some changes at Raynsford Academy.**

Where an item has previously been shared with families, please refer back to the original communication on **ParentMail** for the full details. We hope this newsletter provides a useful and easy-to-read overview of everything you need to know at the moment.

We're Changing the Angle, Not the Story

At Raynsford, we love sharing the wonderful things that happen in school. Whether it is exciting learning, sporting achievements, performances, trips or simply those special everyday moments, photographs help us celebrate our children and give families a glimpse into life at Raynsford.

However, the online world is changing rapidly. Developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) mean that photographs shared publicly online can potentially be copied, altered or used in ways that were never intended.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and protecting our children online, we are therefore changing the way we share photographs on our **public social media platforms**.

Our approach is simple:

Change the angle, not the story.

On our public social media pages, you will begin to see more photographs showing **children's hands busy learning, photographs taken from behind, wider activity shots and other creative angles** that allow us to capture the moment without children's faces always being the focus.

Please be reassured that **this change only relates to our public social media platforms**.

We will continue to take and share photographs of your child's learning and experiences **as normal through Seesaw**. Unlike our public social media pages, Seesaw provides a more controlled environment where children's learning can be shared directly with their parents/carers. This means you will continue to see the familiar photographs, celebrations and snapshots of school life that we currently share with you.

Our existing **photograph and social media permissions also remain in place**. Children who do not have permission to appear on our public social media will continue not to be included in photographs posted there, regardless of the angle from which a photograph is taken.

This isn't about sharing less or stopping you from seeing what happens at Raynsford. We still want to celebrate the creativity, friendships, achievements, experiences and joy that fill our school every day.

We're simply changing the angle — not the story.

Thank you for your continued support as we adapt our safeguarding practice to an ever-changing digital world.

Rayndrops Preschool

We are delighted to have launched a **new dedicated** Facebook page for Rayndrops Preschool, giving families a space to see more of the wonderful learning, activities and experiences taking place in our preschool.

We have also introduced a **new monthly Rayndrops Newsletter**, dedicated entirely to life in Preschool. Each month, families can enjoy updates on what the children have been learning, special events, upcoming activities and important reminders.

We hope these new additions will give our Rayndrops families an even better insight into all the exciting things happening in Preschool.

Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 30th September

As shared recently, we are running **Meet the Teacher slightly differently this year on Wednesday 30th September**. Teachers will provide a short presentation covering expectations for the year group, curriculum learning, trips, events and other useful information.

Teachers will also be available in their classrooms between **3:20pm and 5:00pm** to say hello and answer general questions.

Please remember that Meet the Teacher is not intended for discussions about individual children. **Parent Consultations the following week** will provide dedicated time for these conversations.

Parent Consultations

Our Autumn Term Parent Consultations will take place on **Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October**.

These meetings are an opportunity to discuss your child individually with their class teacher, including how they have settled into the new academic year and their learning and progress so far.

Harvest Festival

We are once again supporting The Need Project through our Harvest celebrations.

Donations can be brought into school from **Monday 28th September until Thursday 1st October**.

Our EYFS Harvest Festival will take place in school on **Thursday 1st October at 9:15am**, while Years 1–6 will celebrate together at **St Mary's Church on Friday 2nd October at 9:30am**.

Thank you, as always, for supporting this important local cause.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

There have been important national changes to Free School Meal eligibility, particularly for families receiving Universal Credit.

We have sent further information to families explaining the changes and how eligibility is identified. Even where children already receive Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, eligibility for benefits-related Free School Meals remains important because it can generate additional Pupil Premium funding for the school.

Please refer to the letter sent this week for the full information.

Allergy Safety

At the beginning of term, we shared our updated arrangements for managing allergies in school.

Raynsford is a **nut-aware school**, and we ask families to continue supporting us by avoiding products containing **peanuts, pistachios, walnuts, pecans and cashews** in packed lunches and snacks.

Thank you for helping us keep children with allergies safe.

Autumn Clubs

Our extracurricular clubs are now underway, with opportunities including football, art, musical theatre, netball and tag rugby across different year groups.

It has been fantastic to see children getting involved and enjoying the range of activities available this half term.

Uniform & Lost Property

Please remember to **clearly name all items of school uniform**, including jumpers, cardigans, coats and PE clothing.

We have already accumulated a considerable amount of unnamed lost property. Naming items gives us the best chance of returning them quickly to their owners.

Road Safety Around School

We recently reminded families about the importance of driving and parking safely around the school, particularly on **Park Lane**.

Please observe the **20mph speed limit**, park considerately and follow the established one-way arrangements at busy drop-off and collection times.

Keeping the roads around Raynsford safe requires everyone to play their part, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Pavilion Field – Electric & Motorised Vehicles

Following concerns raised by Henlow Parish Council, we have also shared a reminder regarding the use of **electric and motorised bikes and vehicles on the Pavilion Field**.

Please ensure children and young people are aware of the restrictions and expectations regarding these vehicles.

Meet the PTA

Our PTA would love to welcome existing and new families to an informal **Meet the PTA session on Monday 28th September from 3:00–4:00pm in the school hall**.

Refreshments will be available and there is no expectation to make a huge commitment! Whether you can help at an event, volunteer occasionally, share an idea or simply want to find out more, everyone is welcome.

Thank You

We recognise that there has been a significant amount of communication during the first few weeks of term, and we hope that bringing the key information together in this update makes things a little easier to keep track of.

Full details of each of the updates included in this newsletter have previously been sent to you individually via ParentMail, so please refer back to these communications if you require any further information.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Wednesday 23rd September** – Reception Phonics Information Evening
- **Monday 28th September, 3:00–4:00pm** – Meet the PTA, School Hall
- **Monday 28th September – Thursday 1st October** – Harvest donations welcomed
- **Wednesday 30th September** – Meet the Teacher
- **Thursday 1st October, 9:15am** – EYFS Harvest Festival, School Hall
- **Friday 2nd October, 9:30am** – Years 1–6 Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church
- **Tuesday 6th October, 3:30–7:30pm** – Parent Consultations
- **Wednesday 7th October, 3:30–5:30pm** – Parent Consultations