



Newsletter 8th December 2023

Dear Rumboldswyke families,

Welcome to the festive season! The last school week of 2023.



Last Friday we had another piece of amazing news about one of our Rumboldswyke superstars. Amber's (Y2) Christmas artwork has been selected by our local MP and Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, as a design to be used on her Christmas card this year. Well done Amber!

Our other very exciting news is that Mrs Wilson returns to Rumboldswyke on Monday. We have missed her so much and cannot wait to see her again.

Parenting Behaviour support and advice.

Recently, a few of the children asked me if I like being a headteacher and what is the hardest job I have ever had. I obviously told them that being the Head of Rumboldswyke is the 'BEST job in the world' and I drive to work feeling the luckiest 'person in the world'. However, it got me thinking about the hardest job I've had. Was it my paper round on cold, wet evenings; serving coffee in a coffee shop, washing hair on a Saturday morning, serving on the checkout in Morrison's or teaching? I've got to say, it isn't any of these jobs. It is the job I consider to be my most important job of all: being a parent!

I remember attending a children's party with the most incredible bouncy castle (which the children were reluctant to leave). The other parents said 'Oh look, here is Mrs Harris, she will round all the children up!'. Guess whose child was the last to descend from the bouncy castle with a very grumpy face? Believe me, teaching a class of 30 is much easier than raising three children of your own, (and teaching your own child in a class of 30 is harder still).

What I am saying is: all parents need help and advice at some point to deal with the normal behavioural challenges of everyday family life. That is why I have been liaising with Jo Rawlinson, our designated Family Support Worker, to put together a parenting course to run in January. This is an incredible opportunity which has taken a lot of persuasion to set up. So please do sign up to come along!

The course will be spread over three after school sessions. We will run a creche in school, so you can attend, have a cup of tea and a biscuit in a relaxed atmosphere.

Please sign up for the course via the 'School Shop section on the Arbor Parent Portal / Arbor App.

If you would like your child / children to attend the creche, please let us know by emailing the school office at office@rumboldswyke.org.uk

Christmas is an exciting time but.....

Christmas often means a complete change in the norm—the environment is decorated, the lighting is different, bedtimes and getting up times may vary, the bedtime routine may be different in preparation for Santa, meal times may happen at different times, there may be unknown visitors, secret whispers and hiding, lots of surprises, loud noises, singing and nativity practise, unstructured timetables and references to sought-after gifts.

This can mean that some children begin to struggle with self-regulation as they become over-whelmed.

The adoption partnership has put together a collection of strategies to help families over the festive period:

'Love life, love learning, love God's world'



Try to make Christmas a predictable, planned event:

- Talk about Christmas beforehand. Explore fears and hopes. Think about coping strategies.
- Involve the children in the planning, allow them to have some control over the events.
- Prepare a schedule for Christmas—who is around, what will happen and when.
- Use the advent calendar as the countdown and schedule of events.
- Prepare your children ready for the next school term— what will they be learning, why the classroom will look different (the decorations will be put away before they are at home, displays will change etc).

Keep to the house routines:

- Try to maintain the daily routines; particularly the child or young person's individualised routines for getting up, washing, dressing, bedtimes and meal times, even Christmas dinner.

Keep to the house rules:

- Stick to the house or individual rules about time on social media or gaming consoles.
- Maintain the usual boundaries and behavioural expectations.

Provide opportunities for emotional regulation:

- Build in quiet times to the festive days, after each exciting point providing time to calm, regulate and touch base.
- Make time to get some fresh air or take some physical exercise.
- Be thoughtful about noise levels, allocating a 'quiet room' where noisy games and activities are kept away from.

Diary Dates

December 2023

9 th Dec	St George's Christmas Fair
11 th Dec	Yellow Class Christmas Play (2pm & 5pm)
	Football Club – Yrs 3, 4 & 5
12 th Dec	Swimming – Red Class
13 th Dec	Forest School – Yellow Class
14 th Dec	10am Nativity at St George's Church
	Football Club – Yr 1 & 2
15 th Dec	Last day of term

January 2024

2 nd Jan	Back to school
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Request for preloved Games

Are you having a clear out of board games/ card games ready for the after Christmas task of finding a new place to store your child's new toys? If you have any preloved board/card games you are looking to donate, please bring them into school for our playtime resources. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend!

With very best wishes,

Lisa Harris





Term Dates
2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1st September – Friday 15th December
Half Term - Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October

INSET Day Friday 1st September – children not in school
Friday 20th October – children not in school

Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 2nd January – Thursday 28th March
Half Term – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

INSET Day Monday 19th February – children not in school

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April – Tuesday 23rd July
Half Term – Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

Please note we are still in the process of organising the remaining 2 INSET days for the next academic year and will share these dates with you as soon as we can.