

Rocklands Primary News



Summer 2023

Dates for your diary

JUN	
Mon 26th	Year 6 Hilltop Photo Presentation Evening at Great Ellingham, 5.30pm
Tue 27th	Class 2 Tudor Day at Great Ellingham
Thu 29th	Move up morning New Reception induction, 9-10.30am FoRS Coffee morning, Rocklands Shop, 9am
JUL	
Mon 3rd	Year 5 Hilltop Parent Information Evening at Great Ellingham (for Sep), 6-7pm
Tue 4th	Year 5 Castaway Day Move up morning New Reception induction, 9-10.30am FoRS Coffee morning, Rocklands Shop, 9am
Fri 7th	Wyomondham College Induction Day Disco and Year 6 Leavers' Party
Wed 12th	FoRS meeting White Hart, 7.30pm
Thu 13th	Shakespeare performance at St Peters Church, 6-7pm
Fri 14th	Goblin Carts Race Day at Great Ellingham
Tue 18th	Year 6 Team Building at AAN
Wed 19th	Non-uniform day, £1 donation to FoRS
Thu 20th	Prefect Federation bowling trip
Fri 21st	Leavers' Assembly, 2pm
SEP	
Wed 6th	School opens for autumn term
Mon 11th – Wed 13th	Year 6 Hilltop residential

Head's Headlines

Well, here we are again, approaching the end of another school year. Honestly, I'm not sure where the time goes!

The sun is finally shining though and we're looking forward to an exciting last few weeks of term. Now that SATs are out of the way I'm in full flow with Shakespeare rehearsals and Class 5 and 6 are really throwing themselves into it and getting to know their parts. We can't wait for the final performances when you'll be able to see the culmination of all their hard work.

It's been lovely to meet the new Reception children that will be starting with us in September and to see everyone getting to know their new classrooms as well. Of course, this does mean that we're moving closer to losing our current Year 6s but we've got plenty of lovely things planned before they leave to make sure they go off with wonderful memories.

We will be having a Federation bowling trip for the Year 6s to say well done for all their hard work as prefects this year. Our prefects are absolutely amazing and, to be very honest, I don't know how I'd run the schools without them! The Ofsted inspector was blown away by the work that the prefects do and how they all perform their roles with maturity, efficiency and kindness. It certainly helps to give the school a wonderful 'family' feeling. The leavers' assembly will be on the last day of term and parents and carers will be invited to share this with us. Tissues at the ready!

Thank you for all your support again this year. A school is far more than 'just for education' and we really value the efforts you all make to ensure that our School is the warm and friendly place that it is. It's now time for us all to look to our own families and enjoy some well-deserved time away from the school run and PE kit searches. Have a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September. Good luck to all our children who are transitioning to high school...keep in touch.

Mrs D

Teddy Bear's Picnic

At last the weather decided to behave itself on a Friday (it has rained every Friday for weeks and weeks) and the sun shone! This was just in time for our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to enjoy our annual teddy bears' picnic. The children were joined by their friends from Great Ellingham Primary, which made it a very special occasion.

The picnic was held at the playing field, where the children had lots of space to run around and play. A wide variety of equipment was ferried up to the field so the children had lots of activities to choose from. Mrs Taylor spent all day bowling balls for a large group of budding cricketers, Mrs Shaw demonstrated that you're never too old to cartwheel across the grass and Mrs Smeeth raced around with the go-karts. I had walked with the Year 2 children across the footpaths from Great Ellingham and had resisted tree climbing on the way (one year I had fallen out of one...!), so I decided to keep my feet on the ground and stick to football. As well as a picnic, the children played on the large play equipment and zip wire and took part in a teddy hunt.



It was a delight to watch the children having such a wonderfully relaxed day with their friends. I am sure that many in the village heard us, as I know the surrounding area was filled with the sound of over 100 happy voices...adults included. I am sure that there were a lot of very tired children by the end of the day!

Federation Sports Day

This year, Rocklands and Great Ellingham Primary School (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) got to enjoy a day of many different sports. This was a perfect opportunity for everybody to get active and have a great time in the sun. The mix of school children were assigned into teams of around 12 people that they would stay with for the majority of the time. After everything had been sorted, the groups made their way around the circuit, changing every 15 minutes.

Whilst the younger children were at the Teddy Bears' Picnic, we were having a go at the sports that were set up on the field at Great Ellingham. Many of the sports were not the ones you would expect to be played in P.E. so it was a great experience for lots of the children. Most of the stations were run by adults so that they could show off their skills!

Hopefully, this successful event was loved by all of the students and will be enjoyed next year just as much...!

Year 6

Class of 2023



Well done Year 6 for completing your final year with us in style. You've worked hard this year to get through your SATs, keep up with your Prefect responsibilities and prepare yourself for your next adventure.

It's been a pleasure to see you grow into your role as top of the school and you've been role models worthy of the title. You will be greatly missed by adults and children alike around school and we all wish you the best of luck for the future.

Remember to keep working hard at your new schools and show everyone what we know you are all capable of.

If you have a dream, follow it. Now is the time to make those dreams become a reality!



What a super time we all had at our annual Sports Day in May. The sun shone, the children ran as fast as they could and all the parents and grandparents cheered.

For the last few years, the organisation and general running of Sports Day has been handed over to the oldest children within the school. Part of the PE curriculum focuses on leadership skills and I am sure that all those who attended the event would agree that the children led the whole event expertly. Races were introduced by the announcers, all races were started promptly, team points were collected and those in charge of setting out the equipment managed to get everything in the right place, at the right time!

As well as simple flat races, the children had designed obstacle races, which had the crowd cheering encouragement and a few children getting rather tangled in equipment...all good fun.

The team relay races were the highlight for many children as it involved water! There was a lot of shouted encouragement as children, and staff, ran up and down the track trying not to spill water out of their cup. Mr A was in charge of measuring the water collected until he joined in too. We have some competitive children in school but we also have some very competitive members of staff!

The races finished with the traditional parent and toddler races with mums and dads proving that no-one is too old for a novelty relay race☺.

ForRS, our hardworking team of parents, rounded off the afternoon by providing much needed refreshments and ice-creams, ensuring that the fun of Sports Day continued into the late afternoon.

Fingers crossed for sunshine again next year.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Dekker B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Friends of Rocklands School (FoRS)

As some of you may be aware, following the FoRS AGM which took place on 8th June 2023, the committee has now changed and new members have been elected. The new members are as follows:

Chairlady – Sabrina Evans

Vice Chairlady – Emily McClure

Treasurer – Lydia Parker

Secretary – Amy Nudds

In the short time the new committee have been a team they have created lots of engagement with parents, both in person and via social media, and are encouraging all parents to get involved where they can to help fundraise and support.

There are a few events already in the pipeline to provide fun and entertainment for our children, while at the same time raising vital funds to help support the school by providing resources and funding educational trips.

If you haven't already done so and would like to find out more about what FoRS does and information on upcoming events, please like and share their Facebook page – Friends of Rocklands School. If you're interested in supporting FoRS by getting involved in planning/fundraising, let one of the committee members know, so you can be added to the FoRS WhatsApp group.

The new committee would like to thank Rebecca Sawyer, Charlie Douglas and Katie Harrold, the previous committee members, for all the hard work they put into FoRS and for providing a smooth handover. Thank you!

They would also like to thank those who helped with the sale of ice creams and lollies on 16th June, which proved very popular and saw them raise £60.55.

Dates for your diary - further details for each will follow:

Thursday 29th June – Coffee Morning, Rocklands Community Shop – from 9am

Tuesday 4th July – Coffee Morning, Rocklands Community Shop – from 9am

Friday 7th July – Federation Disco at Great Ellingham Primary – All ages – also incorporating Year 6 leavers' party.

Wednesday 12th July – Next FoRS meeting at the White Hart, 7:30pm.

Wednesday 19th July – Non-school uniform day - £1 donation for FoRS.

September – date TBC – Children's sponsored fun run, BBQ and stalls.

Sunday 1st October – Tractor run.



Please help us by periodically visiting the Ofsted website to leave your views on our school. There is a link on our website.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Dekker B.Ed (Hons) NPQH