

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Financial Challenges & Environmental Changes – A Principal's view

It's bulletin time again, and a much-shortened version, this time reflecting on the past 4 weeks, focusing on our Year 6 pupils following their busy SATs week schedule. I am delighted to share some community news that brings a positive note during a time when many schools and academies, including ours, face significant financial constraints.



Despite ongoing pressures on our budget, we have been able to improve our playground environment and forest school area—developments that will benefit all our children for years to come.



These enhancements have been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity and support of two local companies: *Action, Play and Leisure* and *FRA Projects*. Their contributions, both in expertise and resources, have supported the development of these key areas of our environment, creating inspiring, safe, and engaging spaces that enrich our pupils' playtime and outdoor learning.

Our new playground resources are a welcome addition to our vibrant and dynamic space that encourages physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play. The equipment installed by *Action, Play and Leisure* has been carefully selected to promote inclusive, active experiences for children of all ages and abilities. Their team have shown not only professionalism but genuine enthusiasm for creating something special for our school.

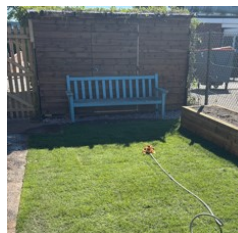


Meanwhile, our forest school area has undergone a remarkable transformation thanks to the hard work and generosity of *FRA Projects*. Their support has enabled us to develop a dedicated space where children will be able to connect with nature, explore, and learn through hands-on

experiences. We now have a lovely lawned area with raised beds and a storage area, which is a space that will offer a truly immersive outdoor learning environment.



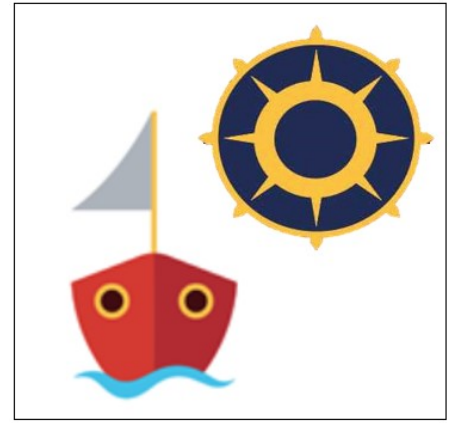
We are immensely grateful to both companies for recognising the importance of investing in children's wellbeing and education. Their support has ensured that, even in a challenging financial climate, we can continue to provide the best possible



environment for our pupils to thrive.

We look forward to seeing the children enjoying and benefiting from these spaces every day.

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 24/25/26

Tuesday 22nd July '25

Summer Term '25 ends

Wednesday 3rd Sept '25

Autumn term '25/26 begins

Monday 27th October '25

Autumn half term begins

Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2024/25

Leadership at all levels within the Academies secures sustained improvement in the delivery of the curriculum

Across the Academies, outcomes for all pupils demonstrate a sustainable & improving trend

Continue to embed high quality teaching & learning, ensuring that assessment in all subjects informs curriculum delivery

Continue to embed a high standard of pupil welfare which promotes pupil independence and responsibility

Congratulations to Bella

We are delighted to announce that Bella has been appointed to the role of Family Support Worker (FSW). This is a fantastic addition to our team, and we are thrilled to welcome her into this important position. Bella will be working closely with children and families, offering support, guidance, and a listening ear to help overcome challenges and build strong, positive relationships. She is passionate about wellbeing and committed to ensuring every child feels safe, supported, and heard. Bella is a key member of our Academy's *Circle of Safety*, working alongside staff to create a safe and protective environment for all.

A focus on Year 6...

Before our Year 6 children approach their final half-term as Admirals pupils, they have to navigate the challenge of their National Standardised Attainment Tests, more commonly known as SATs. These tests assess the children's knowledge and skills in English (reading, grammar, punctuation, and spelling) and mathematics. The purpose of Year 6 SATs is to measure how well pupils have learned the curriculum before moving on to



secondary school. The results help teachers understand each child's progress and can also be used by schools and the government to monitor education standards. As you can see, it is a very important time for all.



Whilst the results of the testing are some weeks away, we can share with you that the children conducted themselves brilliantly. From their SATs breakfast, through the entire four days of testing, they were a credit to themselves, their families and the academy. Whilst their learning has been focused on ensuring good outcomes, their teachers and support staff have to ensure that we offer a fine balance between work and play to ensure that we keep motivation high.

To that end, during this half term, the children travelled to Norwich to watch 'Pig Heart Boy' at the theatre. This novel was previously studied during Autumn Term '24, and seeing it live really helped the children recall and appreciate the story. The pupils were the perfect audience and deserved some time out, which took place a little later at the local park. Here they had a picnic and a whole cohort game of chaos tag, which went down a treat! We thank parents and our PFA for their support of this trip.



Following the four days of testing, the staff decided to give all of Year 6 a break from learning to enjoy a more 'social' few hours with a wander out to Thefford Garden Centre to enjoy each other's company, a milkshake or two and some card games. Once again, our pupils' behaviour in the public arena was excellent, and everyone enjoyed a very relaxed and entertaining afternoon.



Calendar dates for Summer term 2, 2024/25

Event date	Summer Term 2 24/25 Event Diary & Additional Notes
2.6.25	Year 4 Multiplication Check begins (MTC)
9.6.25	Year 1 Phonics Screening
13.6.25	International Day of Welcome – Open event for parents, 2.15pm – 3.00pm
23.6.25	Year 2 SATs week
24.6.25	Raleigh EYFS Sports Day, 9.30am-10.30am, Admirals Playground
25.6.25	Raleigh KS1 & Admirals Sports Day – 9.00am to 2.30pm
30.6.25	Reserve date for Sports Day (if Wednesday 25 th June postponed)
4.7.25	Year 5 ONLY: Transition information - Parents and pupils will be informed in writing of new classes for September 2025/26 (Year 5 to year 6)
7.7.25	Year 5 ONLY: Transition day (Year 5 to year 6)
7.7.25	Year 6 full transition week to new schools (Year 6 to Year 7)
7.7.25	Transition information: Parents and pupils will be informed in writing of new classes for September 2025/26
9.7.25	Transition morning: Pupils will spend the morning (9.00am – 12.15pm) with their new class teachers for 25/26. However, due to logistics this may not necessarily happen in their new classrooms.
10.7.25	Transition day: Pupils will spend the day (8.40am – 3.00pm) with their new teachers for '25/26. However, due to logistics this may not necessarily happen in their new classrooms.
8.7.25	KS2 SATs results published to schools
14.7.25	Academy Fete: Held on the Admirals playground, 2.00 to 4.00pm
16.7.25	Year 6 Residential
21.7.25	Reception & Year 1 Classroom parties. Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes. Party runs from 1.30 – 2.45pm
21.7.25	Year 2 'Moving on' Party. Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes. Party runs from 1.30 – 2.45pm
21.7.25	End of Year Disco: Pupils to come to school dressed in their own clothes Year 6 Disco 1.15 – 1.50pm, All Admirals pupils 1.50pm – 2.50pm
22.7.25	Year 2 'moving on' assembly. Held in the Raleigh Hall. Doors open to parents at 8.45am, begins at 9.00am. The hall can accommodate 2 adults per child
22.7.25	Year 6 leavers assembly Held at the 'Church on the Way'. Doors open to parents at 10.45am, begins at 11.00am. The venue can accommodate 2 adults per child
22.7.25	End of year assembly. Begins at 2pm, for pupils and staff only 3pm Academies close for the Summer Holidays
22.7.25	End of Year reports distributed to parents
3.9.25	Start of Autumn term '25/26 for pupils

Car Parking



Following several 'near misses' in and around our '**STAFF CAR PARK**', I have been forced to put in place a 'ban' on parents using the 'parking spaces' at the beginning and end of the day. Our site team are currently on duty at these times to restrict access to this 'private land', only allowing blue badge holders (priority given to those badges in place for children) and other visitors such as those driving pupil taxis or those parents collecting children with predetermined safeguarding arrangements in place. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in this matter.

Raleigh EYFS Sports Day arrangements

Sports Day for our reception classes will take place on Tuesday, 24th June 9.30am to 10.30am.

We will hold the event on the Admirals Playground and gates will open at 9.20am. There will be a marked zone where parents can spectate. There will be plenty of room for everyone. After the event, the children will return to class.

Raleigh/Admirals Year 1 – 6 Sports Day arrangements

Our annual Sports Day will be taking place on Wednesday 25th June, 9am to 2.00pm.

This year, we have decided to run one large event incorporating all pupils from years 1 to 6. The day will run to the following timetable:

- We ask that parents arrive on the field from 08:30 after school drop off and are settled, ready for children to begin their events from 9 am.
- Children are asked to wear suitable PE clothing, where possible, showing the colour to represent their house team. **Biscay – Blue** / **Fastnet – Green** / **Rockall – Red** / **Trafalgar – Yellow**
- We will provide shaded areas for children and provide a sheltered area within the parents' designated space.
- We will continue to host a picnic lunch event from 1:15 where children will join you for their lunches after the sports day events.
- At lunchtime, the Academies will be selling some refreshments.
- At 2.00 pm, all children will be expected to return to their class teachers for afternoon registration, which will take place on the field.
- At approximately 2.15 pm, we will be completing a parent sign-out with class teachers, where you may take your child or children home at an earlier time than normal school closure.
- The field will remain open to parents until 2.30 pm when the field must then be vacated.
- Children who do not have permission to leave with a parent will remain in school until the normal timing of 3.00 pm.

We hope that the new and improved schedule for our sports day will be a success, and we look forward to sharing yet another successful day of fun and competition with all concerned. A more detailed sports day letter will be circulated after half-term.