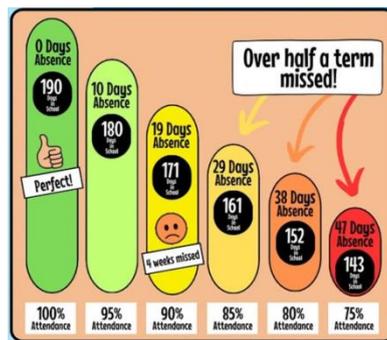


Raleigh & Admirals Academies

The Power of Being Present – A Principal's view

At the heart of every child's success lies one simple truth – being in school every day truly matters. Good attendance is not just about turning up; it is about giving children the best possible chance to learn, grow, and thrive. Each day in school builds upon the last, helping children develop not only their knowledge and skills but also their confidence, friendships, and sense of belonging.

Research consistently shows that regular attendance at primary school is closely linked to higher achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics. Children who attend well are more likely to reach their full potential, both academically and socially. Attendance is more than a number on a register – it reflects a child's opportunity to engage, succeed, and prepare for the future.



Our school's target for every pupil is to achieve **at least 96% attendance** across the year. This equates to no more than seven days of absence in an entire school year. When attendance falls below this level, children can quickly begin to miss key parts of their learning journey. Lessons in primary school are carefully sequenced so that new skills build on previous ones – when a child misses even a few days, it can take time and extra support to bridge the gap. These gaps can accumulate, affecting confidence, progress, and long-term outcomes.

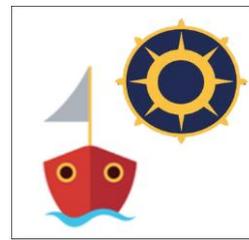
It is important for families to understand that term-time holidays cannot be easily 'caught up'. While the experience of travel can be valuable, missing school time often leads to missed explanations, discussions, and collaborative work that are essential for deep understanding. Teachers work hard to ensure all children succeed, but when learning is interrupted, even the most dedicated pupils can struggle to regain momentum.

Good attendance in primary school lays the foundation for lifelong habits. Children who learn the importance of commitment, reliability, and perseverance from a young age are better prepared for secondary school, higher education, and employment. Studies show that pupils with strong attendance in their early years are significantly more likely to achieve good qualifications and secure fulfilling careers later in life. In short, attending school regularly improves long-term life chances.

We recognise that sometimes absence is unavoidable, such as in cases of illness. However, we ask that families work closely with us to keep these to a minimum and to communicate with school whenever difficulties arise. Together, we can identify support and find solutions to ensure every child's attendance remains strong.

Let us all share the same goal: for every child to be present, learning, and thriving. By aiming for 100% attendance and valuing every school day, we can give our children the greatest gift of all – the best possible start in life.

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 25/26

Monday 3rd November '25

Autumn term '25/26 continues

Friday 19th December '25

Autumn term ends

Tuesday 6th January '26

Spring term '26 begins

Staffing news



Congratulations to Mrs Hale and Mrs Ewens who have both been appointed Assistant Principals across Raleigh and Admirals.

Mrs Hale has responsibility for Teaching and Learning, Curriculum Development, Assessment and Operations. She leads and teaches within the Year 6 team, and has a Whippet called Hettie! Mrs Ewens oversees EYFS and KS1 within Raleigh as well leading on teaching and standards in Reading and Writing. She also oversees Operations and teaches within the Year 4 team and has a Sprocker Spaniel called Billy!

Welcome

..... to Mrs Wickers, who has recently joined our Academies and will be teaching in Year 5. She shared a few words with us.....

"I have a passion for helping children to grow in confidence and curiosity and she strives to create a classroom where every child feels valued, challenged and inspired to do their best. Outside of the Academy, I am a proud parent of four adult children and six beautiful grandchildren. Family is at the heart of everything I do. I love to spend my free time travelling and discovering new places, as well as relaxing in my garden. I am looking forward to working in partnership with you this year to make sure your children have a happy, engaging and successful time in year 5."

Curriculum Time

Nursery – All About Me

The children in Nursery have settled into new routines well and have shown enthusiasm and motivation to take part in different aspects of learning. PE is a top favourite! Our PKC theme is All About Me. Children have enjoyed learning about parts of the body, sharing pictures of their families and identifying where they live. The children explored nursery and beyond by walking around the academy and mark making their own maps.



Reception – Police Officer visit



This half term our new Reception children have also enjoyed exploring their PKC learning theme 'All About Me'. Alongside learning more about themselves, their family and their friends, they also explored their local community. The children spoke about the people in their community that help them, one of which being Police Officers. The children loved having a visit from PC Leah Norton from Norfolk Constabulary to help embed their understanding further. She told us how Police Officers keep people safe, and what to do if we need help. The children asked lots of great questions like "how do you drive the car so fast?" and "what is the siren for?", and even asked what she had for breakfast (Weetabix and biscuits if you're curious!). The children were able to explore and try on some of her uniform and equipment before heading outside to see the police car - even taking turns to turn on the lights and sirens (it was VERY loud!). The children were aspirational, respectful and kind throughout - what a fantastic start to our first half term together!

Year 1 – Lotus Car Visit

This week, Year 1 had a very exciting visit from the team at Lotus Cars and what a treat it was! This special visit tied in perfectly with our design & technology topic for next half term. The children got the chance to sit inside real sports cars, explore the design features, and ask lots of fantastic questions. The visitors, who work as engineers, explained what their jobs involve from spotting faults in a car to improving how it works. The children were fascinated to learn how engineers help make cars safer, faster, and more fun to drive! The children learned about car parts, how vehicles are built, and what makes a car "work well." They also talked about what cars are for and how people use them in everyday life. Safe to say, it was a supercharged afternoon and one the children won't forget!



NumBots is an engaging online platform designed to help children develop strong foundational skills in Maths, particularly in number recognition, addition, and subtraction.

By combining fun, interactive games with a structured learning path, NumBots makes Maths accessible and enjoyable for young learners.

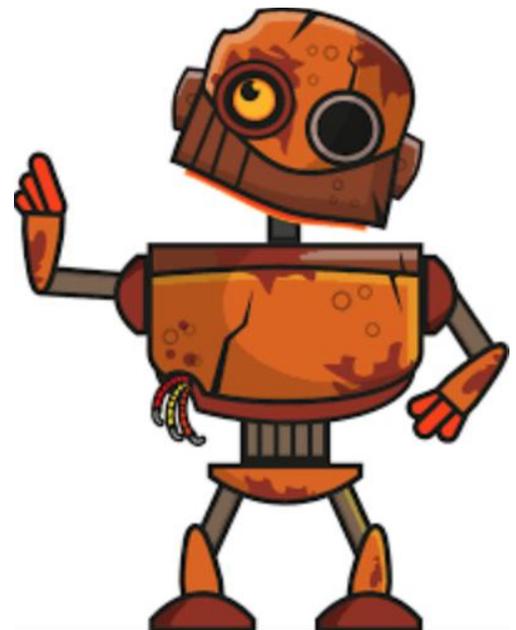


The program focuses on building fluency and confidence through regular, short sessions that adapt to each child's pace. This helps children develop a deep understanding of numbers and mental arithmetic, which are essential for success in later mathematical learning. NumBots supports your child's learning by:

- **Encouraging consistent practice and improvement.**
- **Reinforcing key math concepts taught in school.**
- **Boosting confidence with positive feedback and rewards.**
- **Offering a screen-time activity that's both educational and fun.**

By using NumBots at home and in school, children can make noticeable progress in their math skills, setting a strong foundation for future learning. Here's how it's typically used across our year groups:

- **Reception (Age 4–5):**
Children begin using NumBots to build early number sense — recognising numbers, counting objects, and understanding simple addition and subtraction.
- **Year 1 (Age 5–6):**
Pupils use NumBots regularly to develop fluency with basic number facts, number bonds to 10 and 20, and early strategies for mental addition and subtraction.
- **Year 2 (Age 6–7):**
Children consolidate their fluency and move towards applying their knowledge more rapidly and confidently.



Access the site using this address: <https://play.numbots.com>

Please do let your class teacher know if you do not have your child's NumBots log in, or if you are struggling with access to the site.

Family First

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XMAS

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**Netmums'
advice:**

HOW TO
AVOID
FESTIVE
BURNOUT

DANI DYER



*talks twins,
starting school
and bedtime
routines*

OTI MABUSE

*on becoming a mother, the importance
of family and pursuing your passions*

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Click the following link to the read the latest edition:

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue4-25>

Year 2 – History visits

This half term, Year 2 have had a fantastic opportunity to engage with local history through exciting visits to the Ancient House Museum and Norwich Castle. At the Ancient House Museum, pupils explored life in the past and even tried their handwriting with traditional quills. They also



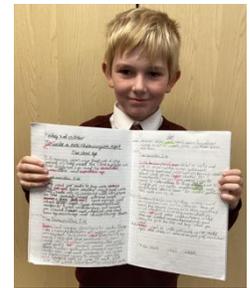
visited Castle Hill and trekked all the way to the top to enjoy the stunning view, imagining what it might have looked like hundreds of years ago. The adventure continued at Norwich Castle, where the children were transported back to 1141, and the king was due to visit the next day! The children worked together to prepare the grand dining hall for the king's meal and went on a secret mission around the castle to search for a special ring for the king that had gone missing, which thankfully was a success!



Year 3 – Reading and Writing

Year 3 have had a wonderful and productive start to the year, filled with curiosity, creativity, and lots of new learning across all our subjects.

In Writing, we have been developing our creativity and descriptive skills through a range of genres. We began by writing a first-person narrative, based on walking through a mysterious door leading to a place of our own imagination. This encouraged rich vocabulary choices and the use of sensory



description. We then focused on creating non-chronological reports, drawing upon our History knowledge this term, The Stone Age. Including many facts that we have learnt around this period. We have also learnt how to write instructional texts, developing our understanding of imperative verbs and prepositions.

In our Reading lessons, we have enjoyed exploring a variety of engaging books, including Greta and the Giants and Leon and the Place Between. Through these texts, the children have been developing important comprehension skills such as inference, retrieval, and summarising. We have also discussed deeper themes such as climate, friendship, magic, and the unknown. This term, we have also been fortunate to welcome a specialist drama teacher who has supported the children in developing their performing arts skills. These sessions have been linked to our reading lessons, allowing pupils to explore themes such as unknown, friendship and love through performance and expression.



All-Aboard Announcements



We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Axford has returned to take over the running of our After School provision, All Aboard. Mrs Axford has made a number of immediate changes to improve the provision which is on offer from 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, with a 5.30pm finish on a Friday. A new healthier food menu has been introduced, along with a range of arts and crafts and access to ball games. The children also have access to books, board-games and films.

All Aboard

As well as Mrs Axford, we now have four other staff who assist with delivery of our post school care. Mr Holden, Mrs Akkas, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Seagar are also part of our great team

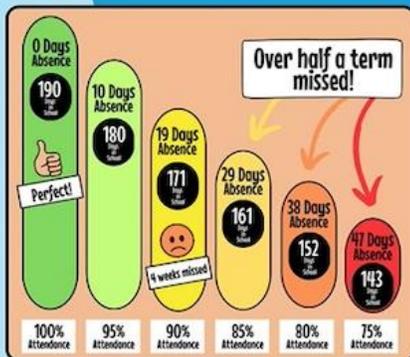


School Attendance

Every day counts...

Good attendance helps with...

Academic Achievement Regular attendance helps children stay on track with the curriculum and achieve stronger academic results.	Social Skills Being in school every day helps children make friends, develop important social skills and feel part of the school community.	Routine & Responsibility Attending school regularly teaches the importance of commitment, routine and responsibility, helping children build valuable life skills.	Focus & Engagement Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.	Building Confidence Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.	Enhanced Learning Opportunities School offers more than academic learning - it provides clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents.
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Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Tips for Supporting Good Attendance...

Set a regular routine A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.	Aim for every day Try to miss school attendance the default only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.	Plan appointments carefully Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.	Talk positively about school Ask about your child's day and celebrate the little things they enjoy. Your positivity helps them look forward to school.	Stay in touch When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.	Prepare the night before Pack bags, lay out uniforms and check homework in the evening to make mornings smoother and less stressful.
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Our Academy Attendance Headlines

Overall half term attendance:

Raleigh – 95.41%

Admirals – 95.90%

Raleigh Unauthorised absence 1.79%

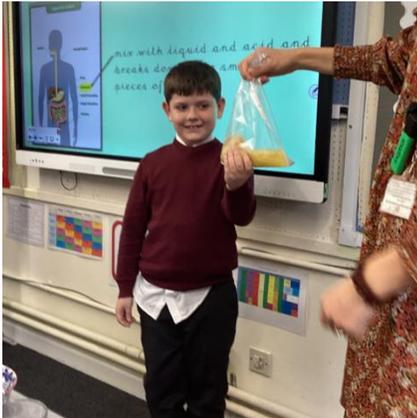
Admirals Unauthorised absence 1.30%



An unauthorised absence is any time a child misses school without the school's permission. This includes holidays taken during term-time, being late after the register has closed, or reasons like non-urgent appointments or feeling tired, unless the school has specifically approved it. Schools can take action, such as issuing a fine or prosecuting parents, for extended periods of unauthorised absence.

Year 4 – Science Experiment

This half term, Year 4 have been learning all about the Human Body. We explored why nutrients are important for keeping our bodies healthy and discovered what vitamins and minerals we need to stay strong and healthy. We also learned how our digestive system works, with the help of creating our own model poo!



At the start of the unit, we investigated our teeth, identifying the different types and learning about their functions. To explore this further, we carried out an experiment using eggshells to represent teeth. The eggshells were placed in three different substances-lemon juice, cola and water- to observe how they affected the 'teeth.' We observed the results every day for a week and were amazed by how much the eggshells changed!



Year 5 – Geography and History

Year 5 have participated in practical engagement tasks at the end of their geography and history units of work. We definitely have some budding geographers and historians in the making!

In Geography, the children learnt that you could tell the height and shape of a hill using contour lines on a map. They were tasked with making models of hills, using the contours given to them. In History, the children used the iPads to research inventions from the Golden Age of Islam. They drew a picture of their chosen invention and wrote a description for a museum exhibition. They were fascinated to discover that magnifying glasses, algebra, a form of compass and medicines were invented during this time.



School Meals Price Increase, November 2025

Due to the increase in wider food costs, please be notified that after the October half term '25 the price of a school meal will now be £2.58, an increase of 5p.

Shemara (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) and Turbinia (Year 3, Year 4)

This term Shemara has been settling into their new class. They have been learning fairytales and can all recall the sequence of the stories of the Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks' and the Three Bears, using images and the repetitive phrases. They have been learning to count objects accurately and have explored different ways to do so in their challenge time. We have been



working on developing social skills and turn taking which they have then applied to their challenge times, joining in and developing their collaborative play. Shemara and Turbinia come together each morning to have breakfast. This is an opportunity for them to work on their fine motor skills development as well as their social skills.

Turbinia have started the year mirroring the year 3 curriculum. They have enjoyed reading about Great and the Giants, learning about climate change, developing their understanding of the impact that this has on the world and what they can do to help address the problem. On a Friday afternoon Turbinia have a forest school session. They have explored cave painting, learnt about trees and enjoyed conker games. Through access to the outside green areas around the school, the children have explored new skills through nurture.



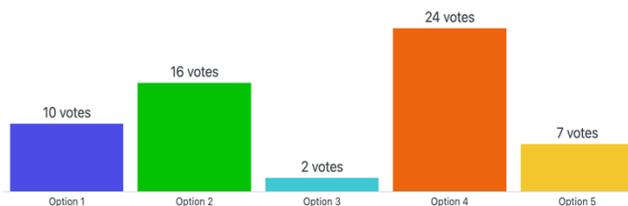
Year 6 – Holmes and Kable

This term, Year 6 dived into the fascinating local heritage of Thetford, focusing on the intriguing lives of Susannah Holmes and Henry Kable. We discovered that this couple were arrested in our very own town of Thetford for stealing and subsequently sent on the First Fleet to Australia. Their journey was remarkable; they not only worked in the first penal colony but also got married, started a family, and eventually became successful landowners. To end our topic, Thetford's Magic Floor Productions staged a drama performance that brought the 'Holmes and Kable' story to life.



Pupil Voice

Mrs Hale and the staff team have been talking to all of the children about school attendance. They have voted on how pupils who achieve 100% attendance during a week should be rewarded.



QUESTION

What reward would encourage you to attend school 100% of the time?

QUESTION OPTIONS

1. A badge that shows you have had 100% attendance
2. Extra break for those with 100% attendance (termly)
3. Extra turn on the trim trail
4. Choose a gift from a raffle
5. Other (please enter suggestions)

Pupil Leadership Team (PLT)

Our Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) which is made up of Year 6 pupils have all been appointed and delegated their areas of responsibility. The PLT will be involved in Academy wide decision making to assist in improving the Academy's performance as they will work alongside the Senior Leadership Team. They will represent the Academy engaging with parents & visitors and will assist teachers in monitoring curriculum delivery. Following their submission of a 250-word personal statement outlining how they individually hold up our ARK values, all applicants have been awarded specific House responsibilities. Congratulations go to **Fastnet:** Sophie B, Imogen S **Rockall:** Ella G, Miley M **Biscay:** Joel Q, Sienna H **Trafalgar:** Emily I, Dmytro M **Head Pupils:** Leo S, Maisy C



Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card

On Wear Red Day, our Academies proudly joined thousands of others across the UK in supporting the *Show Racism the Red Card* campaign. The day helped raise awareness about the importance of equality, respect, and inclusion. By wearing red, pupils and staff showed their commitment to standing up against racism and promoting kindness and fairness for all. Donations collected will help fund educational workshops and resources that continue to challenge racism in communities across the country.



Have a great Half Term – see you all on Monday, 3rd November 2025