

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

A Principal's view – A fond farewell

Thankyou Bella



Bella has been at the heart of our school for so many families, offering guidance, reassurance, and unwavering support whenever it has been needed most. Her ability to build strong, trusting relationships with both children and parents has made a lasting difference to the lives of many. Whether offering a listening ear, practical advice, or simply a warm smile at the start of the day, Bella has always been there.

Her work has extended far beyond the school

gates. Bella has worked closely and effectively with local authorities, social workers, and external agencies, ensuring that families receive the best possible support. Her professionalism, care, and dedication have made her a highly respected figure among colleagues and partners alike.

Within our team, Bella has been a truly valued and much-loved member of staff. She is known for her warmth, kindness, and approachable nature—qualities that have made her someone people naturally turn to. Her positive presence has helped create a supportive and inclusive environment for both staff and families.

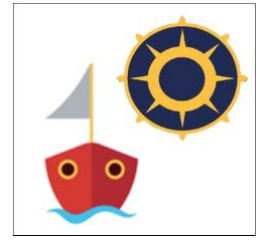
Of course, it would be impossible not to mention some of the things we will miss most about Bella on a day-to-day basis. Her ability to make a perfect cup of tea has kept many of us going through busy days, and her thoughtful gestures—whether it be bringing in sweets or biscuits to share—have always brought a little extra cheer to the staffroom. It is these small but meaningful acts of kindness that truly reflect the person she is.

While we are incredibly sad to see Bella leave, we are also excited for her as she begins a new chapter. Bella is moving on to support her family business, and we know she will bring the same dedication, care, and enthusiasm to this new role as she has shown here.

Bella leaves behind a legacy of compassion, commitment, and genuine care for others. She has made a lasting impact on our school community, and her contribution will not be forgotten. On behalf of everyone—staff, children, and families—we would like to say a huge thank you, Bella. You will be greatly missed, but we wish you every success and happiness in your next adventure.



Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 25/26

Tuesday 14th April '26

Summer term '25/26 begins

Mon 25th to Fri 29th May '26

Half term Summer '26

Friday 17th July '26

Summer term ends

'Thankyou Parents !!'



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our parents and carers for your continued support of the school community. Your attendance at parents' evenings, participation in bake sales, and enthusiasm during events such as the Easter egg hunt make a real difference to school life. These occasions not only strengthen relationships between home and school but also create memorable experiences for our children. We truly appreciate the time, effort, and generosity you show throughout the year. Your involvement helps us to build a warm, supportive environment where every child can thrive. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

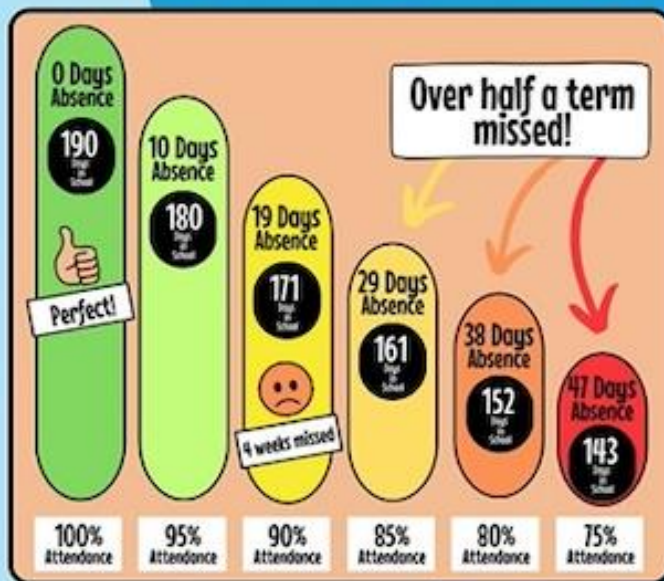
School Attendance

Every day counts...



Good attendance helps with...

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

<p>Set a regular routine A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.</p>	<p>Aim for every day Try to make school attendance the default. Only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.</p>	<p>Plan appointments carefully Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Stay in touch When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.</p>	<p>Prepare the night before Pack bags, lay out uniforms and check homework in the evening to make mornings smoother and less stressful.</p>
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Silly School Education



Year 4 Scientists



Year 4 had an exciting and memorable visit from scientists Purnima Pachori and Shabhoman Caim, who helped them explore the fascinating world of DNA. The children took part in a hands-on activity where they extracted DNA from strawberries. It was squishy, smelled amazing, and sparked lots of curiosity! Everyone had a fantastic morning full of fun and scientific learning.



Year 2 History



This half term, year 2 have been exploring local history by learning about Allan Minns, the first Black mayor in Britain. The children investigated his early life and discovered the important contributions he made to improving

life in Thetford. As part of this learning, the children visited the Riversdale Centre, where they took part in an engaging scavenger hunt. Working together, they



solved a series of riddles that led them from one clue to the next, ultimately revealing the title of the book Allan Minns wrote in 1888. The children also visited Bitten Island, where they were challenged to spot a variety of local wildlife. This provided an excellent opportunity for them to observe their surroundings closely. In addition, the children created informative posters about how to prevent littering and why it is important not to drop

rubbish. Through this activity, they reflected on how small actions can help protect wildlife and keep their local area clean and safe for everyone.

M&M Productions - Pinocchio

We were delighted to welcome back M&M Productions to our school for their fantastic performance of Pinocchio. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, which brought the



classic story to life through lively acting, colourful costumes, and engaging storytelling. They were the perfect audience, attentive, enthusiastic and full of laughter throughout. A lovely end of term treat !!!!!



A busy term for Year 3

This term in Year 3, the children have enjoyed a range of exciting learning opportunities, including a special visit from one of our parents, who shared her career and the career pathways available at Baxter's in Thetford. She explained to the children that Baxter's produces healthcare products designed to save the lives of unwell patients both in hospitals and in their own homes. Raw materials are delivered to the Thetford site, where skilled employees use specialist machines to turn them into life-saving medicines.



The children were fascinated as Saffron talked about the work Baxter's does and showed them IV bags, sterile water, and the personal protective equipment used by staff in their daily roles.

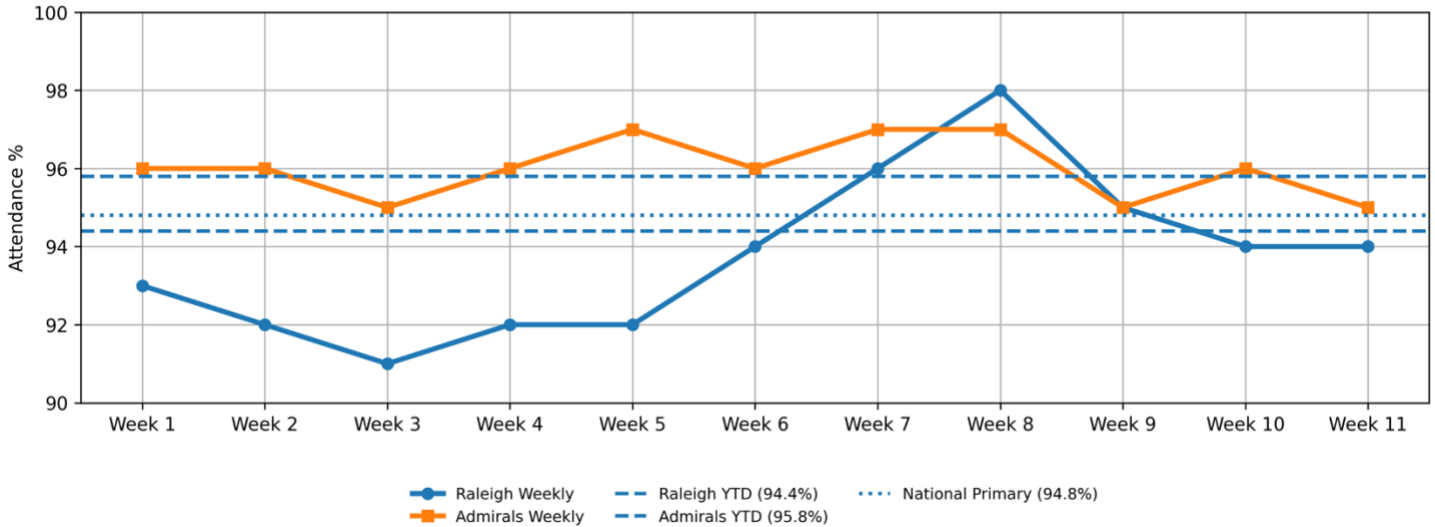
Linking to our Science learning, Year 3 have also been building on their understanding of life cycles. They have observed the life cycle of a chicken, explored the water cycle through a classroom investigation, and monitored the growth of a plant over time.



Spring Term Attendance Comparison

Weekly Trends with Academy and National Averages

Spring Term Attendance Trend



Attendance Update – Spring Term

It is pleasing to see a strong and improving attendance picture across both academies this term. After a slower start in the early weeks, both Academies show a clear upward trend, with notable improvements from Week 6 onwards. Raleigh Academy in particular demonstrates a significant rise, peaking at 98% in Week 8, while Admirals Academy has maintained consistently high attendance throughout, regularly achieving 96–97%. This positive trajectory reflects the collective efforts of pupils, families and staff in prioritising attendance and punctuality. Importantly, both schools are now working at, or above, national expectations in many weeks.

When compared to the national primary average of **94.8%**, Admirals Academy's year-to-date attendance of **95.8%** is securely above national, demonstrating very strong attendance overall. Raleigh Academy's year-to-date figure of **94.4%** is now very close to the national benchmark and shows clear improvement over time.

While this is encouraging, even small amounts of absence can have a significant impact on children's learning. Attendance below 95% means children are already missing the equivalent of nearly two weeks of school across a year. It is therefore vital that we continue to build on this positive momentum.

What happens next?

- We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality closely on a weekly basis
- Families of pupils where attendance falls below expected levels will receive communication & support
- Where there is no improvement, further steps may include formal meetings and involvement from the Local Authority
- We will continue to celebrate strong attendance and recognise improvements across both schools

How families can help:

- Ensure children attend school every day unless absolutely unwell
- Arrive on time so children are ready to learn from the start of the day
- Communicate early with the school if there are any concerns or barriers

By continuing to work together, we can ensure all children benefit from the full learning experience!!

Year 5 Design Technology

This term, year 5 have had the opportunity to work in small groups with Mrs Akkas to bake honey cupcakes and pitta bread. Working this way has meant that each child has benefited from being part of each process of cooking - from measuring and mixing to kneading (and waiting!) and washing up. The children tasted and evaluated their baking and were able to take some home with them as well. This followed on from theory lessons in class learning about bread and honey in general. Everyone, including the staff, enjoyed this learning experience.



Year 5 Science



For part of our science topic, 'Living things and their habitats', we have been able to observe some chicks and look carefully at how they grow. Over the course of a week, we made our observations and recorded these. On the first day, we saw 11 eggs in the incubator and by day two the chicks began to hatch. We were all amazed at the changes we saw each day, from the birds first emerging from their shell to being fluffy with wings beginning to appear. It was fascinating to observe the feathers growing slightly longer each day and to see how tall they were growing.

Year 5 Poetry performance

Year 5 presented a memorable poetry performance last week. The children worked really hard to learn a number of poems, from the classic '*Daffodils*' to the modern '*Heard of cows?*' that uses humorous word play. We couldn't have asked for a louder, or more enthusiastic performance! Well done year 5 😊



Reception – A busy time enjoying the Outdoors

This half term, Reception have been exploring the learning theme of 'Growing and Changing' in their Primary Knowledge Curriculum. The children have taken on the role of budding botanists, planting a variety of seeds and learning how to care for them as they grow. They have enjoyed observing the changes in their plants over time, developing a real sense of curiosity and responsibility. Our mini garden/allotment is already looking fantastic! A big thank you to all the parents for their generous donations of seeds, compost and pots to support our learning. We can't wait to see how the garden continues to bloom over the Summer term.



Alongside becoming budding botanists, the children have also become fantastic farmers! To deepen and enrich their learning, they visited South Angle Farm, where they had a wonderful day learning about a range of animals from knowledgeable farmer guides. The children enjoyed hands-on experiences such as holding, stroking and feeding different animals, enabling them to bring their learning to life.

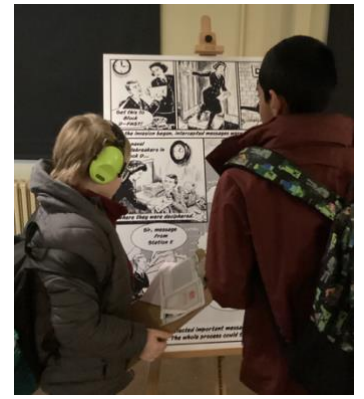
They were able to apply what they had learned in school, using fantastic communication and language skills to show a growing understanding of animals and their young. For many Reception children this was their first big school trip - and for some, their first visit to a farm - this meant, alongside wonderful learning opportunities, we were also able to see some core memories being developed. A great way to end the half term!



Year 6 History



Children in Year 6 had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes the term, linking to their History topic of WW2.



It is famous for being a base for code breakers to unscramble and decipher codes and war strategies from the opposing team - Axis. Children explored the museum displays, took part in a code breaking activity themselves and went on a guided tour, where they role played key figures and graduates who had worked there at the time.

During the trip, children learned about how communications worked in WW2, including the use of Morse Code, Enigma Machines, radio signals and the Bombe Machine, which played a huge part in the intelligence for the Allied team. We listened to a slowed down version of Morse Code, which we found hard to decode, despite it not even being at full speed!



Uniform Reminder for the Summer term '26

Taken from the Set Uniform list 2025-2026 available on our website

At Raleigh Infant Academy children are able to wear:

- Blue Raleigh sweater or cardigan
- White or blue polo shirt
- Dark grey trousers, shorts and skirts
- Blue checked summer dresses



At Admirals Academy children are able to wear:

- Maroon Admirals sweater or cardigan
- White shirt
- Maroon & gold Admirals tie
- Dark grey trousers, shorts and skirts
- Blue checked summer dresses



Footwear

- Plain black shoes that are suitable for play – we allow plain black trainers without heavy design. We also allow plain non-heeled boots but would suggest that these be light weight so not to impede the children running.
- Sandals, heeled, and open-toed footwear are not safe for school and therefore, we would ask this to be replaced.

Additional Summer Attire

- A hat within the second half of summer term, preferably one that covers the neck. Children will be asked to stay in the shade without a hat.
- During the second half summer term, or sooner if needed, pupils do not need to wear a tie in order to be more comfortable in the rising heat.

Year 1 - Botanists at Work!

This half term we have been looking at plants in science and becoming young botanists. The children have been exploring what plants need to grow and stay healthy.

As part of our investigations, we planted cress seeds and made predictions about where we think they will grow best. Some children predicted they would grow in the sunlight with water, whilst others thought they would grow elsewhere.



Over the half term, we carefully observed our seeds and found that the seeds with sunlight, water, and space to grow were the most successful. The children were excited to see the changes and compare their predictions with the results.

The children have enjoyed discussing their ideas, asking questions, and learning through hands-on experiences.

We went on a leaf hunt to find both evergreen and deciduous leaves from the trees. As we explored, we noticed how evergreen leaves stayed green and firm, while deciduous leaves had changed colour and fallen to the ground.



We carefully collected different shapes, sizes, and textures, comparing them and talking about how trees adapt through the seasons. It was a fun way to learn about nature and observe the differences between the types of trees around us.



ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents = £1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



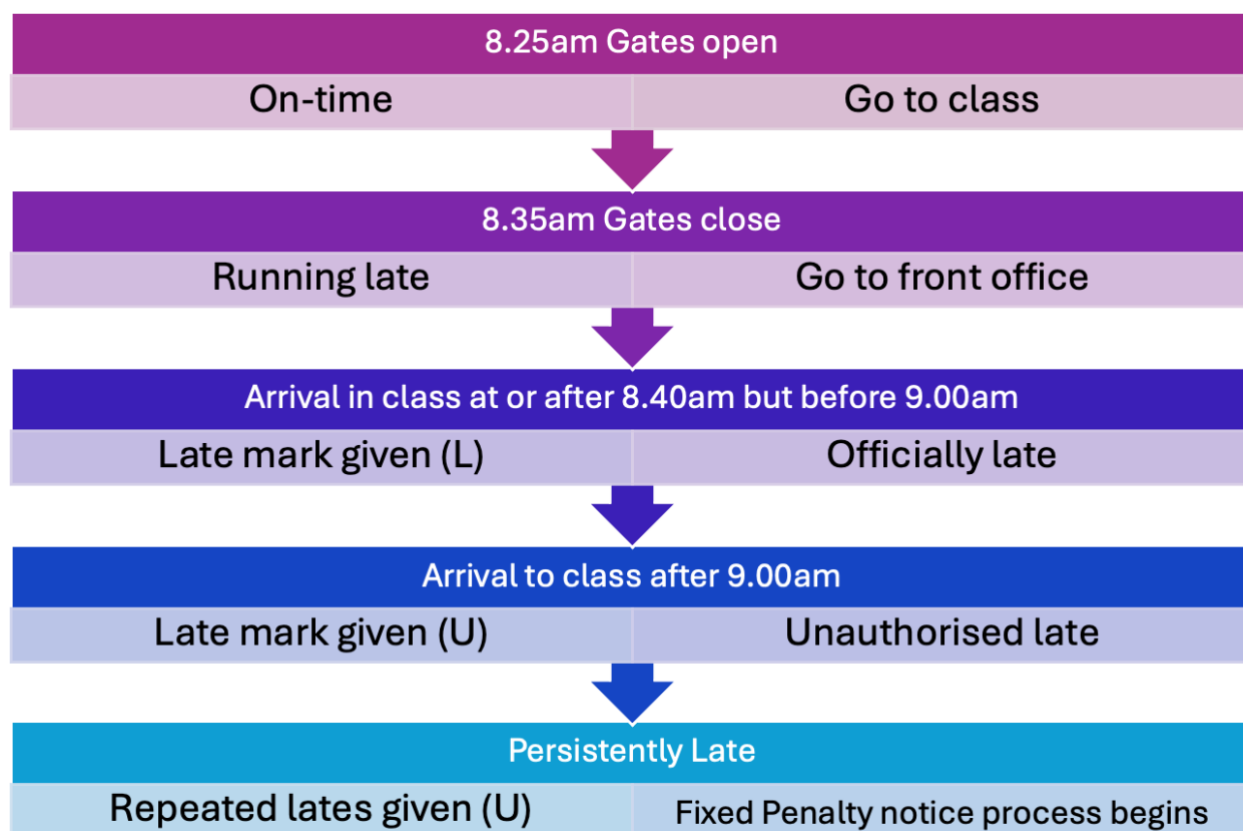
3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

Our 'Late to School' Flowchart



We would like to clarify our morning start procedures to ensure all families understand how lateness is recorded and why punctuality is so important.

School gates open at **8:25am**. Children arriving during this time are considered on time and should go straight to class. Gates close promptly at **8:35am**. Any child arriving after this time is classed as running late and must report to the front office to be signed in.

If a child arrives in class at or after **8:40am but before 9:00am**, they will receive a late mark (L). This is recorded as officially late. While this may seem like a short delay, valuable learning takes place at the start of each day, and arriving late can disrupt both your child's learning and that of others.

If a child arrives **after 9:00am**, this is recorded as an unauthorised late mark (L). This is a more serious mark and is recorded as absence for the session. Where children are persistently late and receive repeated (L) marks, the fixed penalty notice process may begin in line with national guidance.

We appreciate your support in ensuring children arrive on time each day, ready to learn and make the most of every lesson.