

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

A Principal's view – Our Pupil Leadership Team (PLT)

Our Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) have had a busy and successful start to the academic year, playing an important role in helping to shape our school communities across both Raleigh Infant and Admirals Academies.

One of the team's first responsibilities this term was supporting our recent Parents' Evening events. The pupils welcomed families, helped visitors find their way around the school and assisted staff with setting up and tidying away resources. Their confidence, politeness and willingness to help were commented on positively by many parents and visitors. The PLT members represented our schools brilliantly and demonstrated the leadership qualities we are proud to develop in all our children.

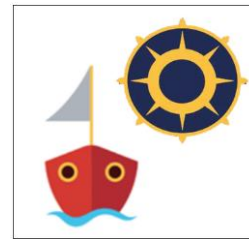
The team also played an important role during our Reception Open Afternoon. Prospective families were warmly welcomed and given a glimpse into what makes our schools such special places to learn. PLT members spoke confidently about school life, shared their experiences with visitors and helped showcase the many opportunities available to our children. Their enthusiasm and pride in their schools helped create a welcoming atmosphere for all our guests.

In addition to supporting key events, the PLT has been carrying out lesson behaviour observations across both academies. Working alongside senior leaders, pupils visited classrooms to gather first-hand evidence about learning behaviours and attitudes. Their findings highlighted many strengths, including the fact that pupils generally want to learn, classrooms are calm and purposeful, children ask thoughtful questions and most pupils demonstrate respectful behaviour. They also noted that learning attitudes are positive and that many children successfully manage their own behaviour and conduct.

The pupil leaders were also thoughtful in identifying areas for further improvement. They observed that a very small number of children can become distracted during lessons, some younger pupils occasionally lose focus. The team has challenged both pupils and adults to think carefully about how everyone can contribute to maintaining high standards of behaviour and learning throughout the school day. This was shared with the children during an assembly feedback session led by our Head Girl, Mia and Head Boy, Toby.

We are incredibly proud of our Pupil Leadership Team. Through their service, leadership and commitment to improving our schools, they continue to demonstrate that pupil voice is a powerful force for positive change.

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 26/27

Monday 2nd November '26

Autumn term '26/27 continues

Friday 18th December '26

Autumn term '26/27 ends

Tuesday 5th January '27

Spring term begins '26/27

A Warm Welcome



We are pleased and excited to have welcomed Miss Darnell, who has joined our Year 5 teaching team. Miss Darnell recently graduated with an Honours degree and has successfully completed her Post Graduate degree in Education. She joins us as an Early career teacher (ECT) and works under the watchful eye of Mrs Ewens. Miss Darnell is an animal lover, owning four cats and two dogs, Poppy the Spinone Italiano (a large Italian hunting dog), and Reggie the Red Doodle (a Poodle crossed with a Red Setter)!!!

We also welcome Mr Hale to our Academy, who brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our KS2 team. Mr Hale has a first-class Honours degree and holds a master's level qualification. He has been teaching for 10 years in and around Bury St Edmunds, where he has gained significant experience across KS2. Mr Hale is a keen Mountain biker and has an amazing marathon time of 2 hours and 45 minutes!! Catch him if you can !!

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.



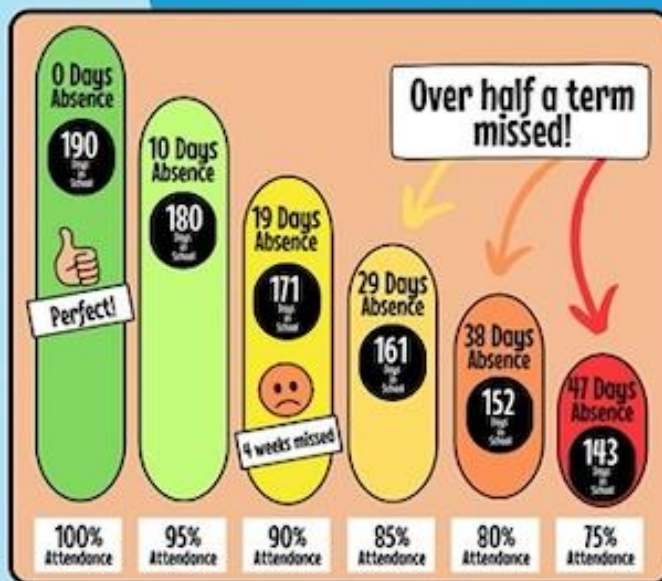
Building Confidence

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.



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 make 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.

Silly School Education



Nursery - Shape



The children in Nursery have settled well during their first half term. They have enjoyed learning about each other and making new friendships. They are developing skills to follow the new routines and behaviour expectations and are enjoying exploring the environment.



The children have enjoyed learning about shapes which has linked Maths, Art and information from the Primary Knowledge Curriculum. They have found shapes from the outside environment and used them to create Picasso style artwork.

Reception – All About Me

This half term Reception have enjoyed exploring their Primary Knowledge Curriculum 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 showed great knowledge and understanding, and asked some great questions to find out more, such as "why did you want to be a police officer?" and "do you arrest kids?" as well as even asking what her favourite food is (roast dinner if you're curious!)



The children were able to explore and try on some of her uniform and equipment - we looked like mini-officers in the making!

Year 1 – Digital Painting

This half term, we have settled into Year 1 really well! We have been introduced to the computer suite and have absolutely loved exploring it. We have learnt about the mouse and keyboard, as well as what technology is and how we use it. We have also enjoyed creating our own pictures using 'Paint'. It has been a fun and exciting start to our computing journey and excited for next half term where we will learn more about the tools in 'Paint'.



Year 2 - History

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 – Drama & Science

This term, Year 3 have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. In Drama, the children have taken part in specialist lessons linked closely to their reading texts, *Greta and the Giants* and *Leon and the Place Between*. Through these sessions, they have explored the key themes of each story while developing new drama techniques and building confidence through performance. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their work with their classmates.

In Science, the children have been developing their investigative skills through learning about magnetism. They enjoyed making predictions about which objects would be magnetic and testing their ideas through practical investigations. Why not challenge them at home to predict which objects around the house might be magnetic before putting their knowledge to the test?



All of Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in *Show Racism the Red Card Day*. The children created wonderful poems based on the theme of inclusion, celebrating kindness, respect and acceptance. They particularly enjoyed sharing their work with one another and incorporated many thoughtful and welcoming messages into their writing.

Attendance Headlines

Congratulations to both Victory class (Year 1) and Mauretania class (Year 3) who deserve a special mention for winning 'best class attendance' for the past half term. Victory class achieved 98.4%, and Mauretania achieved 97.5% so the attendance competition has well and truly begun!

Overall attendance for the past 7 weeks has been very positive for both Academies. Raleigh and Admirals are now in-line with each other which is pleasing to see. Raleigh (96.3%) and Admirals (96.4%) are now moving above the national average attendance measure for all Primary Schools nationally which stands at 94.7%, and for schools nationally which is 93%. Well done parents and pupils, let's keep this going!



Year 4 – Science

In Olympic class we have been learning about the digestive system to help us understand the different processes that take place as food passes through our body.

To give us a deeper understanding of the process we built a model of the digestive system and then we passed wet food (bananas) and dry food (biscuits) through the different sections of the system. Using scissors, we cut up the banana and then squeezed it down the plastic bag acting as the oesophagus, into the sealable bag which acted as



the stomach where it mixed with the biscuit and stomach juices to make a wet paste. It then travelled down the intestines made from a pair of tights; where all the nutrients came out to create the body's energy.

Finally the waste was collected in a separate bag. In teams, the children worked together to pass the food through the entire system, finally reporting that the intestines were '*disgusting*' as all the nutrients passed out of the tights creating a rather messy situation!

Year 5 – Design Technology

In Year 5, we had an exciting DT Day where we designed and created our own cam toys. This was a challenging but rewarding project that allowed us to develop our design, construction and problem-solving skills. The mechanisms were quite tricky to build, so we had to show a great deal of



patience, resilience and perseverance to ensure that all the parts fitted together correctly and moved smoothly.

Throughout the day, we worked brilliantly as a team, sharing ideas, supporting one another and helping to solve any problems that arose. It was wonderful to see everyone collaborating so positively and taking pride in their work. The children's creativity truly shone through, with a wide variety of imaginative and unique designs being brought to life. We were all very proud of our finished cam toys and enjoyed seeing them successfully in action.



Sporting Success – Girls' Football Team Reach Norfolk County Finals

This half term, our Year 5 and Year 6 girls' football team proudly represented the academy at the regional qualifying tournament for the Norfolk County Finals. The event brought together ten schools from across Thetford, Attleborough, Mundford and Watton, with teams split into two competitive groups. Only the two finalists would secure a coveted place at the Norfolk County Finals later in the year, making qualification an extremely challenging task.

From the very first match, the Admirals girls demonstrated outstanding determination, teamwork and resilience. They progressed through a highly competitive group stage in impressive fashion, conceding just a single goal across all of their matches. Strong defensive organisation, excellent communication and a positive team spirit helped the squad secure their place in the knockout rounds.



The girls then produced one of their strongest performances of the tournament in the semi-final, earning a convincing high-scoring victory to book a place in the final. Facing another talented side, the final proved to be a closely contested and exciting encounter. Admirals made a fantastic start and took an early lead, showing confidence and composure under pressure. With victory within touching distance, the team were heartbreakingly denied when their opponents equalised with only two minutes remaining, forcing the match into a penalty shootout.

Although the girls were narrowly defeated on penalties, they should be immensely proud of their achievement. Reaching the final of such a competitive tournament is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects the hard work, commitment and sporting attitude they have shown. We would like to congratulate Gracie and Primrose (Year 5) and Mia, Mia, Clara, Patricia and Nayana (Year 6) on their tremendous success.

Year 6 - History

Our Year 6 children have been learning about the lives of Susanah Holmes and Henry Kable in our recent local history unit. Through their classroom studies, our oldest pupils have been exploring 18th-century crime, punishment, and Britain's "Bloody Code".

Pupils then enjoyed a brilliant performance by a local theatre company that gave children a deeply memorable, personal connection to the era. The children enjoy getting involved with some of the props during the show and watched the story come to life after learning about it in their history lessons. The children also had an opportunity to meet the actors, who are also historians, where they asked a number of history related questions.



Shemara & Turbinia – Art & Forest School

Turbinia and Shemara have been bringing nature into the classroom through a range of exciting autumn-themed crafting activities. We have enjoyed spending time outdoors, collecting leaves, pinecones,



conkers and other natural treasures to use as inspiration for our creative work. These hands-on experiences have helped us to explore the changing seasons while developing our artistic skills and appreciation of the natural world. Throughout this half term, we have placed a strong focus on teamwork, cooperation and learning together. It has been wonderful to see everyone sharing ideas, supporting one another and working collaboratively. Most importantly, we have had lots of fun, creating memories while learning and growing together.

Our Academy Website – A Valuable Source of Information

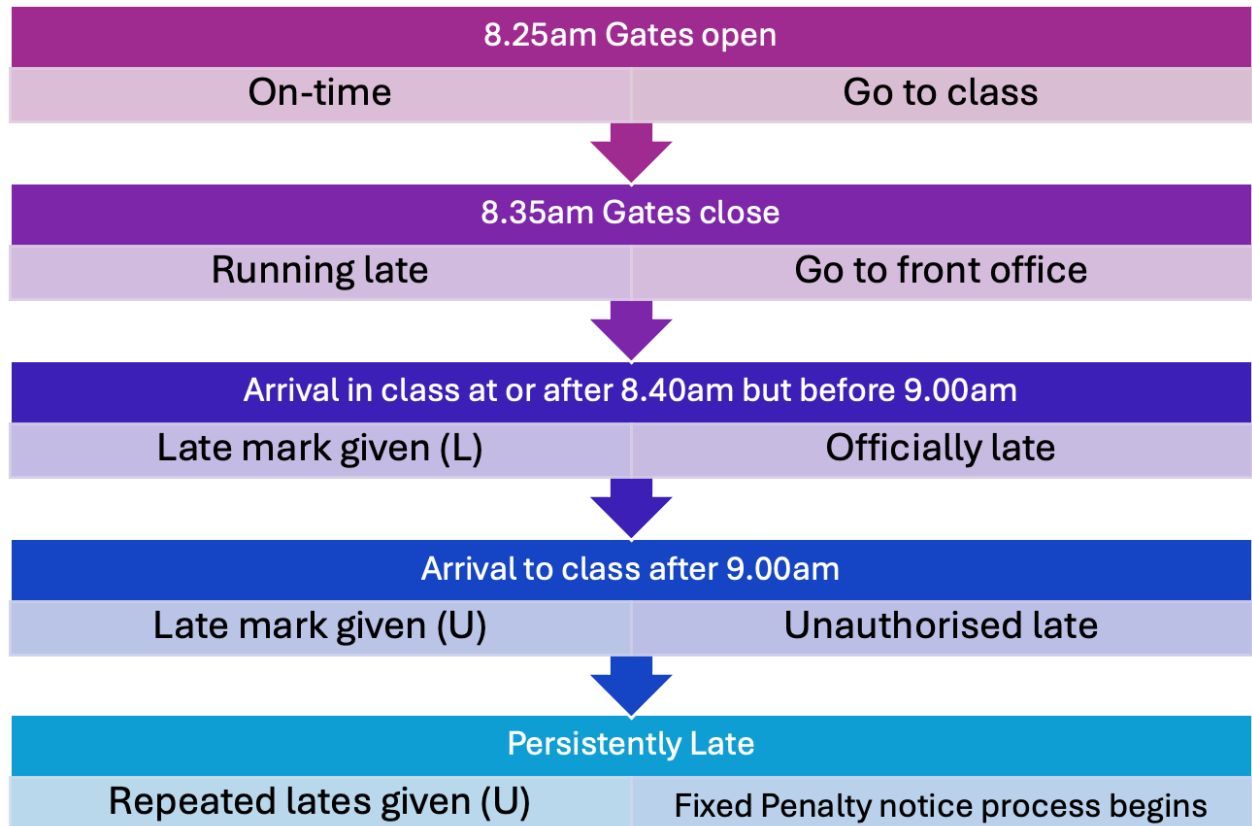
A reminder to all parents and carers that our Academy website is the best place to find the most up-to-date information about life at Raleigh Infant Academy. Whether you are looking for term dates, important announcements, policies or key contact information, our website is designed to provide everything you need in one convenient place.

The website also contains our latest Behaviour Policy, attendance information, curriculum overviews, class timetables and details about what children are learning throughout the year. Families can access information about our SEND Offer, safeguarding arrangements, clubs, uniform expectations and much more. Regularly visiting the website is a great way to stay informed about Academy developments and ensure you have the latest guidance and information available.

We encourage all families to explore the website and bookmark it for easy access. You can visit us at [Academy Website](#) and keep up to date with everything happening across the Academy.



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.