

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe the end of the year is fast approaching. Whilst we still have another week and a bit to go, I wanted to share a few recent successes with you all, as well as to highlight some of the key notices from our most recent newsletter.

### **Academic Success**



-82% of our Year R children achieved the government's expectation of 'A Good Level of Development'. The national percentage for this last year was 68% so this puts Ropley 14% above national results.

-100% of our Year 2 children passed the phonics screening check resit

-88% of our Year 4 children achieved a result of 21 or above in the Multiplication Tables Check. This puts Ropley 32% above national results.

-88% of our Year 6 children achieved age related expectations in writing; our highest set of results to date.

-88% of our Year 6 children achieved age related expectations in reading; 13% above national results.

-92% of our Year 6 children achieved age related expectations in mathematics; 18% above national results.

### **Wider Curriculum Success**

The school has been busy re-writing its wider curriculum ready to launch in September 2025. There will be a greater focus on music, art & design and design & technology – alongside discrete teaching of History, Geography and Science. Within all of this there will also be weekly Computing, French, PSHE and Religious Education lessons...and not forgetting the usual Physical Education!

You may hear children talking about two aspects next year:

>Sticky Knowledge

>Ropley Words

Sticky Knowledge is the fundamental basics we expect all children to learn and remember in every area of the curriculum. Ropley Words are subject specific words we expect children to know and use within their learning. All of this will be found on our website in September so you know the exact learning children are studying in every area of the curriculum.

## Classes for Next Year

As you will hopefully be aware, the school is moving away from mixed-age teaching in September. We are delighted to now have seven classes! Benefits will include smaller class sizes, a more progressive curriculum, and the consistency of just one classroom base.

EYFS (Year R) - Bumblebee Class will be taught by Miss Fisher-Smith

Year 1 - Honeybee Class will be taught by Mrs Lea

Year 2 - Carpenter Bee Class will be taught by Miss Richards

Year 3 - Nectar Class will be taught by Miss Singleton

Year 4 - Honeycomb Class will be taught by Mr Smith

Year 5 - Pollinator Class will be taught by Mrs Chattell and Dr Stuart

Year 6 - BeeKeeper Class will be taught by Mrs Noott

We are delighted to announce that Miss Kirby will be the school's Assistant Headteacher from September! Miss Kirby is a fantastic asset to the school and will provide the school with further capacity for strategic long-term improvements. Miss Kirby will also be the school's acting Inclusion Leader whilst Mrs Hayes is on maternity leave.

We are also delighted to confirm that Miss Brown will be the school's Pastoral Leader from September. Miss Brown will continue her ELSA role alongside supporting children and families across a variety of aspects. Look out for further details of this in September.

## Sporting Achievements



The school has achieved the Gold KiteMark for its commitment to sport this year. The school has competed in over 40 events! Next year we are looking to widen this further to ensure all children get the opportunity to compete in a variety of sports – do watch out for our sign-ups for this.

Thank you to Miss Kneller, Miss Richards, Tim Nabb (parent) and Coach James for supporting with these.

And whilst it is not always about winning, it was lovely to see our Boys Handball Team beat my previous school in our most recent match!

## New Catering

We are excited to announce that from September 2025 the school will be using a new provider for our school meals. After a long tendering process, the school has secured Caterlink from September. Our feeder secondary school, Perins, uses Caterlink as does Amery Hill in Alton. We expect to see a vast improvement in the quality of food on offer; portion sizes will be larger for older children; hot desserts on some days and an unlimited salad bar. Children in Year R, 1 and 2 will continue to receive free school meals but our older children can now enjoy better quality meals for a lower cost of just £3 per day!

Caterlink say...



*One of the key successes to our business is our “farm to fork journey” which demonstrates a clear path of food provenance using fresh ingredients from local and regional suppliers. Caterlink are proud to offer Ropley Church of England Primary School our freshly prepared, nutritionally balanced meals at Silver Food for Life.”*

## **New PE Kit**

From September 2026 we will be moving away from house colour PE t-shirts. There are three reasons for this:

-The Department for Education stipulates all schools must ensure uniform is affordable and easy to purchase from a variety of providers. It is difficult for parents to source orange and purple t-shirts from our local supermarkets.

-PE lessons are challenging for teachers when trying to divide children into two teams to play games when there are four different colours already worn. One unified colour with bibs would make this easier.

-When children attend sporting fixtures or events outside of school, it is nice to have a single colour to represent the school.

Whilst we are a long time away from September 2026, we wanted to give parents warning that once coloured t-shirt stock from our suppliers becomes low, they will be transitioning over to the royal blue.

### **Our Cricket Team modelling the new uniform:**



We hope you agree that the above is an exciting time for the school. Next week there will be a second edition to this letter so please do look out for this. In the meantime, we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Mills', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr Mills

Headteacher



Sports Day

*"I wanted to congratulate the school on an excellent sports day! I've heard lots of positive comments from parents, the new format worked really well. I've been coming to sports days at Ropley for 10 years and the atmosphere today was great, it felt like a real event."*

*"I wanted to say how great I thought sports day was last week. I know a lot of other parents think the same. I thought it was an extremely successful morning. All the children seemed to really enjoy it; I know my two did. Thank you for all your effort."*

*"Wanted to let you know how much we appreciated all of the effort that went into Sports Day yesterday. The boys had such a great morning and it was lovely for us to watch them take part and enjoy so many activities. A wonderful step up from last year."*



Colour Run

*"An absolutely phenomenal event where the children clearly had a blast"*

*£2500 was raised so thank you to everyone for their support.*



### Community Events

As part of our Global Neighbours work, we have continued to support Brendon Care in Alton this year as well as supporting a variety of events in Ropley and Bishop Sutton. Events have included the choir singing at the Coffee Mornings in the village; attending community events such as the installation of the bells at St. Peter's Church and the VE Day Celebrations at The Pavillion. Other events have included attending the memorial service in Bishop Sutton and St. Peter's Church.



### Easter Egg Hunt