

Monday 21st July 2025

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all the lovely emails and comments after last week's update. Following on from the announcement of our school's academic results last week, we are delighted to confirm we are the highest achieving school in our district for Year 6: This means our results are the best in East Hampshire and Havant!

I mentioned in a previous letter how blown away I had been by the strong community we have here in Ropley; this is a very supportive community indeed. I would like to take the time to thank everyone for being so supportive and welcoming this year; some days I genuinely feel like I have been here for years.

Farewell Year 6

We wish the Year 6 children well as they leave us tomorrow. They are a wonderful group of individuals and I have no doubt that they will all go on to do special things with their lives, bringing joy to their new schools and communities and developing their own identity and values further. They have been a joy!

Below you can see a few photographs from their leavers' party. A huge thank you to Mrs Nettle and Mrs Davey for their hard work in coordinating this.



Christian Values

Thank you for everyone who contributed to the survey around Christian Values and words which reflect our school community. Having also spoken with pupils, governors, St. Peter's Church and staff, we are delighted to confirm our new Christian Values from September will be:

Love

Courage

Community

We will share in September further details of what these mean to us as a school so please do look out for this!

Repairs to Wall

The number one question I get asked by the local residents on a daily basis is: When is your wall going to be repaired? After a year of chasing Hampshire Highways as well as Hampshire Property Services, we are delighted the original flint wall is to be re-built this summer holiday. Some of you will have seen the yellow signs: ignoring the fact church is spelt incorrectly; ignoring the incorrect dates of the road closure, and ignoring the incorrect position of the signs – everything else is correct! The works have started today and will be completed by Friday 29th August. During this time the road between the school entrance and the side gate will have temporary fencing. **Access will still be available** for pedestrians – please make this clear if you wish to walk through.

Perins' Legacy Production



Well done to all the children who took part in the production; a fabulous evening and it was one of the highlights of the year for me as headteacher. The singing, dancing and acting was phenomenal, and it was lovely to see so many children from Ropley with solo parts.

Thank You, Tadpoles

The swimming pool has once again been enjoyed by many children including some pre-schoolers and some ex-pupils. What people may not see is the tireless work of the Tadpoles Committee in the background. In particular, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Irwin (Emily and Lucy's Mum), Mrs Silk (staff member) and Mrs Allen (staff member) who have dedicated a phenomenal number of hours to the pool. These three adults are at school at 7am every day to undertake the pool tests – they return at lunchtime (during their own breaks!) and are back again in the evening repeating again; oh, and this is repeated seven days a week! When they are not completing the tests, they are cleaning the pool or responding to parents. Many a midnight WhatsApp message has been sent between the Tadpoles Team – and I know being in the group how hard they work. Thank you for all that you have done!



Thank You, Class Representatives

Thank you to Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Wicks, Miss Silburn, Miss De Lisle, Mrs Carpenter, Miss Lemon, Mrs Henze, Mrs Budd, Mrs Colfer, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Nettle and Mrs Davey. Your hard work with fundraising throughout the year is really appreciated; not to mention the communications on WhatsApp.

Thank You, Volunteers

A huge thank you to Stella, Jane, Jill, Lin, Zoe and Sue who have been in school listening to the children read each week. This helps us to ensure all children, but particularly those who are not reading at home, thrive. Many children talk positively about these volunteers.

We would like to say a big thank you to Quinn who has been supporting the school this year with the library. Thanks to his hard work alongside Mrs Howling, the library has had a complete overhaul with many old texts donated to charity.

Thank you to Sarah Hilder for her hard work with the second-hand uniform and gardening. Mrs Hilder has given many hours to support and we are very grateful. Thank you also to Mrs Carpenter and Mrs Matthews who have taken over the gardening.

Finally, we would like to say a massive thank you to Max who has been leading our singing workshops this year. The children have absolutely loved singing (and dancing!) with him.

Thank You, Frogs

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the PTA for their support this year. Fundraising is likely to finish around £11,000 this year which is a considerable amount of money for the school.

What has the money supported with this year?



Our Early Years and Year 1 children have benefited from a water tray, a water wall and a new wooden construction kit. We have new phonic books for all children in Years R-2 ready for September. The school has also updated its Design & Technology resources with portable induction hobs for cookery lessons and new saws and drills for woodwork. Finally, the school has made a considerable investment in updating the library books ready for next year.

Thank you to Mrs D'Alton and Mrs Mettam who I meet nearly every week! They do a fantastic job of coordinating activities and supporting the team. I'd like to thank Mr Ford as the Treasurer. The wider Frogs team including Mr and Mrs Wicks, Mrs Wedlake, Mrs Budd, Mrs Allen, Mrs Nettle and Mrs Hilary have all helped at countless events; a huge thank you to you all.

I wish everyone a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday 2nd September.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Mills'.

Mr Mills

Headteacher

Future Fundraising

The school is currently looking to create a brand-new outdoor learning space for EYFS and Key Stage One.



Total funding required for the project: £68,000

Funding received so far:

Hampshire County Council S106 Community Infrastructure Levy Bid - £20,000

South Downs National Trust - £1000

Boomtown Festival - £6000

Community Grant - £895

We're already 42% of the way there with the above grants!

Justification:

- Our children deserve the same opportunities as those who attend neighbouring schools;
- Our current outdoor learning areas are too small;
- We want children to have further opportunities to develop imagination and creative play;
- We would like a larger area for cycling, running, climbing and scooting.

Do you know any companies who might like to sponsor, either in the local community or more widely? Some organisations offer match-funding; is this something you could support with? If so, please email headteacher@ropleyschool.hants.sch.uk