



Ropley Church of
England Primary
School
Spring 2 Newsletter



Back at the Christmas Service, I spoke about how quickly time passes and how it would be Easter before we knew it. It only feels as though a few weeks have slipped by, yet the memories of mince pies, carol concerts and festive celebrations are now more than three months behind us.

It has been another wonderfully busy term. Year 5 enjoyed a trip to Eggars to make pizzas as part of their Design & Technology. Year 4 visited the Weald and Downland Museum, and Year 1 have been out and about in the village for their geography learning. We were also delighted to welcome Bishop Kelly, who shared how she has been getting on with her bread maker, first aid kit and pebble - the gifts we presented to her just before Christmas.

We hope you found the recent Parents' Evening appointments useful. Children in Years 3–6 have now completed their spring term examinations; if you would like copies of these sent home, please just let us know - we appreciate how helpful it can be to review them together. The partnership between home and school is so important – the more you can do to reinforce what is covered in school, the better.

We've celebrated the second year of our Ropley Easter Egg Hunt which was great fun for everyone involved. Congratulations to Henry R and Millie C who solved the puzzle in the fastest time, closely followed by Miss Brown's team. Our Easter Service was another highlight with beautiful artwork from the younger children and thoughtful reflections and prayers from the older year groups.

Did you know that 2026 marks the 200-year anniversary of the original Ropley school? We have a lot planned this year to mark this special event but I wanted to highlight three key parts in this edition of the newsletter: Firstly, we are providing 200 hours of support for the local community through initiatives such as litter picking and supporting at events. Secondly, the children are finding 200 ways to show love outside the school gates, and finally we have the return of RopFest this summer.

I've said it before, but it remains true: it is remarkable how much goes on in such a small school. I am incredibly grateful to all the staff who work tirelessly to ensure the children receive the very best school experience.

I hope all our families have a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Mills', is written in a cursive style.

Mr Daniel Mills

EASTER SERVICE

Our school community came together in a truly joyful and reflective way today as we celebrated our Easter Service, marking the end of a successful spring term. The celebrations were led by Revered Amber and pupils led through readings, prayers, artwork and music sharing the message of Hope.



CHESS CLUB

It has been another great half term with our chess club with pupils showing enthusiasm, focus and growing confidence in their skills. It has been wonderful to see friendly competition and new friendships forming.



ROPLEY SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic sporting achievements of our pupils. It has been a busy and exciting term, filled with teamwork, determination and great sportsmanship across a range of events.



A huge well done to our Year 3 and 4 Netball team who came 1st in their tournament! Our pupils have also enjoyed taking part in Dodgeball where we came 1st place in the Alton Tournament. Our handball team achieved 2nd place and our Year 5 and 6 Netball team achieved 3rd in the Alton League. Some of our Year 3 and 4 children took part in a local dance event with other schools across East Hampshire.

The school also took part in a cross-country event hosted at Perins with children in years 2-6. Despite challenging muddy conditions, the children showcased remarkable determination and teamwork completing the course with encouraging smiles and cheers for each other. One of our Year 6 boys came 3rd overall and one of our Year 3 girls came in 6th place. Well done to everyone that took part. We are very proud of you all.



Following on from the Cross-Country at Perins, two of our students went on to take part in the HSAA Junior Cross Country Championships. Competing against a strong field of 150 runners, they achieved impressive finishes in 35th and 66th place. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a true testament to their effort and determination – well done to both pupils for presenting Ropley so brilliantly!



ECO CREDENTIALS

The school has established a new eco-committee! Finn in Year 5 is chairing this with children who have been nominated and elected to the committee. The focus for this half term has been to review the school site and undertake several self-evaluations to identify the greatest need. Look out for developments in our future newsletters.

We were delighted to welcome Scott Gudrich to talk to the children all about ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network). We look forward to working closely with our other local schools in how we can continue to focus on changes that can make a real difference.



YEAR 4 TRIP - WEALD AND DOWNLAND LIVING MUSEUM

The Weald and Downland Museum gave the children a wonderful insight into Anglo-Saxon life. They explored traditional houses and learned how they were built using natural materials such as wood, wattle and daub. A highlight of the day was the hands-on activity where the children helped split a large log using a mallet, giving them a real sense of the skills used in the past.

It was as enjoyable and memorable experience and the children returned to school excited to share what they had learned from their extended learning.

Feedback from one parent really highlighted how much the children enjoyed the trip: "I would just like to say thank you for today, my child absolutely loved it and has not stopped talking since I picked her up, passionately telling us all about the trip. She said it's now her favourite subject and very keen to go back with us, as she was comparing stories with daddy of when he went when he was younger".



BREAKFAST CLUB

A reminder that numbers for the breakfast club on a Friday are currently very low – almost too low to make it a viable option. The school makes a considerable loss on Friday mornings so if you were looking for an ideal day to send the children in an hour early, please consider a Friday!

FUNDRAISING

A huge congratulations to Nectar Class on their incredible fundraising achievement this term, raising a phenomenal £9,305.81 for the school.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents, their families and friends for the generous support in making this possible. The funds raised will go towards exciting new resources, including an outdoor table tennis table, new electricity and circuit equipment, sketching pencils, watercolour sets and computing equipment. What a fantastic achievement - well done to everyone involved!

Prizes:

Overall highest number of donations (36) – Gwendolyne has won a £30 book voucher

Highest number of donations in EYFS – Isabelle has won a £5 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 1 – Lucia has won a £5 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 2 – Oran has won a £5 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 3 – Georgie has won a £5 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 4 – Rosie has won a £5 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 5 – Gwendolyne has won a £30 book voucher

Highest number of donations in Year 6 – Elsie has won a £5 book voucher



Certificate of Appreciation

Congratulations to

Ropley Church of England Primary School

who used SuperKind Fundraising to raise

£9,305.81

for Friends of Ropley School

Signed:

Keren Mitchell
SuperKind Co-Founder
18.03.26

Our recent Easter Fundraising event brought together students, families and staff in a wonderful display of community spirit. The school managed to raise an amazing £611 in under an hour!

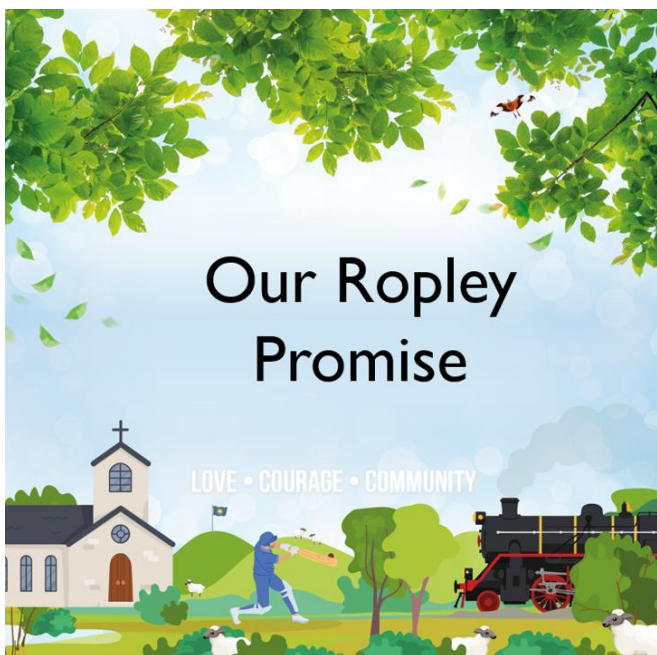
Our Easter tombola was a huge hit with a fantastic selection of Easter Eggs that created plenty of excitement. The children enjoyed trying their luck at winning lots of chocolate eggs and the stall remained busy all the way through. The cake sale was equally popular with an impressive array of delicious homemade treats generously donated by families. We also held our preloved uniform sale.

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved to help and those that supported the event. Your generosity and enthusiasm is what makes Ropley so special. As always funds raised will go towards enriching opportunities for all our students.



The Ropley Promise

A reminder that we have something called 'The Ropley Promise'! Our promise encapsulates the rich range of personal, social and cultural opportunities which we believe every child has the right to experience. The seven-year journey that children embark on across the school provides an excellent foundation for later learning and life. Below are things we promise children will have had the opportunity to do at our school before they leave us.



- Experience a residential trip
- Have the opportunity to take part in a variety of water sports such as kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding
- Run an enterprise project
- Visit the seaside
- Gain a cycling award
- Hatch and care for animals
- Dance, sing and perform
- Learn a musical instrument
- Take part in sporting events
- Travel on a train, boat/hovercraft and coach
- Visit a variety of places of worship
- Supported the local community

REVENGE ON MR MILLS AND COACH JAMES



As a reward for the class with the highest fundraising, Year 5 got to pie either Mr Mills, Coach James or both!

CHURCH UPDATE



The school continues to use the wonderful St. Peter's Church for different lessons. Bumblebees (EYFS) visited as part of their Religious Education learning; the children heard from Reverend Amber about all the different clothing a vicar wears.



We were delighted to welcome Bishop Kelly to the school. She spent time speaking with the children about how she has been getting on with her bread maker, first aid kit and pebble: the gifts we presented to her just before Christmas. She shared stories of her attempts at new recipes, how often the first aid kit has already come in handy, and the special place she keeps the pebble as a reminder of our school community. As part of her visit, she asked the children what they loved about the school and Reverend Amber and I were blown away by the kind and thoughtful comments made about the school.

WORLD BOOK DAY



The children enjoyed World Book Day – some children choosing to come dressed as their favourite book character whilst others went for the comfy pyjama option. The school continues to prioritise reading: one of the most crucial life skills for all children so please keep up the phonics and reading over the Easter break!

BUMBLEBEE (EYFS) LEARNING

There is no greater joy than spending time in the Early Years Classroom and this is something I try to do as often as possible. There has been some excitement with our latest set of chick hatching which you can see below:



The children have continued to enjoy their outdoor learning:



Our children engaged in the purposeful provision put out for them to engage with:



And where children have extended their learning independently to explore and enquire:



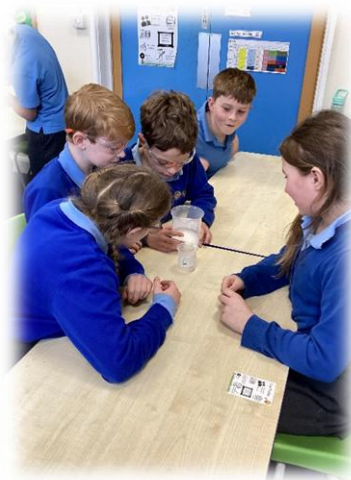
LEARNING ACROSS THE SCHOOL



Year 6 children making fajitas as part of their design & technology unit.



Year 4 and 6 demonstrating our values of Courage and Community by sharing their work with each other and then offering feedback.



Year 5 investigating in Science and using this to make further predictions.



Year 1 working hard in mathematics and science.



Year 2 showcasing the soft toy bears they made as part of their Design & Technology textiles unit.



Year 4 enjoyed making bread; they developed valuable skills through kneading dough, and exploring what happens when yeast is added to the mixture and baking.

YEAR 5 PIZZA MAKING



Year 5's food technology unit ended with them making their final pizza designs at Eggars Secondary School. Back in the autumn term, the children visited Pizza Express to make pizzas. Since then, the children have been researching how to make better pizzas than from a restaurant. The children put their learning to the test and you can see many were delighted with their outcome!

SAFEGUARDING PASSPORTS

Did you know the school teaches lots of elements of safety? Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum covers a lot of different areas. One aspect of our curriculum is 'Safety Passports'. Each child is provided with a passport and they stamp every time they believe they are secure in one of the areas. We continue to revisit aspects so the children may stamp a box more than one time. This safety passport is bespoke to us here at Ropley – it includes the elements of safety we believe our children need to know in their local area.



My Keeping Safe Passport

2026

In School				
 Following our values	 Worry Box	 Being safe online	 Being kind to all	 Know adults in school I can talk to
Both in and out of School				
 Know how to be safe around local streams and rivers	 Know how to phone in an emergency	 Know how to be safe around dogs	 Know which strangers I can trust	 Know the PANTS – underwear rule
 Know how to remain safe at the beach	 Know how to be safe with fire	 Know how to be safe with fireworks and sparklers	 Know how to be safe around train crossings	 Know how to safely cross the road
 Know how to be safe on scooters	 Know how to keep safe in the sun	 Know some basic first aid		

How you can support us

School Meals	Curriculum Resources
<p>Did you know, free school meals are not actually free for the school?! The school receives £2.61 for every child in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 which means the school has a shortfall of £1275.75 each year. When you factor in utility bills, staffing and our contract with CaterLink, the shortfall is closer to £4000 (£23 per child). If your child has a free school meal and you'd like to make a shortfall contribution, this would mean more money could be spent on supporting the children.</p>	<p>Quite a few schools ask for termly contributions from parents to cover the costs of in-school activities. We have an ambitious and exiting curriculum for our children at Ropley. If every parent donated £15 per month, this would reduce our curriculum cost by some margin! If you would like to make a contribution, Scopay does allow for this.</p>

How can parents support?

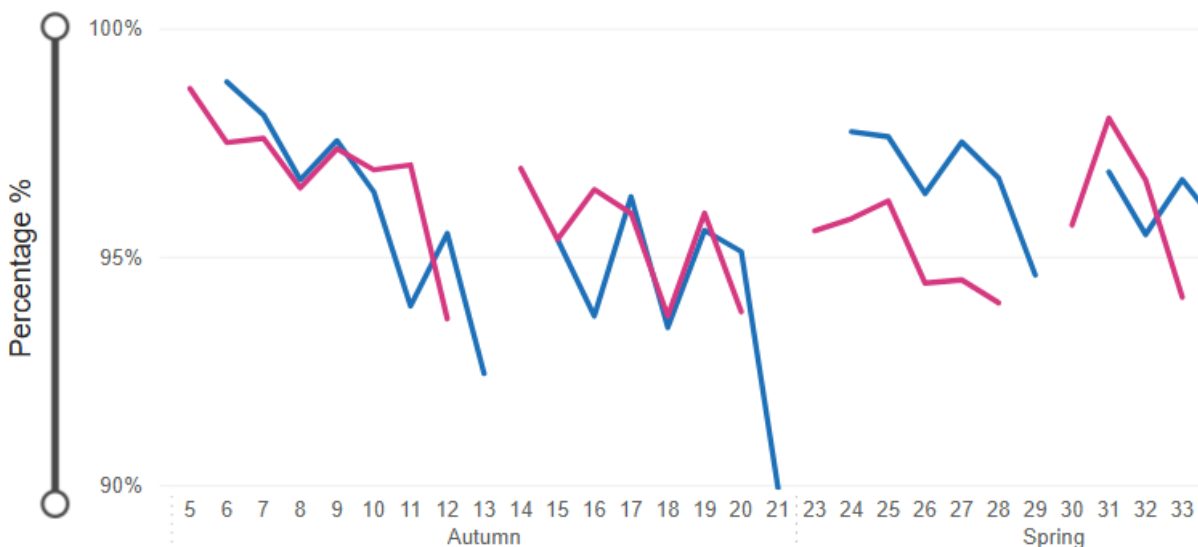
- Keeping your account in credit. Every time Mrs Howling has to phone to chase debt, this costs the school money in terms of her time but also the phone bill!
- If your child is in Bumblebee (Year R), Honeybee (Year 1) or Carpenter Bee (Year 2) and has school meals, consider making a donation of £23 each year to cover the shortfall.
- A monthly donation on Scopay to help the school's curriculum budget.
- See if any employers or businesses would like to support the school through grants or sponsorship.
- Donations of colouring pencils, felt tip pens, glue sticks, pencils and A4 white paper are always appreciated.
- Boxes of tissues, un-opened Infant Calpol and plasters soon add up each year so donations of these are appreciated too!

Attendance

The Department for Education and Ofsted require all schools to monitor and report on absence figures. Our school's attendance this term is 95.8%. The graph below, from Hampshire County Council, explains the impact of this on children's learning. Children who fall below 90% attendance are classed as at extreme risk of underachievement.



The below graph, provided by the Department for Education, shows our school attendance trend so far this year compared to last year. We are down compared to last year by some margin!



We understand that children do get unwell sometimes and have other reasons for absence, but we really encourage parents to bring children in, even if they are under the weather. The office team can help administer Calpol and will always give you a call if they are not well enough to stay in school. Many thanks for your support with this.