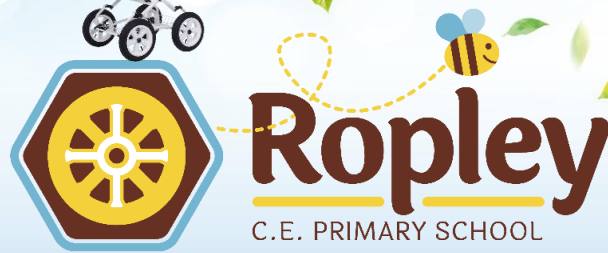




Ropley Church of
England Primary
School

Summer 1 Newsletter



It has been another busy and exciting half term across the school.

Our Year R children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Birdworld – their first school trip on a coach! We have welcomed parents into school for our *Coffee, Cake and Curriculum* workshops. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity for families to learn more about our approach to teaching and learning across the wider curriculum. We will be running these again in September so parents know how to support at home next academic year.

We also hosted an open evening for parents to explore our Relationship and Sex Education resources, alongside a workshop focused on the changing landscape of SEND and how the school is continuing to support pupils effectively.

Year 6 demonstrated great resilience and focus as they completed their Key Stage Two Statutory Assessments. We are very proud of their efforts. The results will be out in July and we will share these in the next newsletter. After half term we have the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check as well as the resits for some in Year 2. Year 4 will have their Multiplication Tables Check and EYFS will be assessed. We wish all the children well. Parents, please keep pushing the phonics and times tables over the half term break!

Our school choir delivered a fabulous performance at the Night of Musicals at Amery Hill School. Their performance of Jungle Book's I want to be like you was a particular hit. Thank you to Miss Hathaway-Timms and Miss Kirby for their support with this. In addition, many pupils have continued to enjoy a wide range of sporting opportunities throughout the half term – did you know, Ropley attends the most sporting events out of all the primary schools in East Hampshire?!

As we begin to finalise our staffing for next year, we would like to share that Mrs Chattell will be leaving us at the end of July. We are also very sad to be saying farewell to Mrs Charlton. We thank them both for their contributions to the school community.

We wish everyone a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing some of you at the Pram Race on Monday. A reminder that school resumes on **Tuesday 2nd June**.

Kind regards,

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

Mr Daniel Mills

Music Opportunities

We were incredibly proud of our choir, who recently took part in the Primary Schools' collective singing event, *A Night at the Musicals*, hosted at Amery Hill Secondary School. Children from local primary schools joined together with the Amery Hill choir to perform a shared piece, as well as individual school performances.

Our Ropley pupils were fantastic, delivering a confident and powerful performance of 'I Wan'na Be Like You' from *The Jungle Book*. Despite being a smaller group, their singing was powerful, high-quality, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there. Thank you to our families who came along to celebrate our children's singing achievements.



Next term we look forward to our children performing in the musical *Grease* hosted at Perins' Secondary School. The vibe for this is truly electrifying!

Grounds Update



Many thanks to the amazing supporters who helped at our most recent ground force day. The school site is really starting to look better thanks to a great team of people who have supported over the past year and a half. As always, thank you to the amazing Silk Services for helping to take away the rubbish.

Project Updates

Our brand-new EYFS garden is currently being installed, and the sight of diggers on the field has certainly sparked plenty of excitement among the children!

We are thrilled to share that the garden will be opening in mid-June, meaning our current Year R pupils will be able to enjoy and benefit from this wonderful new space.



This ambitious £60,000 project would not have been possible without the generous support and contributions of:

- Boomtown Festival - £6,000
- Alton Resurrection Furniture - £15,000
- East Hampshire CIL Funding - £20,000
- South Downs National Park - £1,000
- Local Councillor Grants - £1,500
 - St James's Place - £2,500
 - Blake's Trust - £1,000
 - Alresford Pigs - £3,000
- New Alresford Town Council Grant - £1,000
 - S106 - £1,350
- Ropley Parish Council - £2,000

We are incredibly grateful for the support that has helped bring this project to life and create such a valuable outdoor learning environment for our youngest pupils.



The next phase of outdoor development focuses on refreshing and enhancing the external area outside the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms. The current storage container, which does not align with the aesthetics of the school building, will be removed.

In its place, a purpose-built role play area will be installed, creating an engaging and imaginative space that supports creative and social learning opportunities for pupils.

The existing surfacing will also be upgraded to a more visually appealing finish. This will not only improve the overall appearance of the space but also ensure it functions effectively as a purposeful learning environment tailored to the needs of Key Stage 1 pupils.

Bins will be relocated to a dedicated bin store, improving both the visual appeal and organisation of the area.

Overall, these improvements will transform the space into an attractive, practical, and stimulating outdoor learning environment: one in which we can be proud of as a school and in the village.

As with the EYFS garden project, this development will not be funded through the school budget or FROGS contributions. Instead, we will actively seek grant funding and support from local businesses and charitable organisations.

Given that this area is highly visible from the road, it presents a valuable opportunity for community partnership. In recognition of sponsorship, we would be delighted to offer prominent acknowledgment, such as a plaque displayed roadside, providing positive visibility for any business that supports the project.

Amount to be raised: £18,400.

Sporting Success

It has been another fantastic period for sport at Ropley, with pupils across all year groups achieving some outstanding results!

Our Year 5/6 rugby team secured an incredible 1st place in the East Hants tournament. Even more impressive, our Year 4 team entered the same competition against older pupils and finished 2nd, only beaten by our own Year 5/6 team - a truly remarkable achievement. A fabulous result for Team Ropley!

A group of children also represented the school in a Flag Football tournament, a sport similar to American Football, where they performed brilliantly and came 1st place. We were delighted to have 25 pupils attend the Alternative Sports Festival at Eggars School, where they experienced a range of exciting activities including fencing and archery.

Some of our youngest children enjoyed taking part in a Teddy Bear Orienteering Festival in Alton, combining fun, adventure, and early teamwork skills. Meanwhile, our Year 5/6 basketball team proudly represented the East Hampshire district at the Hampshire Finals. They achieved a fantastic 7th place overall, including a great victory over our local friends at Four Marks Primary.

At Ropley, we are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to take part in sport. Through our Invisible Child Project, we carefully track participation from Years 2–6 to ensure that every child is invited to at least one sporting event during their time at the school.



Outdoor Learning



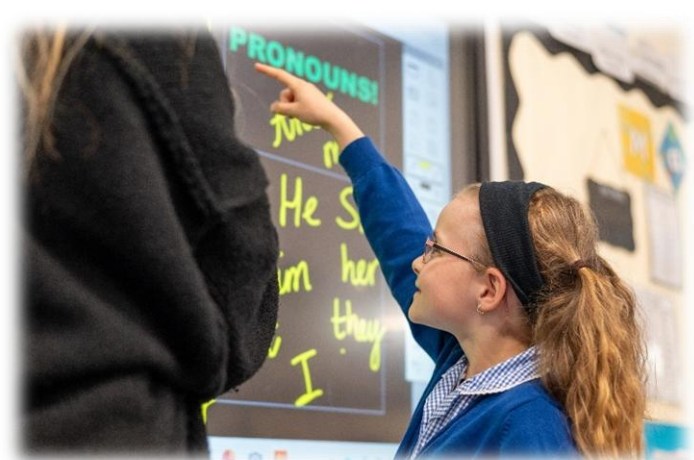
The children in Year R had a wonderful time releasing their newly hatched butterflies into the nature garden. They carefully observed the entire life cycle, watching in awe as the caterpillars transformed into chrysalises and then emerged as beautiful butterflies. It has been a truly magical and memorable experience, giving the children the opportunity to explore and appreciate the beauty of nature up close.

Independence Across The School

Our children continue to work hard in their learning as we approach the final seven weeks before the summer holidays. There is still a great deal of learning to take place before the children sit their summer examinations.

At present, our focus is on encouraging the use of the *Ropley Toolkit* when pupils encounter challenges. Children are reminded to use classroom resources, refer to wall displays, revisit their exercise books, and seek support from a partner before asking an adult for help. This approach helps to develop independence and confidence in their learning.

As you will see below, learning at Ropley takes place in many different and engaging ways.

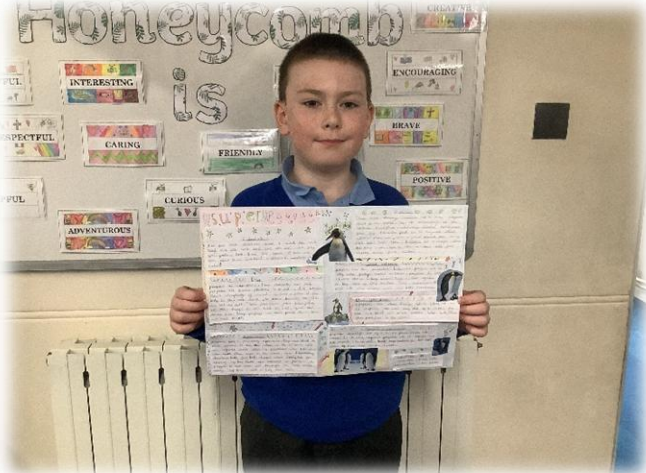
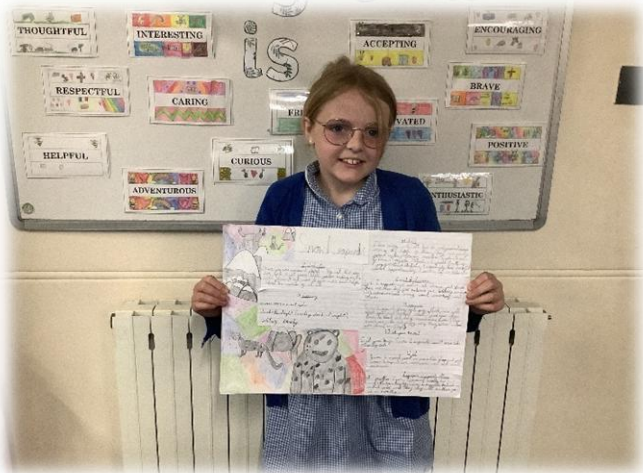
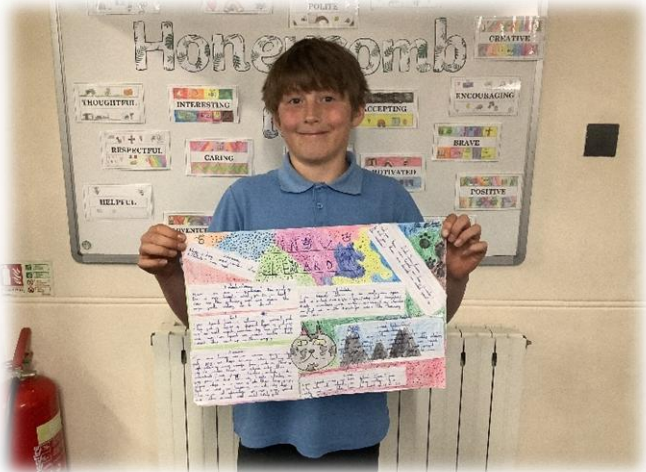


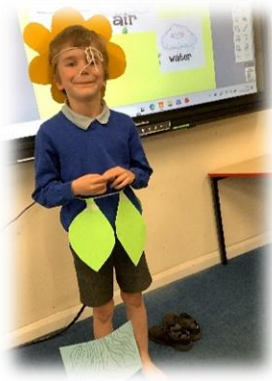
Year R Trip



Year R thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Birdworld. Equipped with their own maps, the children confidently navigated their way around the site. They were delighted to see a wide variety of bird species, including penguins, emus, flamingos, parrots, pelicans and owls, to name just a few. Throughout the trip, the children were a credit to the school, consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour.

Learning Across The School





Our Art & Design Lessons





Surveys

This half term we surveyed our parents in Year R and here are the results:

My child feels welcomed at the school.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

My child feels safe at school.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

My child is supported to learn well.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

Behaviour in the school is positive and well managed.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

I feel welcomed as a parent/carer.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

Communication from the school has been clear and timely.



● Strongly Agree
● Agree
● Neutral
● Disagree
● Strongly Disagree

Overall, my child is happy at this school.

Would you recommend this school to another family joining mid-year?



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



- Yes
- No
- Unsure

“Couldn’t recommend Ropley more highly. Miss Fisher-Smith and her brilliant team are incredible – the best start to my child’s school life. Thank you.”

“Ropley is outstanding and offers a nurturing, well-structured and bespoke education for each of our girls. We are blown away by how much our daughters have learnt and developed.”

“Ropley school is amazing. The teachers and members of staff are so lovely and welcoming. Above all, they are so supportive.”

Parent governor

We are currently looking for a parent governor to join our governing body.

This is a fantastic opportunity to play an active role in the school community, contribute to decision-making, and help shape the future of the school. Parent governors work alongside staff and other governors to support the strategic direction and ensure the best outcomes for all children.

If you are interested in this rewarding role and would like to find out more, please contact the school office.

Money

Money, money, money... it can sometimes feel like that’s all the school ever asks for! Whilst we do rely on the support of our parents, we hope these newsletters give you a small insight into the amazing opportunities we are able to provide as a small village school.

We really do need your help if you would like us to continue offering the great experiences and provision we currently have. Below, you will find ways in which you can support us.

However, we also want to emphasise that support is available. Please do reach out to Mr Mills in confidence if you are experiencing financial difficulties. The school works closely with charities to support families who may be struggling to make ends meet. There is absolutely no stigma, and all conversations are treated in strict confidence.

We do not want any family to struggle or any child to miss out—please do not hesitate to approach us.

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>

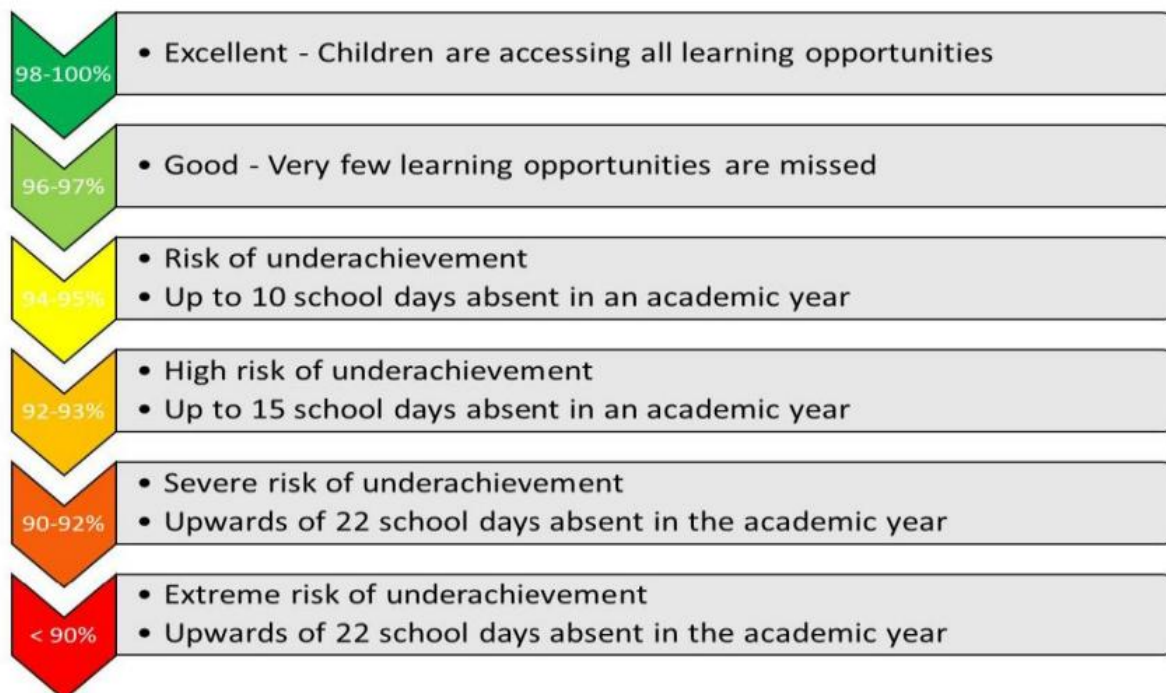
How can parents support?

- 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 stickers, 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!

Our Amazon Wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/0I0pLps0>

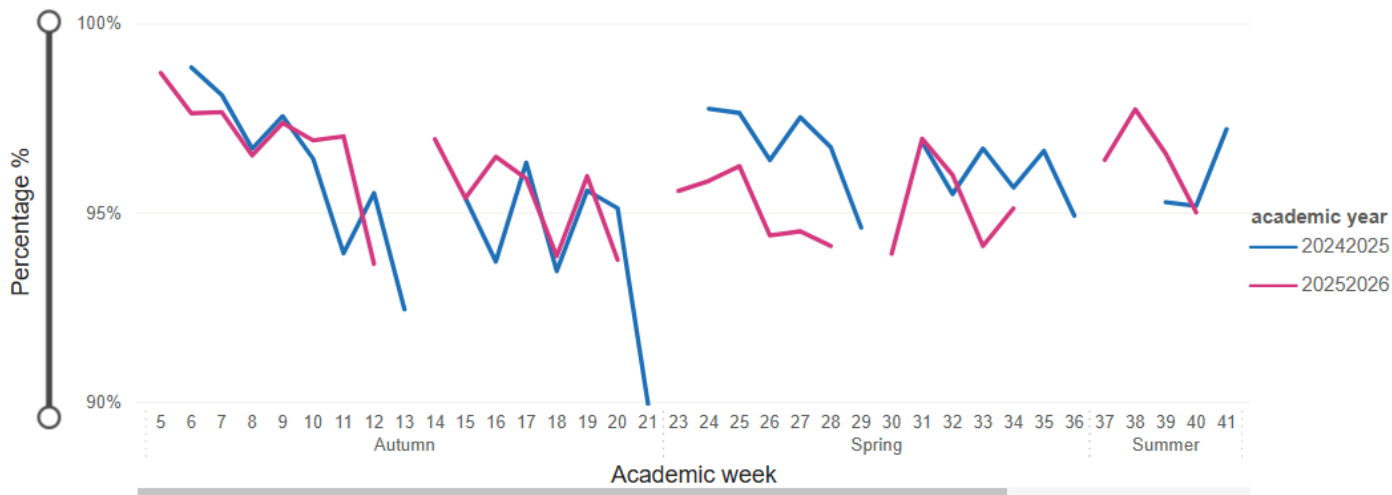
Attendance

The Department for Education and Ofsted require all schools to monitor and report on absence figures. Our school's attendance this term is 95.9%. 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!

Graph showing year-to-date and previous academic year attendance for your school. Use the slider on the left to zoom in and out.



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.