

Be the Best You can Be



Ropley Church of
England Primary
School
Summer 2 Newsletter



Love Courage Community



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. What a wonderful year it has been, filled with so many achievements, memorable moments, and reasons to celebrate.

People often ask me what sums up Ropley CE Primary School. For me, it is simple: a school built on love. This is reflected every day in the care, kindness, and support shown by our children, staff, and families. A perfect example can be seen below, where our Year 6 pupils are supporting their younger buddies in Year R - demonstrating the values that make our school such a special place. But love can also be shown in other ways, for example insisting our children 'Be the best they can be' where we have the highest expectations of our children – this is reflected in the school's highest ever statutory outcomes for the second year in a row.

As we head into the summer holidays, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I hope you all enjoy a restful and happy summer break. Please take some time to look through the highlights of the academic year and celebrate all that we have achieved together.

Happy reading and have a wonderful summer.

Mr Daniel Mills



Year 6 Leavers' Service



Farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children. The final day concluded with a leavers' service for the children including memories of their time throughout the seven years; a few songs and presentation of gifts. As part of Mr Mills' goodbye message, he spoke about the uniqueness of the cohort and how they truly embrace the school's Christian values. Mr Mills joked about his and William's first awkward encounter; how the children had shown courage on the rides at Paultons Park, and Alfred's memorable comment after being sick on a ride.

We know the Year 6 children will go on to be very successful in their new schools. We wish them the very best.

Mr Mills' poem:

Goodbye, Year 6, the time has come,
Your primary school journey is nearly done.
You've worked so hard and grown each day,
And now new adventures are on the way.

You've shown us Love in all that you do,
Through kindness and care shown to others too.
You've built a strong Community here,
With friendship and laughter throughout the year.

With Courage, you've tackled each challenge with pride,
Stepping outside your comfort zone time after time.
You've learned from mistakes, stood fearless and tall,
And discovered the strength that lies within us all.

We've shared so many memories together,
Through lessons, trips and every kind of weather.
From classroom laughter to days out in the sun,
There are countless stories from our time as one.

For often it's not the grand occasions we recall,
But the unexpected moments that mean the most of all.
The little things that make us smile and remember fondly,
Long after we've left them behind us happily.

As you move on, keep these values close,
For they will help you wherever life goes.
Let Love guide your actions, Community keep you strong,
And Courage inspire you to keep moving along.

You may step gingerly into places unknown,
Yet soon you'll discover how much you have grown.
With confidence building each day anew,
There'll be nothing too challenging for you.

Though it's time to say goodbye today,
The memories you've made will never fade away.
We'll always be proud of the people you've become,
And excited to see all the things yet to come.

So spread your wings and aim up high,
With hope in your hearts and stars in your eyes.
Take every opportunity, believe and be true—
The future is bright, and it belongs to you.

Good luck.

Academic Success

-88% 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 20% above national results.

-96% of our Year 1 children passed the Phonic Screening Check. This is 16% above national results and our highest results to date.

-84% of our Year 4 children achieved a result of 21 or above in the Multiplication Tables Check. This puts Ropley 20% above national results. The percentage of children who achieved full marks is 60% which is 23% above national results.

-96% of our Year 6 children achieved the age-related expectation in their reading assessments. This is 21% above national and the school's highest ever results.

-88% of our Year 6 children achieved the age-related expectation in writing. This is 16% above national.

-25% of our Year 6 children achieved greater depth in their writing assessments. Considerably above national and the highest results the school has ever achieved.

-All Year 6 assessments (reading, writing, mathematics, science, grammar and spelling) are above national standards for the percentage achieving age related and greater depth.

What does this mean? For the second year in a row, Ropley CE Primary School has achieved some of the best results in Hampshire. Last year we were the highest performing school across our district of East Hampshire and Havant – we hope to hold on to this title when results are published next term.

Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral

At the Year 6 Winchester Leavers' Service, three of our pupils were honoured to be selected to deliver the readings. They fulfilled this responsibility with poise, confidence and clarity, and we were immensely proud of the exemplary manner in which they represented the school.



Year 6 Leavers' Party



Colour Run



The PTA Colour Run was one of the highlights of the term and a wonderful celebration of our Christian value: community. It was fantastic to see so many children, parents, carers and staff coming together to take part, cheer each other on and enjoy the colourful fun. The enthusiasm and excitement throughout the event was infectious, with plenty of laughter, smiles and colourful faces from start to finish. We are incredibly grateful to our PTA volunteers for all their hard work in organising such a memorable day, and to everyone who supported the event. Not only was it a great opportunity to have fun together, but it also raised valuable funds for the school.

Performing Arts

It's been a busy term for Performing Arts here at Ropley. Our Year 6 children delighted audiences with their wonderful production of Cinderella. The pupils worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs and choreography, delivering a performance full of confidence, enthusiasm and talent. Twenty-five of our pupils successfully auditioned and were selected to take part in Grease: The Musical at Perins School. Those of you who were fortunate to get tickets to the shows will know how spectacular the production was.

We are also delighted to announce that every child from Ropley who entered their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations achieved a Distinction – an exceptional accomplishment and a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Finally, we are thrilled to share that one of our pupils is now preparing for the West End! Lucas in Year 4 is currently balancing the intensive rehearsal schedule with his schoolwork as he gets ready to perform in Matilda next term. We are incredibly proud of him and look forward to following his exciting journey on stage. Congratulations to all our talented performers on a fantastic term.





Nicky and Jack, two of our LAMDA teachers, presenting some of the children with their distinctions.



Bravo to the incredible cast of *Grease: The Musical* at Perins! A truly outstanding production that would not have looked out of place in the West End. It was wonderful to see our pupils taking part and shining on stage. Congratulations to Mars and the whole team for delivering such a fantastic show – a huge achievement for everyone involved!

Photography competition

Calling all budding photographers! We are looking for children to take photos to enter into the competition for the village calendar. Ropley Society are keen to have a section of photographs taken by the children. Please send entries to adminoffice@ropleyschool.hants.sch.uk and we will send on.



The amount of sport on offer at Ropley is truly impressive. At Ropley, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate in competitive sport. Through our Invisible Child Project, we carefully track participation from Years 2–6 to ensure that every child is invited to take part in at least one sporting event each year.

It has been another outstanding year of sporting success and here are just a **few** examples:

- 1st place in the East Hants Year 5/6 rugby league
- 1st place in the East Hants Quad Kids Athletics for Years 1 and 2
- 1st place in the East Hants Quad Kids Athletics for Years 3-6
- 1st place in the Year 5/6 Alton Basketball tournament
- 1st place in the Year 3/4 East Hants Basketball tournament
- 1st place in the East Hampshire Year 5/6 Basketball tournament
- 7th place in the Year 5/6 Hampshire Basketball finals (school represented East Hants)
- 1st place in the Year 3/4 East Hants Netball tournament
- 1st place in the Alton Dodgeball tournament
- 2nd place in the East Hants Handball tournament
- 3rd place in the Alton Swimming Gala
- 1st place in the East Hants Table tennis Tournament
- In football, our Year 5/6 team reached the final of the Alton Tournament. After an outstanding run, they narrowly missed out on victory, conceding their first and only goal in the closing seconds of the final.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm, commitment and sportsmanship. Their achievements are a testament not only to their talent but also to the values of teamwork, resilience and respect that we promote through sport at Ropley.

More Sporting News

We are delighted to announce that Ropley has once again been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award in recognition of our commitment to providing high-quality sporting opportunities for all pupils. This prestigious award celebrates the breadth of sport on offer, our inclusive approach to participation and the many opportunities children have to represent the school in competition. The award is a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of our pupils, staff and volunteers, and reflects the importance we place on promoting healthy, active lifestyles. We are incredibly proud to have achieved this national recognition.



The school's sporting opportunities continue to go from strength-to-strength. Whilst we will be sad to not have Soccer Schools delivering some of the Physical Education next year, the achievements outlined in the sport section of this newsletter have come down to the passionate teachers here at Ropley. The Physical Education Team look forward to continuing to offer even more opportunities next year.

RopFest

As part of the school's 200-year celebrations, we were delighted to welcome back RopFest, a wonderful community event that brought together current, prospective and former families. In celebration of our Christian value of Community, the summer fayre was designed to be accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Thanks to the generosity of both the PTA (FROGS) and the school, many of the stalls and games were available for just 20p, allowing all families to join in the fun. It was fantastic to see so many people come together to celebrate our school's rich history and strong community spirit. We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful afternoon.



There are so many people to thank for this wonderful event – please find the list at the end of the newsletter!

Year 5 at Isle of Wight

As part of The Ropley Promise, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed an exciting day trip to the Isle of Wight, travelling across the Solent on the hovercraft. The children had a fantastic day, enjoying time in the arcade, testing their luck on the 2p machines, playing games and building memories together on the beach, and taking part in a fun-filled session at the lido pool. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience something new, develop their independence and spend quality time with their classmates. It was a memorable day for everyone involved and a highlight of the year for many of the children.





Well done to our wonderful choir for their fantastic performance at the *Night of Musicals* at Amery Hill School! The children delighted the audience with their rendition of *I Wanna Be Like You* from *The Jungle Book*, performing with great enthusiasm, confidence and talent. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the way they represented the school. Congratulations to all of the pupils involved and to the staff who supported them in making the evening such a success.



Year 4 had the opportunity to learn about and play traditional Indonesian Gamelan instruments, working together to create beautiful rhythms and melodies. It was a wonderful musical experience that introduced them to a different culture and encouraged teamwork, listening skills and creativity.

A huge thank you to Amery Hill School for hosting such an engaging workshop and providing our pupils with this memorable opportunity.

Year 6 at Paultons Park

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Paultons Park as part of a new school tradition. This special trip gives our Year 6 pupils the opportunity to celebrate the end of their primary school journey while demonstrating our Christian values of Love, Courage and Community. Throughout the day, the children showed kindness and consideration towards one another, encouraged friends to tackle rides they might otherwise have avoided, and shared in the excitement and enjoyment of the experience together. It was wonderful to see the children supporting one another, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds they have built during their time at Ropley.



Supporting the School

Whilst it may sometimes feel as though the school is always asking for money, there is a very good reason for this.

Ropley is designed to be a mixed-age school, with children typically taught in mixed-year groups of up to 35 pupils. However, as a school, we have made the decision to run seven discrete year groups instead, ensuring that children benefit from a much richer and more focused learning experience. This comes at a cost, as it requires the school to employ a seventh teacher. When on costs such as National Insurance and pension contributions are included, a class teacher can cost the school around £50,000 per year.

You may also notice that, compared with many local schools, we have retained our vital Learning Support Assistants. These additional adults are a phenomenal asset to the school and provide invaluable support to children both pastorally and academically.

The Department for Education provides Ropley CE Primary School with £2.63 per meal for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Whilst the government states that all infant-aged children receive "free school meals", the reality is that the school must cover the difference, as we pay Caterlink £3.00 per meal. This leaves a shortfall of approximately £70 per child each year. At Ropley, this amounts to £6,293.70 annually to ensure your child receives a free school meal.

Parents may not always be aware of the significant financial pressures faced by the school because we choose to prioritise the very best outcomes for our pupils. We do not ask parents to pay for exercise books, provide pencil cases, or make termly donations of £40 per child, as many other local schools do.

That said, it is important that parents understand these financial realities. Many families choose Ropley because we are unique and offer something truly special. However, maintaining that special provision requires ongoing support.

School fundraising plays a vital role in helping us continue to provide the excellent opportunities, experiences and support that our children enjoy.

Ask the school for a link to the 'Ropley Legacy' page or scan the QR code:



Ask the school for a link to our Amazon Wishlist or scan the QR code:



Art & Design



The children have continued to develop their 'Sticky Knowledge' in Art & Design lessons. You can see some of the fabulous work above.

Design & Technology



Year 3 children have been making photoframes as part of their Design & Technology. You will see some pencil pots across the school made by Year 4. Next time you are at reception, take a look at one of them made by our pupils.

Year 5 at Longleat Safari



Year 5 children enjoyed their visit to Longleat Safari Park. They were lucky enough to see hippos, gorillas and sea lions on Half Mile Lake. The children also enjoyed seeing the koalas, crocodiles, meerkats and binturong. One of the highlights of the day was the drive-through safari, where they spotted tigers, lions, cheetahs, Anne the elephant, camels and many other amazing animals. It was a memorable and exciting learning experience for everyone.

200 Year Anniversary

Ropley CE Primary School is marking a remarkable milestone: 200 years since its founding in 1826. The school began as a small village institution created by Reverend Samuel Maddock. He recognised the need for local education; at that time children had to walk long distances to “Ropley Street”, now known as Four Marks. The very first school stood on Petersfield Road, with William Faichen serving as its inaugural headteacher.

A defining moment in the school’s history came in 1869, when the original building was destroyed by fire. Rather than ending the school’s story, the disaster became a turning point. The community rebuilt the school the same year on its current site in Church Street, where it continues to thrive today. Over the following century, the school expanded steadily, with significant developments in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s adding new classrooms. In 2025 the school moved to seven classrooms and currently the school has 181 pupils - significantly more than the originally planned 40.

Celebrating 200 years is not just about marking time, but also reflects the school’s resilience, its deep connection to the church and village, and the generations of families who have passed through its doors. It honours a legacy of learning that has endured fires, rebuilding, expansion, and constant change - yet remains rooted in the heart of Ropley’s community.

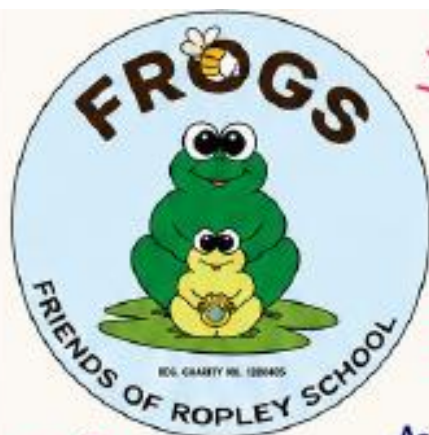
As part of its 200-year anniversary, Ropley CE Primary School has been marking the occasion not only with celebrations, but with a renewed commitment to serving the village that has supported it for two centuries. Pupils have begun 200 hours of community service, taking part in litter-picking along Hale Close, Vicarage Lane, Church Street and Berry Hill.

Children and staff also played a lively role at The Pram Race 2026, running stalls and helping to raise funds for local causes. Alongside this outward-facing work, the school has been investing time and energy into improving its own appearance. Many of you will have noticed the rebuilding of the front wall, the cutting back of overhanging trees, and the tidying of the back-field hedge line. These improvements are part of an ongoing effort to ensure the school grounds reflect the pride the community has in its village school. Further enhancements are planned as the anniversary year continues.

Our pupils enjoy working with the Ropley Horticultural Society, and we have also deepened our relationship with the Ropley Society, contributing for the first time to the village calendar. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Reverend Amber and the Benefice of Ropley, Bishop’s Sutton and West Tisted, whose partnership remains central to the school’s identity. Staff and pupils have been delighted to attend events at the Coffee Rooms and the church, helping ensure that the school remains woven into the life of the village it has served for 200 years.

Year R Farm Visit





THANK YOU!

from FROGS PTA

As another wonderful school year comes to an end, we'd like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all our parents, families, volunteers, sponsors and supporters.

Your generosity, enthusiasm and willingness to give your time have made a real difference to our children's education and learning journey. Whether you volunteered at an event, donated prizes, helped behind the scenes or supported us in other ways, every contribution has funded or will fund key resources for every age group.

OUR RECENT EVENTS IN GLORIOUS SUNSHINE!

ROPFEST



A fantastic festival atmosphere, brilliant entertainment and so much fun for everyone!

**RAISED
£1,000+**

(Still totalling up!)

COLOUR RUN



What a rainbow of fun! So many smiling faces and splashes of colour across the school field.

**RAISED
£1,300**

MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

CALENDAR



Our much-loved FROGS Calendar, celebrating our children and school community.

**RAISED
£2,100**

READATHON

Our amazing readers went above and beyond!

**RAISED
£9,100**

EASTER EVENT

Lots of fun for all the family. Thanks for your fabulous support!

**RAISED
NEARLY £1,000**

These events – and many more throughout the year – have helped raise an incredible amount for our children and our school.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL

Every pound raised by FROGS PTA goes directly back into supporting our children at Ropley CofE Primary School. Here are just a few ways your support has helped this year:



Essential equipment to facilitate learning across the school



Resources to enrich lessons and support creativity and expression



Supporting school projects and curriculum initiatives



Equipment for enrichment activities

We wish all our families
A WONDERFUL SUMMER BREAK
and look forward to seeing you
in the new school year!

Swimming Pool



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’s Mum), Mrs Silk (staff member) and Mrs Allen (Chloe’s mum) 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

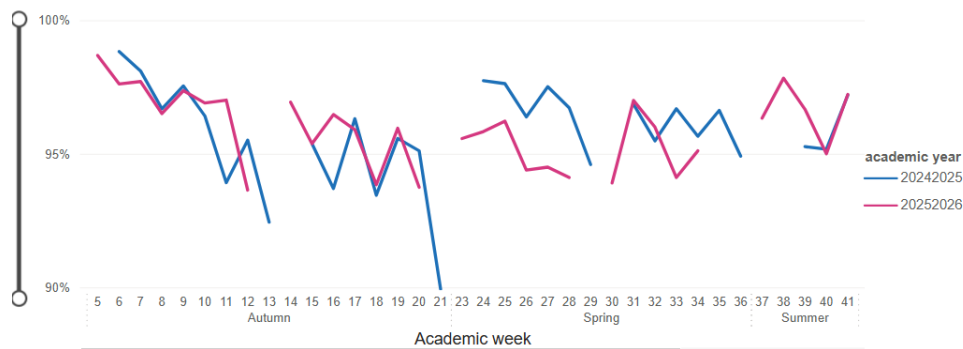
Thank you to our wonderful PTA, led so brilliantly by Cat and Flopsy. We are incredibly grateful for the countless hours you dedicate throughout the year, the late-night emails, and the unwavering support you provide to our school community. Your hard work and commitment make such a significant difference.

Our sincere thanks also go to our Class Representatives, whose support extends far beyond fundraising. Your assistance with communication and your role in strengthening links between home and school are greatly appreciated.

We are equally thankful to our reading volunteers from the village, to Quinn for tirelessly keeping our library running so smoothly, and to the volunteers who have given their time and energy to the school garden. Your contributions enrich our pupils' experiences in so many ways.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and local companies who have supported the school throughout the year. Whether through practical help with grounds projects, generous financial donations, or other forms of assistance, your support is invaluable. Quite simply, we could not provide the opportunities we do without you. We are deeply grateful for your generosity, commitment and partnership.

Attendance



The school’s final percentage of attendance for this year was 95.7% which is a shame as this is below the target set for Ropley by the Department for Education. We will explain more in September how we can all work together to ensure our attendance remains in line with national expectations.