

Inspiring Change Newsletter

Terms 1 & 2

Included inside:

ICPAP

ICSSEN

Student Council

Christmas Prep

Information



ICPAP Updates



At ICPAP, we cannot believe that it is nearly the start of the new year. We have had an action-packed initial 2 terms and want to share them with you. Term 1 saw our children exploring the underwater world through the oceans around us. In English, the children read a range of texts such as Tiddler, The Rainbow Fish and Flotsam. Using these as their stimulus, they were able to write diary recounts, create sets of instructions and produce non-fiction pages on a range of sea-creatures. In science, they explored life under the surface, investigating food-webs and examining what could happen if the oceans continue to be polluted. In art, the boys used clay to model a reef and used a range of media to blend colours to represent a wave. The boys loved going to the Hastings Aquarium to see the fish up close and to embed all of the learning that they had accomplished over the course of the term. In addition to the topic of oceans, the class were given the opportunity to go horse-riding at Squirrels riding centre and rock-climbing at Lower Grange Farm, both of which they absolutely loved and gained so much from.

Our topic for Term 2 is Autumn and Winter. The children have loved exploring nature at this time of year and investigating why the leaves change colour and the different seasons we experience. They engaged brilliantly with pumpkin carving and enjoyed creating spooky faces that looked really effective once the lights had been turned out and the flickering flame was the only source of light. The children had never experienced bobbing for apples before, but were so determined to lift them out of the water using only their teeth; they demonstrated excellent resilience and perseverance skills. The class loved learning about Guy Fawkes and were able to learn and recite the poem 'remember remember the fifth of November'. As well as English and maths, the boys have started to learn to swim at Oaklands school. They have developed their confidence in the water and are beginning to be able to swim the front crawl and backstroke. They have also had the opportunity to go trampolining at Medway Valley Park, where they are starting to put together their own routines, based upon the individual skills that they have been taught. Term 3 will see the boys starting to learn about the dinosaurs! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, from everyone at ICPAP.



ICSEN Updates

We are so excited that The Inspiring Change Primary SEN provision opened in September and we have welcomed five fantastic children into the provision. It has been an incredible first two terms with all staff and children getting to know each other and embracing new learning and experiences. A new staff team led by Mrs Bowley have been excited to start this provision from scratch, developing the curriculum and learning opportunities. It has been a lot of hard work for the team, but seeing the children engaged and making progress has made it all worthwhile. Whilst we have been learning and working hard in lessons, we have also been able to take part in enrichment activities such as celebrating Guy Fawkes night and Halloween and visits to the park and Reindeer Centre. The children have really impressed us with their eagerness to learn and make positive choices and we are proud of each of them for their determination and resilience. It is important for us to recognise that learning isn't always easy and these children have persevered and made strides in all areas. We are immensely proud of them.



Parents and carers are always kept updated with the use of Tapestry, which means they can see the learning that has taken place each day and feel part of the journey. All children are keen to earn their 'dojo' points to get their chosen reward and we have celebrated some amazing pieces of work throughout this first part of the year. We are especially proud of CJ, for his football poetry and how kind and encouraging he can be to his friends; of Mark, for always tackling learning with enthusiasm using and joining in games with his classmates; of Mackenzie, for his amazing effort in Maths and attitude towards of his learning, of Skylar, for always being a great friend, and of Dexter, for his creativity and imagination, especially in Art and DT, and for being a good friend. Well done everyone. We are excited about our end of term plans and the build up to Christmas. There are lots of exciting things for us to look forward to including the pantomime, Christmas dinner, a visit from the Naughty Elf and our end of term Christmas party. We can't wait to see Mr Gardner's dance moves at the party!

Aspirations and Careers

Supporting and preparing pupils at The Rowans, for their next steps is an integral part of our curriculum. All key stage 3 pupils set aspirational targets, each term, these are small building blocks to help them grow academically or personally to develop skills, knowledge and understanding. This term we celebrated 14 pupils all achieving their targets – this was an amazing achievement!

In years 10 and 11, pupils are given independent careers advice to support them make decisions about their post 16 destinations. This could be college, an apprenticeship or employment. Alongside this, pupils are also given a mentor. This is a member of staff who help and advise them with applications, interviews and keeping on track with qualifications to ensure they have the grades necessary for their planned next steps.

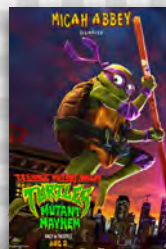
Year 10 had the opportunity to go to work experience at the end of term 1 and there were some huge successes with pupils at the following placements: Laicey thrived at Greenwich Leisure LTD, while Brandon and Leo showcased their skills at Soccer Elite. Harley honed his expertise at Bexley Garage, Bailey nurtured young minds at Catkins Nursery, and Angel contributed to the learning environment at King William Nursery. The list continued with Bamore at Saxon Engineering, Charlie at Royal Mail, Kaiden at K9 Dip n Clip, Max at The Poachers Pocket, and Harry at Mick's MOTs. Even Indiana from Year 11 demonstrated enthusiasm, completing a rewarding week at Catkins Nursery. Two pupils impressed the employers so much that they are now doing extended work placements, alongside attending school.

All pupils showed the school's core values of kindness, commitment and resilience.



Cinema Trip

In term two, the English department were delighted to run a series of reward trips to the cinema. Lucky pupils got to go to screenings of either Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem, Paddington or Puss In Boots: The Last Wish. A total of 24 pupils were selected to attend these showings as a reward for the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment they have shown in their English lessons so far this year. Drinks and popcorn were provided, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the films. All pupils were beautifully behaved and an absolute credit to the school. Well done to all those pupils selected and keep up the hard work!



School Council Updates

Student Council have been extremely busy, throughout the term we have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure our chosen charities have been supported as much as possible! All pupils and staff have got involved in some fantastic events, from dodgeball, to pampering, to cake sales and running half marathons. Student Council should be incredibly proud of their achievements so far this year and the donations that have been made to our chosen charities including;

Macmillan Breast Cancer Awareness Day - £170

The Tony Hudgell Foundation - £255

Student Council have not stopped there! Recently, we went on a trip to support the Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal, a great time was had by all with pupils showing kindness, commitment and resilience, especially when our hands were frozen! Throughout the year we are going to continue to support various charities and ensure that all pupils in the school have a voice. We hope that you can continue to support us in these charity days as much as possible and thank you for all your support!



House Updates



As we have restructured the house system, we now have fortnightly house assemblies, where pupils come together in their houses to celebrate success and participate in a range of different activities such as kahoot quizzes and challenges.

Pupils have been working incredibly hard to earn points for their houses during terms 1 and 2. KeB has achieved the most house points with 103 so far for Titans, JR with 92 for warriors, BE with 102 for Gladiators and DC with 108 for Spartans. Student of the week winners have also contributed with 3 points each when they have won the award.

As well as earning house points pupils have also competed in their houses in a countdown event and inter-house rowing. As always pupils worked together to succeed and support each other.

The current house standing are:

1st **Warriors**

2nd **Titans**

3rd **Spartans**

4th **Gladiators**

We look forward to many more house events throughout the year and are excited to see who wins overall in July.



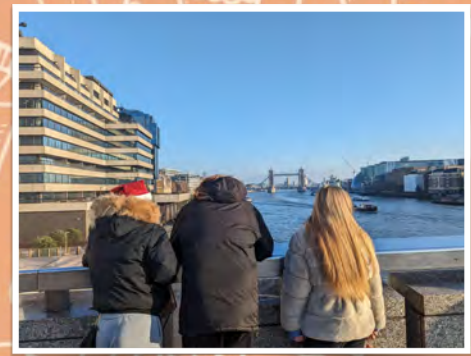
World Mental Health Day

The 10th of October was World Mental Health Day. A group of pupils attended KCCs Big Mental Health Conversation at Detling Showground to represent The Rowans AP. We attended various workshops regarding different aspects of Mental Health such as brilliant brains, mind magic, master your emotions and some of them even included alpacas! During the afternoon, pupils stayed in their form groups for a 'tea and talk' session. Pupils enjoyed hot chocolate, tea and biscuits whilst having informal chats about what mental health is, who has mental health and what steps can be taken to improve our mental health.



Food Activities, Trips and Visits

GCSE food pupils recently embarked on a culinary Christmas adventure in London, exploring diverse food and hospitality establishments and embracing the spirit of giving back. The day included visits to vibrant food markets, hotels and a trip to Sky Garden. The highlight was when pupils crafted edible goodie bags, sharing them with the homeless whilst surrounded by festive snowfall. This experience not only opened their eyes to the wide variety of possible careers but also instilled a sense of empathy and social responsibility. The trip was a perfect blend of gastronomic exploration and heartfelt generosity, leaving a lasting impact on the pupils.



Christmas Preparations



For an exciting end to the year, all form groups are having a fun filled experience of their choice. Forms have chosen a wide variety of thrilling activities to build relationships and share festive fun. Destinations include, ice skating, Winter Wonderland, bowling, Ninja Warrior, Clip n Climb and tobogganing.

ICSEND have already visited the Reindeer centre, getting the chance to also see the 'big man', Santa and his reindeer!

This year's Christmas menu promises traditional delights, inventive alternatives and a symphony of sweet desserts, tantalising our festive taste buds.

Mains: Traditional Roast Turkey, with seasonal vegetables and crisp roast potatoes, vegetarian cheese slice or vegan Christmas pie.

Desserts: Christmas pudding and custard, sticky toffee pudding or chocolate brownie with ice cream.

Following great tradition, this year's enchanting pantomime trip is Aladdin. "Oh no it isn't", I hear you cry. "Oh yes, it is!"

Pupils from all ICMAT provisions will be visiting The Central Theatre on Tuesday the 19th December to enjoy watching a festive production that, from as soon as the curtain rises, will transport us into Aladdin's Middle Eastern world. The production I am sure will take us on a rollercoaster of love, romance, laughter and mischief with their antics and funny jokes, not to mention the appearance of the genie granting magic wishes!



Christmas Elf Antics

Our naughty elf has been up to no good again this festive season. Each day he has been causing trouble and stealing goods from around the school. The children have loved the anticipation of his daily antics. We hope he doesn't cause too much trouble before he returns to The North Pole.



Student of the Week Term 1 & 2



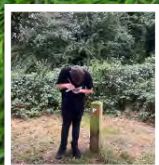
Sports @ The Rowans

Terms 1 and 2 have been extremely busy, with pupils learning and developing skills in a range of sports. We are fortunate to be able to deliver our PE lessons in local facilities such as Avenue Tennis, Kings Leisure Centre, Medway Park, Lordswood Leisure Centre and Jumpers Rebound Centre. We have also for the first time appointed sports ambassadors. Hayden, Romeo, Luke, Caroline and Indiana will mentor KS3 pupils in PE and work with them during lessons to develop their skills. During terms 1 and 2 KS3 have been learning skills in rugby, orienteering, badminton and handball. Lessons have focused on learning skills within each sport, as well as tactics and applying them in competitive situations. Pupils have also had the opportunity to learn the rules and officiate games during their lessons.

KS4 pupils have participated in a range of traditional and alternative sports during terms 1 and 2 such as badminton, rounders, kinball, trampolining, gym and handball. Lessons have focused on being active and helping to make sport sustainable for pupils. It has been great to see pupils enjoying a range of sports and fully applying themselves. All BTEC Sport pupils have also been working immensely hard on units 2 and 3 since September and have produced some outstanding pieces of coursework.

We created the Kent Inclusive Games in September in partnership with other local schools Inspire Academy, The GFC School, Rivermead, North West Kent and Will Adams, to offer pupils the chance to compete in regular competitive sporting events. We plan to hold events such as indoor rowing, basketball, football, handball and athletics.

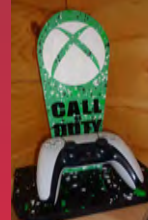
In term 1 The school football team participated in the newly formed Kent Inclusive Football League. After 4 games we find ourselves joint top of the league with 4 wins. An amazing start to the season and we look forward to seeing how it plays out in term 4.





DT Photo Gallery

Key Stage 3 pupils have been working super hard this term practising their carpentry skills to make finger joints in pine and using CAD CAM to create graphics for these amazing calendar cubes. Such a talented bunch!



Our Key Stage 4 pupils have created these fabulous gaming stands for children as part of their ASDAN DT Manufacturing Unit. They have really focused on developing their design skills and independence in the workshop this term. Well done boys!

Useful Information

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential if pupils are to achieve their full potential. We expect all pupils to have good attendance. The attendance target for all pupils is at least 96%.

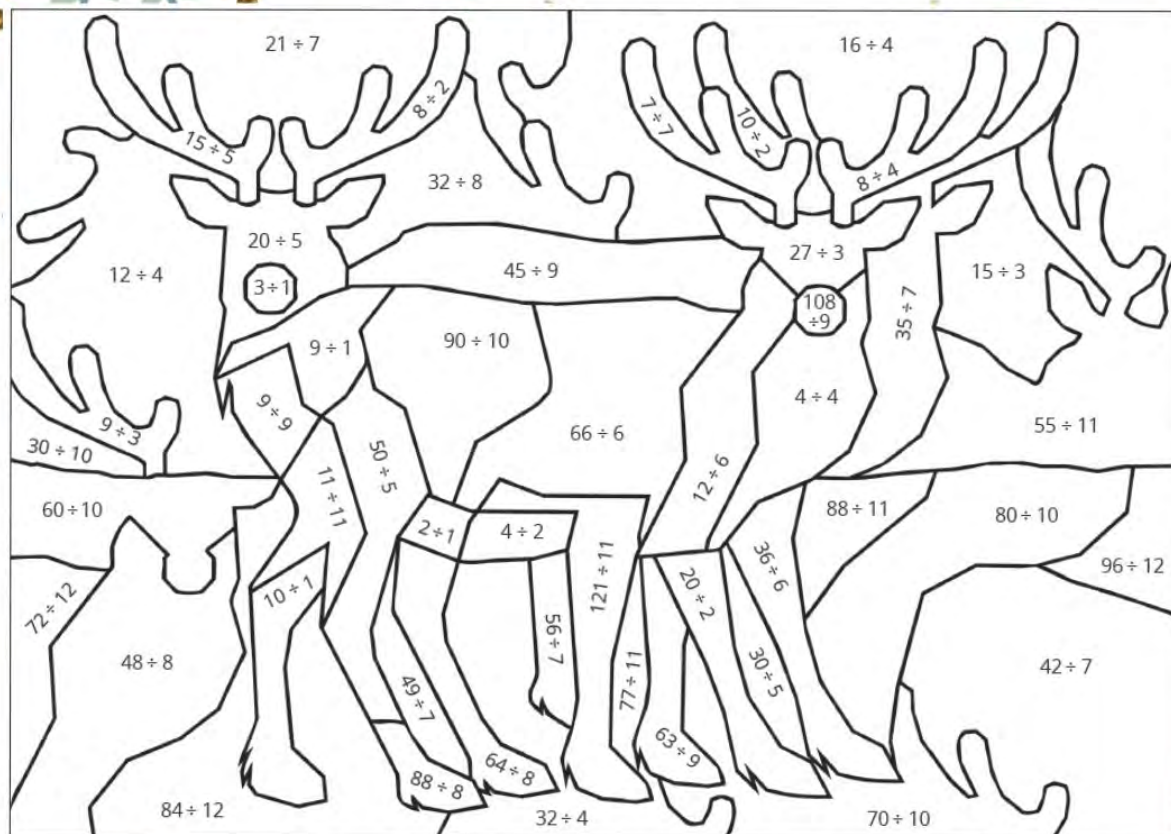
Parents/Carer Responsibilities:

- Parents/carers must telephone the school on the first day of absence and subsequent days thereafter. **It is essential that the school is notified of any absence by telephone or text by 8:30am.**
- If an absence is longer than two days, medical evidence must be provided.

Uniform

All pupils are asked to wear full school uniform to school every day. This is black below the waist, shoes or trainers (no sliders), Rowans polo shirt and a Rowans jumper.

Reminder: Uniform can be bought directly from school, with payment to be made using the School Gateway. The cost of uniform is heavily subsidised by the school to make it affordable.



Instructions

Without using a calculator, work out the answer to each division. Then, use the key to shade each section using the correct colour.

0 - 2	Cream
3 - 5	Navy
6 - 8	White
9 - 11	Brown
12	Red



Medium Puzzle 3

						9	2	
5	4			3		1		
		8		5	7			4
	5			8				3
9		3		4	6	8		
1			3				4	
	7		4					
3	6	1		7	9		8	
				6			3	7

Clues:

1. look for a 4 in the top row
2. Look for a 5 in the top row
3. Look for a 3 in the top row

Maths Wordsearch

E	M	A	T	N	D	E	A	R	L	C	U	O	N
U	E	A	E	N	M	D	E	O	D	G	D	P	N
T	G	T	A	A	U	I	R	T	A	T	Y	E	E
D	N	D	G	I	L	V	M	A	R	D	D	R	E
M	A	E	I	D	T	I	A	R	O	Y	E	C	A
E	R	C	V	E	I	D	E	E	T	M	G	E	D
D	F	I	I	M	P	E	S	M	A	E	R	N	D
T	R	M	G	A	L	T	E	U	N	A	E	T	I
R	A	A	E	E	Y	M	N	N	I	N	E	A	T
O	C	L	A	N	G	L	E	C	M	T	S	G	I
I	T	C	A	R	T	B	U	S	O	O	T	E	O
A	I	O	B	V	E	R	S	E	N	M	D	E	N
P	O	C	N	O	B	T	U	S	E	S	O	G	I
T	N	R	T	R	P	I	T	N	D	M	O	D	E

MULTIPLY
MODE
SUBTRACT
ADDITION
ANGLE
OBTUSE
FRACTION
MEAN
PERCENTAGE
NUMERATOR
OBVERSE
RANGE
DIVIDE
DEGREES
DECIMAL
DENOMINATOR
MEDIAN

MATHS WORD-WHEEL

1

How many **maths** words of two letters or more can you make using the letters in the word wheel.

You may use each of the word-wheel letters only once in each of your answers.



Look for:

Maths words (inc. financial terms)
Numbers (written in words)
Units of measurement (e.g. 'gram')
Abbreviations & prefixes (e.g. 'km' & 'tri')
(Last) names of famous mathematicians
Greek letters (e.g. 'pi')

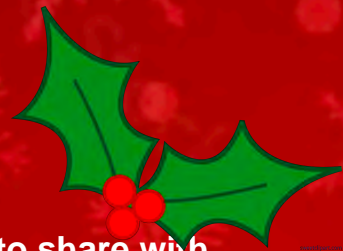
Can you find the nine-letter word?

Write your words here:



Final Word

"It's the most magical time of the year"



It is always a pleasure to have the last word on our newsletter, to share with you the progress that pupils have made, to celebrate achievements, to reflect on what has past and to look forward to what is yet to come.

It has been an incredibly busy two terms, and as we now approach the end of term 2 we look forward to our annual festivities including Christmas dinner, a trip to the pantomime and of course our form group trips. We started the year by welcoming our new Primary SEN provision to trust. This, alongside the primary AP and the KS1 and KS2 outreach team, have offered much needed support for Medway children and their families. This has seen an expansion to the staff team and a growth in expertise, supporting all pupils to make progress and reach their potential.

It is impossible to list all the highlights from the two terms as there are so many. I have been delighted with the quality of work produced by pupils and shared with me for the 'WOW' folder. I was made a very special gift this year by a new pupil to The Rowans, a beautiful keyring with my name on it - such amazing craftsmanship and so incredibly thoughtful. I am always impressed to see the progress made by pupils, whether academically or personally, and it is an honour to award certificates in assembly for pupils who have been recognised and recommended by the staff for; improvements or commitment to attendance, for persevering with interventions, for showing kindness and of course for achieving student of the week. All of these pupil achievements along with daily school life are shared on our social media accounts, so please give us a follow on:

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

@TheRowansAP

Christmas gives us all the opportunity to pause and reflect so as we approach the festive season please remember the importance of togetherness, of spending time with family and friends, the need for laughter and love and making memories. Most importantly your children need your presence more than your presents.

I am going to conclude by once again thanking you all for your ongoing support of the school. The strong partnerships we have with you all are vital in supporting pupils to make progress, to grow in confidence and self-belief, developing their core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team, who all work tirelessly and with commitment and determination to support pupils to be the best versions of themselves. Thank you to you all, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.



Mrs May