

# RAINFORD

# NEWSFLASH

July 2024!

*Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the love of God*

---

**A message from our Co-Chair:**

I am writing on behalf of the Local Academy Board of Rainford CE Primary School (previously known as the Governing Body). This year 2023/2024 has been an eventful year for the school with a number of significant events taking place, In September we had an Ofsted Inspection that reconfirmed our school as a 'Good School'. Whilst in December we said Goodbye to Mrs Richardson after 10 years as Head teacher.

As a new year was welcomed, LDST with the school governors asked Mrs Shawcross and Mrs Thompson to form a new leadership team, this we are pleased to say was made permanent in the summer term. They immediately set about making many positive changes to the school and I am sure you will agree that have made a significant difference to the pupil's and school community.

There have been so many firsts for the school this year, but we would like to mention a few we know the children have enjoyed. The arrival of the guinea pigs, Rock Star Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day afternoon Tea are just a small example.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the whole school community for their dedication to making Rainford CE Primary school a place where there are opportunities for all. As is usual at this time of year we are saying goodbye and thank you to members of staff who will be leaving us. Mr Johnson who has only been with us a brief time but having led our JAM club (Jesus and Me) leaves wonderful memories for those who attended. Also leaving us is Mrs Ratcliffe after 22 years' service to the school. We thank her for her dedication and commitment to the pupils over the years and wish her a happy and long retirement.

We would also like to thank Rachel Lyon for her work as a member of FORCES and time spent as chair. She has worked tirelessly over many years to support the school and pupils in raising much needed funds, we wish her well as she takes a well-earned rest. Our thanks go to FORCES who yet again this year provided not only fund-raising events but fun activities for families to be involved with. I would also like to thank my fellow governors for their support and commitment to the school.

Finally thank you to all who are involved with the school in whatever capacity especially to you the parents and carers for all that you do in supporting the school.

I hope you all have a restful and amazing summer break; I look forward to our journey continuing and all the exciting things that are instore for our wonderful pupils next year.

Diane Pennington (Co-Chair of Rainford Local Academy Board)

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!**

### **A message from Mrs Shawcross**

Yet another wonderful month here at Rainford and we are now approaching the end of the summer term. Plenty of summer trips have taken place; inter-sports competitions between other schools; our first rock concert; and lots of treats for children who have reached their dojo targets! It has been a busy month to say the least!

### **A message to Y6**

Congratulations, Year 6! Your performance was absolutely OUTSTANDING! Whether you were a captivating actor, a mesmerizing musician with your singing voice, or a brilliant showcase of talent behind the scenes dealing with all the technology and props, you all shone brightly. I 100% believe what I said on the stage after your performance: SATs tests do not assess all of what makes each of you wonderful and special. You are all so much more than a score on a test paper. Your dedication, teamwork, and creativity have left a lasting impression. Keep reaching for the stars!

### **Rainford Baby News!**

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Thompson will be going on maternity leave in the Autumn term (December) As a school community, we are absolutely over the moon for her, Mr Thompson and her family. I want to assure you that we have plans to ensure a smooth transition for the children in Y4. I will be recruiting a temporary teacher to take over at October half term. Although this appointment will be made earlier than necessary, I believe dedicated time for a thorough handover of the class is necessary to make the transition process smooth. The children's education and well-being remain our top priority.

I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break, and I hope you all have plenty of opportunities to relax and refresh ready for the new academic year. Dare I say, it will be Christmas before you know it!!

Mrs E Shawcross



**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!**

# Key Messages

## Wrap Around Care

A huge thank you to parents for booking their child's wrap around care in advance. It has ensured that we are well staffed, and we have purchased enough food for the sessions by having numbers of children in advance. Bookings for September will go live the week before we return to school on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

From September, our breakfast and after school club will be within

the main of the school within a spare classroom.

The drop off and collection point will be in a different place. This is the the far side of the car park.



## School meals



We have been asked to share a survey in regard to the school meals currently offered at our school through St Helens Council. As the academic year draws to a close, they are looking at different ways to engage with parents to research their thoughts on school meals, to be able to develop our service offer and make improvements where possible. Please spare 5 minutes to complete.

## New attendance guidance for unauthorised absences

By law, we are obligated to share the following information to all parents. This guidance comes into effect from 19th August 2024 and is in line with National and DfE guidance.

If your child accrues 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period you may be subject to a fixed penalty notice of £120-£160 (or £60 -£80 if paid within the first 21 days).

If your child has a second period of unauthorised absence within 3 years, this penalty notice will increase to £180. If your child has a third period of absence within 3 years, you may be subject to a prosecution.

As a school, we want to ensure that our families are supported in helping their child attend school regularly, so we will be meeting with lots of families in September to discuss this. This will affect those families intending on taking a leave of absence (holiday) and also those who have children with unauthorised absence (O code), or late after registration marks (U code).

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!**



# Visit from the Library Service

**THE READING AGENCY**

**2024**

## Summer Reading Challenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries

**Marvellous Makers**

Join FREE at your library

Get rewards for reading!

Scan to find your nearest library!

[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

Get creative this summer with St Helens Library Service!  
Visit your nearest library from Saturday 6th July 2024 and sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Ends Wednesday 11th September 2024.

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE READING AGENCY Celebrating creativity

**CREATE!**

© The Reading Agency. Registered charity number 1000103. All rights reserved.

On Monday, we welcomed the Library Service into school to tell us all about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It would be lovely if lots of Rainford pupils took part over the Summer. This year the theme is 'Marvellous Makers.'

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!**

# Introducing Rainford CE Little Garden Nursery...



Sunbeams

2-3 year olds



Raindrops

3-4 year olds

Exciting News! We are thrilled to announce that our 2-year-old Nursery provision, Sunbeams, will be opening soon! Thank you to the parents who completed the survey last week. It quickly revealed that there was a need within our community for this provision. We wanted to consult with our parent community in the first instance and offer places to our current families. There were a few questions from the survey which I hope to answer here:

### Here are the details:

**Opening Date:** October 2024

**Session Times:** Term time only. We want to be as flexible as possible so that we can cater for all. Here are the types and times of sessions.

Half Day (5 hours)	1 session (3 hours)	Full School Day (6.5 hours)	Extended Day (10 hours)
AM Session 7:30am - 12:30pm	9:00am-12:00pm	8:50am- 3:30pm	7:30am-5:55pm
PM Session 1:00pm - 5:55pm	12:30-3:30pm		

15-hour funding can be used and 30 hours funding when it is introduced in April.

Sunbeams will have their own room next door to Raindrops. Parents can top up for extra sessions.

Please express your interest to Mrs Heyes in the office either by email ([rainfordp@ldst.org.uk](mailto:rainfordp@ldst.org.uk)) or telephone (01744 883281). Registration packs/ prospectus with more information will be available from the office in September. However, you would like one to be posted during the summer holidays, please let us know. Also, expression of interest forms are available if you wish to be added to a waiting list if your child is not yet two but you require a place in the future

We will be busy transforming Sunbeams during the summer so stay up to date on social media! Help us spread the word! If you know anyone interested, encourage them to get in touch. Let's create a nurturing environment for our little Sunbeams!

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!**





Picture  
News

## Information for parents

### What is Picture News?

We make weekly news resources to help schools teach current affairs.

Picture News goes beyond simply telling children what is happening in the world, to instead find opportunities for discovery, deeper thinking and reflection.

### How do schools use Picture News?

Our schools use the resources for assemblies and classroom sessions.

Each weekly pack is based on a current news story, and uses a poster image and big question to spark children's thoughts and understanding.

We introduce children to the news story as they consider discussion questions and work through age-appropriate activities.

This lets children learn from the news, and empowers them as they encounter the lives and experiences of others across the globe.



### A meaningful approach to exploring current affairs with children

#### Enhance global awareness

Covering a variety of news stories gives children broader knowledge of what's happening in the world. Children can discover their place in the world and relate to others.



#### Develop empathy

Hearing different experiences and responses encourages children to understand and empathise with the perspectives of others.

#### Build cultural capital

Encountering stories from across the world helps children explore different places, people, ways of life, cultures and situations beyond their own.



#### Practise citizenship

Children can become inspired, global citizens. They can establish new interests and passions, and learn that they can make a real difference.



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!

## Learning from the news

From Webb telescope discoveries to Greta Thunberg's climate campaigns, Picture News uses real-life learning and covers topics including real people and scenarios to bring the world to the classroom.

When exploring the world around them, children learn more about themselves and others: what interests them, what they are passionate about, and what they want to change or act on.

Often, people in the news can be a source of inspiration. Children may learn about an issue through the news and decide to take action.

Whether it's organising a litter pick, or raising funds for a cause important to the school, finding out about what's happening in the world can encourage children to get involved and make a difference.



## What if the news is negative?

Our schools often ask us how to handle sensitive news in school, especially if the story is close to home. Here are some points to consider.

### Angle and approach

Seek out opportunities for reflection on morality, choices and citizenship.

We can discuss examples of humanity in the midst of a negative event unfolding, or alternative angles which focus on people making a difference.

Working collaboratively as a school community makes space for all voices to be heard as you navigate the news together.

### Timing

Holding news discussions in the morning gives children time to encounter and digest the story, so that they can discuss further thoughts or responses throughout the day.



### Recognising and understanding responses

News exploration lets children develop emotional literacy. Children can observe their own emotions, and practise articulating and understanding them as they consider the news event. Children have the chance to talk about the news, ask questions, and share their concerns and interpretations in a safe space.



The weekly Take Home resource helps you continue news discussions at home!



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!



# Summer Trips

Reception and Raindrops enjoyed a wonderful visit to Windmill Farm. They had a great time getting up close with the farm animals and the critters! Feeding the baby lambs was a brilliant experience and some children were brave enough to stroke a snake and hold a tarantula!



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!



Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic trip to Lytham St Annes Beach. They enjoyed playing and building in the sand, going on a train ride and finished off with an ice cream. The children said, 'it was the best trip ever!'



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!



Year 5 visited the Police Museum in Manchester (part of the National Justice Museum). They had an enriching experience learning about the rich history of policing, dating back to the very first officers. The highlight of the trip was a stimulating courtroom workshop. Each child demonstrated exceptional behaviour throughout the visit and were a credit to our school. Well done, Year 5! 😊🚓



## Upcoming Dates

We have been working on our whole year diary dates which will be sent out to you very soon.

Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Yourself!