Rolph C of E Primary School and Nursery
Family Newsletter

Friday 30th January 2026

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 6th February
Non-Uniform Day

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February
Half Term Break

Tuesday 24th February
Parent/Teacher Consultations — 3.30pm until 6.30pm

Wednesday 25th February
Parent/Teacher Consultations — 3.30pm until 5.30pm

Tuesday 3rd March
CDPSSA Cross Country Event — KS2

Thursday 5th March
World Book Day

Wednesday 11th March
Sutton Hoo Trip — Elm Class

Tuesday 17th March
Colchester Castle Trip — Ash Class

Friday 20th March
Year 3 & 4 Girls Football Tournament

Friday 27th March
Last Day of Spring Term

House Points

Hufflepuff — 880
Gryffindor — 696
Ravenclaw — 921
Slytherin — 878

Well done to Ravenclaw for being the winning house this month.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school so happily and settle back into routines. I have enjoyed settling into my new role as Head of School at Rolph and I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome and support I have received from the community.

This half term has begun with two lovely Eucharist services led by Father James. Sycamore Class shared thoughtful reflections on kindness, while Willow Class led our Candlemas service with great confidence — both occasions were a true credit to the children and staff.

We have also enjoyed a busy sporting calendar, with pupils taking part in a number of events, including girls' and boys' football matches as well as the Sports Hall Indoor Athletics Competition. As always, we are incredibly proud of the teamwork, sportsmanship and determination shown by all involved.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be opening our new sand pit in the coming weeks — a fantastic addition to our outdoor provision and one we know the children will love. This project has been generously funded by the RSA and I would like to give a special thanks to them for their ongoing support in helping us continue to develop and enhance our outdoor play spaces.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Asbridge

Classroom Learning

This week in Willow Class, we have been looking at 'How do people celebrate around the world?' The children have learnt all about Diwali and enjoyed making their own candles.

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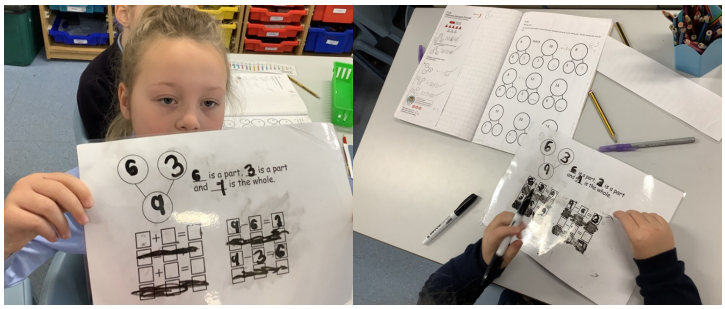
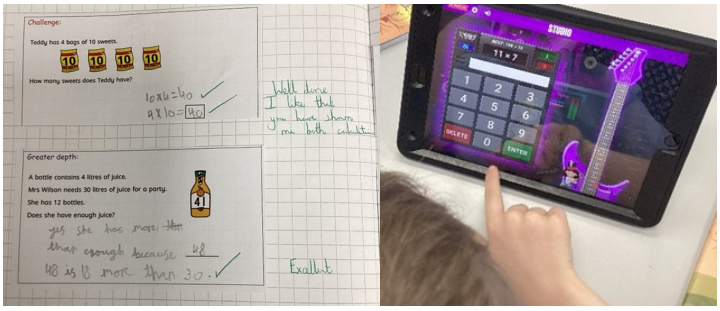
Classroom Learning

Sycamore Class have been looking at fact families. We completed a part whole model then used it to work out addition and subtraction facts. Some of the children chose to use number lines to calculate, others used ten frames and counters.



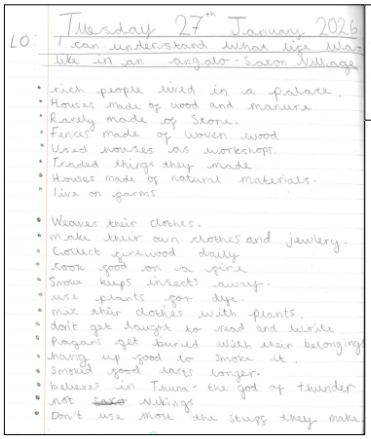
This half term, Hazel Class have been learning about the Victorians. We have learned about the Industrial Revolution and how it has changed people's lives. We looked at old photographs of steam engines, children working in factories and overcrowded cities and discussed what life would have been like before and after the Industrial Revolution.

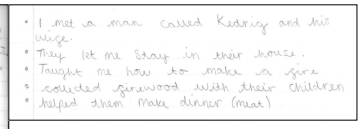
In Birch Class, we have had fun practising the times-tables. We were very excited to receive our TTRockstars logins and lots of us have been busy practising our times-tables at home. We have even played TTRockstars in school! We have also been working hard to use our new knowledge to help us solve mathematical problems.

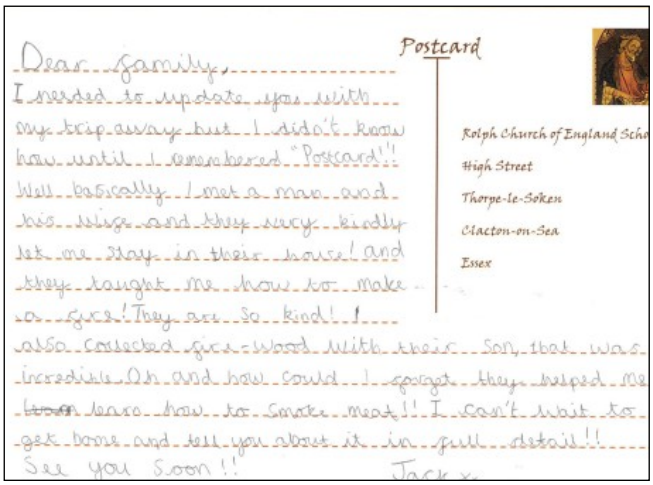


Classroom Learning

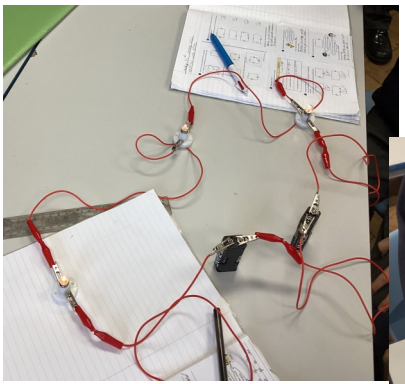
During their topic work, Elm Class have been learning about what life was like in an Anglo-Saxon Village and writing postcards home explaining village life.

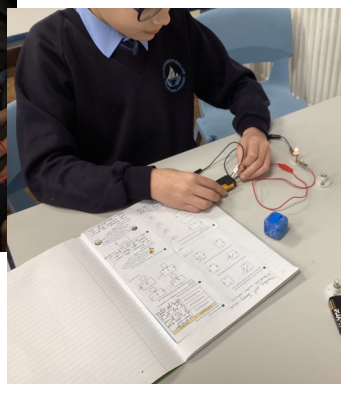






In Science, Oak Class have been looking at electrical circuits and how they work. Currently, we are planning investigations to see what happens when more cells are added to a circuit as well as when more components are added. The children have to plan their experiments and give their hypotheses before carrying them out.





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Sport News

On Friday 16th January, the boys football team took part in a match against St Andrews. Although we battled hard and played some great football, we unfortunately lost 4-0. However, as a team we played better than usual. Well done to Frederick, Rowan, Dexter, Liam, Jesse, Mason, Arthur, Leo and Kobie.

by Liam and Kobie

On Thursday 22nd January, the boys football team played against Tendring Primary. Once again we battled hard but we unfortunately lost 4-0. Well done to Frederick, Rowan Liam, Jesse, Kobie, Lucas, Sam, Dexter and Mason.

by Kobie and Mason

On 23rd January, the girls football team played a home match against Frinton Primary. We played very well and managed a 3-1 victory. Congratulations to Harriet and Scarlett for scoring the goals and Elvi coming close to scoring her first goal for the team. Well done to Emmie, Harriet, Betsy, Maddie, Millie, Annie, Emily, Elvi and Scarlett.

by Harriet and Scarlett

On Wednesday 28th January, a group of children from Elm and Oak classes went to Lift Tending, Frinton Campus, to participate in the Indoor Athletics Competition where we competed in both track and field events. We performed really well as a team and came 2nd overall. Fortunately, this was enough for us to proceed to the District Finals in March. Well done to Harriet, Scarlett, Sarah, Sophie, Snow, Abigail, Tilly, Luna, Florrie, Kobie, Frederick, Liam, Archie, Mason, Jesse, Henry, Jack and Logan.

Thank you to Mrs Williamson and Miss Pearce for taking us and Mr Burgoyne for coaching us.

by Sarah and Frederick

Celebration Certificates

Congratulations to the following children who received certificates this month for demonstrating excellence in the curriculum or our school values.

Willow Class

Elijah, Chrissy, Harper, Ruben, Millie and Spencer

Sycamore Class

Bella, Vinnie, Lottie, Dollie, Sophie and Rosie

Hazel Class

Willow, Joanna, Logan, Alanna, Parker and Stanley

Birch Class

Whole Class, Lyla, Oliver C., Maisie, Maia and Harvey

Ash Class

Daniel, Scarlett, Emmie and Stanley

Elm Class

Maddie, Florrie, George C., Scarlett, Albie P. and Abigail

Oak Class

Rudy, Delilah, Leo, Dolly C., Frederick and Bowen

Well done everyone for your hard work this month!

RSA Update

Saturday 21st March - Hasty's Family Day — more information to follow next week
Friday 20th March - Easter Raffle Friday
Friday 15th May - School Disco
Thursday 9th July - Inflatable Afternoon
Friday 6th November - Rolph Fireworks Night

Fundraising - please continue to use Easy Fundraising (searching for Rolph School Association) when purchasing everyday items to help raise funds for the RSA: easyfundraising.org.uk.

Next Meeting — **Friday 27th February 2026 at the Rose and Crown in Thorpe, starting at 9am** - please come along and join us.

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Playtime Resources

Play is an important part of how children learn and develop. Not only is it essential for their mental and physical health, it also provides children with a resource to form relationships with their peers.

At Rolph, we would like to develop our playtime and lunchtime provision to provide children with a wider variety of resources to enable them to really engage in play when they are outdoors. So, if you are having a pre or post—Christmas clear out, we would be very grateful of any donations. The items we are looking for will enable the children to enjoy a wider range of experiences during play and lunchtime.

We are looking for the following items:

- Small world toys (cars, trains, animals, dinosaurs, dolls, etc)
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays wooden spoons/bowls or utensils
- Noodles (swimming pool ones), guttering, pipes, cable reels
- Pegs, corks, buttons, pine cones, conkers
- Road cones, wooden blocks, crates, spades, buckets, trowels
- Tarpaulins, soft nets or large sheets of fabric
- Hats, scarves or character costumes
- Pots of playdoh, colouring books, puzzles, loombands or clipboards

If you have any of the following items or know anyone who does, we would really appreciate your donations. Please chat to Mrs Emrich or Mrs Asbridge if you think you can help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance

Whole School Attendance

94.11%

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and we aim to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 96.7%.

A huge well done and thank you to Ash Class who have the highest attendance this month.

Regular attendance is very important for children to achieve the best they can. If children are absent from school, it not only affects their education but they will miss out on the social side of school which affects their ability to make and keep friends and can dent their self confidence.

Class	Attendance
Chestnut Class - Nursery	90.48%
Willow Class - EYFS	94.88%
Sycamore Class - Year 1	96.04%
Hazel Class- Year 2	95.88%
Birch Class - Year 3	92.29%
Ash Class - Year 4	96.15%
Elm Class - Year 5	91.26%
Oak Class - Year 6	92.45%

Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to all of our families who consistently ensure their children's attendance and punctuality is good. Getting these important habits established early on in your child's life will make a difference to their futures. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement.

If your child is going to be absent from school, contact must be made first thing that morning and each day thereafter. Contact can be made by either phoning the school on 01255 861317 and leaving a voicemail or using the Arbor app. Please provide us with as much information as possible about why your child cannot attend school. We may still contact you if we require more information regarding their illness. We may also require medical evidence. Please always give an honest reason why your child is not in school. Guidance from the NHS on illnesses and whether your child should be kept off of school can be found at Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Leave of absence

Any time off during term time will only be authorised when we consider the period of absence to be for an ***exceptional circumstance.*** Exceptional circumstances are one off events which are unavoidable. A form must be completed prior to the period of absence which can be obtained from the school office. Please give as much notice as possible. We will then make a decision whether to authorise the absence or not. We have a duty of care, shared with the Local Authority, to challenge poor attendance. **Unauthorised absences** are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been granted. This type of absence can lead to the school referring to the Local Authority for penalty notices and/or legal proceedings.

Punctuality

We appreciate the efforts that our parents and carers make in order to get their children into school on time. Poor punctuality can affect learning and behaviour. The start of the day is when the teacher informs the class of what the day ahead will look like. Learning begins from the moment they enter the classroom. It is not only the pupil who is late that is affected, it has an impact on all other learners. If a child walks in late, the teacher is then required to recap on missing learning for that child which reduces learning time for the rest of the class. It is important that your child comes into school on time. A reminder that the school gates are open from 8.35am and close at 8.50am, this allows parents/children a staggered start to the morning. At 8.50am the gates are locked and the school day starts, if your child arrives after this time they will be marked as late. Thank you for your support in this area.