Rolph C of E Primary School and Nursery
Family Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 30 March—Friday 10th April
Easter Break

Monday 13th April
First Day of Summer Term

Friday 17th April
Parent Forum at 2.30pm

Thursday 23rd April
Walton Naze Trip—Birch Class

Monday 26th —Thursday 29th April
Travelling Book Fair from 3.15pm

Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May
Bikeability—Elm Class Group 1

Wednesday 6th May
Hasty's Farm Trip—Sycamore Class

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th May
Bikeability—Elm Class Group 2

Tuesday 19th May
Summer Safety Assembly for the whole school

Monday 25th—Friday 29th May
Half Term

House Points

Hufflepuff — 398
Gryffindor — 358
Ravenclaw — 266
Slytherin — 269

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and exciting term it has been! The children have taken part in so many wonderful learning experiences—from Year 2's brilliant Victorian Day to Year 5's fascinating trip to Sutton Hoo. Year 4 also had a fantastic visit to Colchester Castle, followed by their Roman morning, which really helped bring their topic to life.

We are continuing to place a strong focus on behaviour across the school, and the children have responded really positively to our new behaviour ladder. It has been lovely to see them engaging with it so well and taking pride in making good choices.

The children have also been thoroughly enjoying our new sandpit and mud kitchen. It has been great to see them collaborating, creating, and having so much fun outdoors.

Thank you for your continued support as we head towards the end of this busy term.

Wishing you all a fantastic Easter break,

Mrs Asbridge

RSA (Rolph School Association) Update

Upcoming RSA Events

- School Disco - Friday 15th May
- Colour Run - Friday 19th June
- Inflatable Afternoon - Thursday 9th July
- Fireworks Night - Friday 6th November

Fundraising Highlights

Easter Raffle - £400 profit
Huge thanks to all businesses & families who donated prizes and bought tickets

Hasty's Family Day - £500 profit
Thank you to Hasty's & everyone who came – sunshine & smiles all round!

We Need Your Help!

Teddy donations needed please - if you have any to donate for a raffle, please take to the Office / contact Kirsty Hunter-Griggs

Volunteers needed for Inflatable Day - Please speak to your RSA reps

Next Meeting Thursday 30 April, 9am at The Rose & Crown

In 2026 Funds Have Been Spent on...

£2,400 (£300 per class) - Subsidising school trips for parents
£595 – Creating a Sand Pit for Playtimes
£138 – Building a new Mud Kitchen
£96 - PE kit storage boxes under pegs

'Live LIFE and flourish together'

Love **Integrity** **Fellowship** **Endurance**

Classroom Learning

In Sycamore Class, we have been studying the work of British artist called Andy Goldsworthy. He uses natural materials such as wood, clay and ice to make temporary art installations. Taking inspiration from his work, we had a go at creating sculptures of natural objects such as leaves, branches and fish using air drying clay. The children thoroughly enjoyed crafting their unique pieces.

Hazel Class enjoyed a fantastic Victorian experience this term. Activities included watching a mini steam engine move, re-enacting climbing through a dark mine and running the length of the Great Eastern Ship on the playground. The children impressed us all with their understanding and their brilliant questions for our visitor.

Elm Class find out Hoo the Anglo-Saxons were

Elm Class Hoo'ing about a bit.

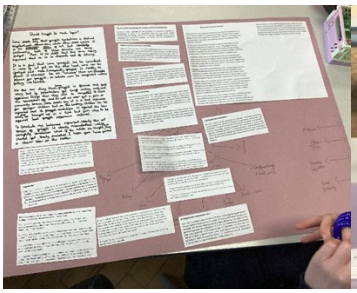
Anglo-Saxon warriors at large. Beware!

On Wednesday 11th March, Elm Class visited Sutton Hoo as part of their History Curriculum about the Anglo-Saxons. They first visited the site of the ancient burials, where the remains of Anglo-Saxon warriors and Kings were buried over a thousand years ago. Then they went into the museum and tried on Anglo-Saxon costumes, watched a video about the burials, marvelled at the archaeological discoveries on display. After lunch they went on a treasure hunt through the woods. Some of the class disappeared into the deep, dark forest searching for the clues written in Runes (Anglo-Saxon letters). Others skirted the edge, cautious to enter. After a long, hard search, not all the letters had been found. The answer to the clues remains unknown to this day.

Playing the Hnefatafl game.

On a journey to the afterlife.

In English, Oak Class have been revisiting balanced arguments and identifying the language and structural features. of them. We then had a selection of statements which we had to decide whether they were 'for' or 'against' the argument 'Should F1 be banned?'



Birch Class really enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day. We even had the opportunity to share a story with the children from Oak Class during the afternoon.

'Live LIFE and flourish together'

Love **Integrity** **Fellowship** **Endurance**

Sport News

On Tuesday 3rd March, just over 40 children from KS2 took part in the Clacton District Cross Country Competition at Birch Hall Adventures. It was a big event with over 400 children taking part, but we all did our best and had a great time. Hayley (Ash) and Harriet (Oak) both came second in their races and will be taking part in the County Cross Country Finals later this month in Southend. The following teams/children also performed very well: Ash class boys' team came 3rd; Oak class girls team came 4th; Harry B (Birch) came 5th; Lennox (Birch) came 9th; Lucas (Ash), Scarlett (Elm) and Jesse (Oak) all came 8th in their races. A big well done to everyone who took part. by Dolly and Dollie

On Tuesday 10th March, Rolph girls football team played their final league match against St Philomena's. It was a close game, and we battled to win it 4-3. In her last match for the school, Harriet scored a fantastic hat-trick with the other goal being scored by Scarlett. Well done to all the girls who played this season including Emmie, Betsy, Millie, Emily, Maddie, Scarlett, Elvi, Annie and Harriet. Thank you to Mrs Williamson and Mr Burgoyne for their support this year. by Harriet and Scarlett

On Friday 6th March, Rolph boys football team played their last match of the season against Frinton Primary School. Sadly, we lost 6-0 which meant we ended the season we just one win. Well done to everyone to who has played for the team this season: Frederick, Jesse, Leo, Kobie, Liam, Mason, Dexter, Lucas, Rowan, Arthur and Sam. We would like to thank Mrs Williamson and Mr Burgoyne for their support this year. by Kobie and Liam

On Friday 20th March, 11 girls from Birch and Ash Classes went to a football festival at Little Oakley Football Club. There were many activities to take part in. At each activity we were shown what to do by sports leaders and then we had a chance to practice our skills. At the end, we had a chance to play in some 5 a-side matches against the other schools. The whole festival was great fun and helped us to improve our skills. Well done to Emmie, Betsy, Millie, Emily C, Sabrina, Poppy Ba, Martha, Lola, Willow, Maia and Lennox.

by Betsy and Emmie

Celebration Certificates

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

Willow Class
Darcie, Jessie, Arlo, River-Blue, Emma and Lilah

Sycamore Class
Willow J., Claire, Nate, Bertie, Mable and Roman

Hazel Class
Max, Zanthia, Elsie, Alice, Rory and Giovanni

Birch Class
Frankie, Aiden, Theo, Celina, Lennox and Jax

Ash Class
Maisie, Ezekiel, Arthur, Ezekiel, Emmie and Oliver

Elm Class
Rowan, Albie T., Robbie, Henry, Alannah and Sophie

Oak Class
Rudy, Kobie, William A., Bowen, Millie and Sarah

Well done everyone for your hard work this month!

Sport News

On Wednesday 28th January, we went to Lift Tending, Frinton Campus, to participate in a Sportshall 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 Harriett, Scarlett, Sarah, Sophie, Snow, Abigail, Tilly, Luna, Florrie, Kobie, Frederick, Liam, Archie, Mason, Jesse, Henry, Jack and Logan. by Sarah and Frederick

On Thursday 12th March, we competed in the Sportshall District Finals at Essex University. Despite our struggles we won four of the events: boys obstacle relay and speed bounce; boys' and girls' soft javelin. Well done to everyone who took part.

by Jesse and Henry

'Live LIFE and flourish together'

Love **Integrity** **Fellowship** **Endurance**

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

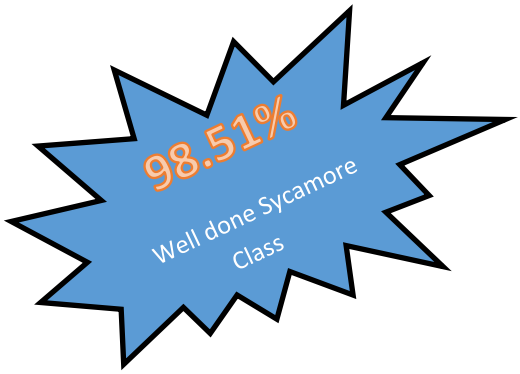
91.87%

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 Sycamore 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	86.63%
Willow Class - EYFS	92.85%
Sycamore Class - Year 1	98.51%
Hazel Class- Year 2	92.86%
Birch Class - Year 3	90.4%
Ash Class - Year 4	90.81%
Elm Class - Year 5	93.72%
Oak Class - Year 6	87.38%



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.