



Trust Perseverance Respect Forgiveness Friendship Compassion Truthfulness

t 01884 881354 | e admin@rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk

Available online at www.rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk and via subscription

I wanted to start by thanking you all for your amazing support over this term. Things have had to run quite differently, and we really appreciate how you have accommodated the changes. Thank you also for all the wonderful fundraising work you do via the PTFA, such ingenious ways to continue fundraising in these difficult CoVid-19 times. This has been a term like no other and you have pulled out all the stops! So, a big THANK YOU from all the team.

We are so incredibly proud of all your children and how they have managed this term, their happy faces, resilience, positive attitudes, and their genuine love of being at school has shone through. They have worked so incredibly hard with their learning this term.

I cannot begin to unpick for you the obstacles and unprecedented circumstances schools have found themselves in this term. As I am sure you will agree many of the events and practices that make us who we are have not been possible and, in a way, this feels like we have lost some of our identity and community as a school. It was so lovely to finally have a celebration assembly this week in the hall (in bubbles of course) rather than doing it in class.

There have been some real positives too this term such as the introduction of using Class Dojo as a means of two-way communication and sharing outcomes and events. Teachers really have enjoyed using this platform. Also going paperless for most of our school communication has been something that we have wanted to do for a while. Staggered lunch times have also been a positive for the children.

We are looking forward to the next two terms and hope that with the introduction of the vaccination and mass testing for schools, we may be able to slowly get back to who we are.

On behalf of all the team at Rackenford we would like to wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas holiday and a happy new year.

Sarah and the all the RPS team



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What should you do if your child tests positive for Coronavirus after the end of term?

Term has officially ended today - Wednesday 16th December, but new guidelines set by the Government mean that some school staff will be available beyond this date to support parents/carers in relation to contact tracing after a positive Coronavirus test result.

When to contact the school

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (i.e. on or before 18th December) we can assist in identifying close contacts and advising them to self-isolate. This is because the individual may have been infectious while in school. We can also support a staff member who tests positive in this way, and therefore will ensure any pupils or staff who were close contacts are informed.

Please email us on admin@rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk and we will call you back. School staff will be on-call to support you with contact tracing for 6 days after the final day of teaching i.e. up to and including Tuesday 22nd December.

When to contact NHS Test and Trace

If a pupil (or staff member) tests positive for Coronavirus, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (i.e. 19th December onward), parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace – and not the school.

If a pupil is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term (i.e. on or after 23rd December), you do not need to formally inform the school about an absence until the first day of the new term (Monday 4th January).

Dates



04 January

First Day of Spring Term

15 – 19 February

Half Term

31 March

Spring Term Ends

KS2 Multisport After School Club

In the first half of spring term, Premier Education will be providing us with a Multisports club, which will run on Thursday afternoons, 3.30 – 4.30pm and is available to KS2 pupils (Class 2 & 3). The cost for the club will be £3.50 per session (£17.50 total). Payments can be made by cash or cheque (payable to Devon County Council)

If your child would like to attend can you please confirm this with us via email by **Thursday 7th January**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The first session will start Thursday 14th January.

Thank you very much to the wonderful Linsey for a very professional and creative virtual wreath making evening.

Thanks also to everyone who helped by donating foliage, boxes and for sourcing mince pies/mulled wine. A great team effort!



Free School Meals Christmas Vouchers

You may be aware from the media that Devon County Council will be issuing vouchers for the holiday period to all those entitled to FSM and will be contacting you soon by letter or email with details of how this will work. Unlike the summer we are not able to assist with any queries but should you need to, you can call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019. Please note, they will be exceptionally busy during this time.

If your child is due to start primary school in Devon in September 2020, the application process will close on 15 January 2020. It's easy to apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline or you can fill in a hard copy of the application form, which can be requested by calling our Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Little Angels

Happy Christmas to you all! We hope you enjoy and cherish the memories you make over the Christmas period. We are back open on the 4th January 2021, see you in the New Year!



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The PTFA would like to say a big thank you to all the wonderful support we have had from you this term. In such uncertain and strange times, it is very warming that our school community can still support the PTFA. Thank you also to all the staff and teachers at school who have worked so hard this term.

Thank you to Cheryl for organising the fantastic treat boxes and to the amazing bakers including Cheryl, Liz and Sophie who have worked hard to fill all the boxes with so many treats!

Your children will have watched a virtual message from Father Christmas today today. He arranged for a bag of goodies to be left at school so they could all take a gift home. Father Christmas would like you to know he took every precaution to keep the presents Covid secure as they were dropped off at school last week in order to be quarantined!! He hopes your children enjoy their gift and he looks forward to seeing them in person at the Christmas fair next year!

Rackenfords Reindeer Trail

From the 15th December to the 29th December 2020



A herd of reindeer is lost on the Common of Rackenfords!

Come and count how many there are hidden on the common and then receive a prize at our village shop.

Good luck!

To fundraise for Rackenfords School PTFA

Donation of £1 recommended

All the reindeer have been created by the children of the School & Village! Thank you for your support.

Please check the opening hours of Rackenfords Village shop to plan your visit and please respect the latest Covid-19 Guidances.

Rackenfords PTFA Charity number 1072336



Do you have a special message for a loved one you can't be with at Christmas this year? Or maybe a Christmas wish?

Stars are available for £3 at the village shop for you to write on and hang on the village Christmas tree at the tennis court.

Thank you from the PTFA

