



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

Dear Families

What a lovely first week back to school we have had! The children (and staff!) have settled back into their routines and are learning with gusto. It has been lovely to see everyone again; children, families and friends.

We would like to send a warm welcome to all our new children and their families who have joined us this year!

A reminder about our morning routines

Our school gate and front door is open at 8.45am. Classes start at 9.00am. A bell will ring at 8.55 to let children know they need to be in class, settled and ready to start the day.

Mrs. Michaela Bundy is in the office from 8.30 ready to take phone calls and assist you from 8.45. If you need to contact school prior to 8.30am please leave a telephone message.

Many of our children arrive at school having travelled here by bus and have said their goodbyes at the end of the lane! Mrs. Jenny Rodgers meets the buses at the back gate. Children come into school via the front door where a cheery Mrs Taylor is ready to check in with them.

For all parents and guardians with children in years 1 to 6, please say your goodbyes either in the playground or at the front door, allowing your children to enter school by themselves. They are very good at sorting their belongings and going into their classrooms.

Mrs. Tracey Taylor is at the door every morning welcoming children into school. If you have a message for your child's teacher please let Michaela or Mrs. Taylor know. They will pass on the message once all children are in school.

For next week, parents and guardians with children in reception are welcome to continue to take their children into Class One to help them settle and to get used to the morning routine. After next week Mrs. Corinne Ashdown will meet all the reception children in the hall after they have said their goodbyes and then take them into class. The following week we think that the children will be able to do this on their own and say their goodbyes at the door or playground.

I am sure you will agree, mornings are busy times for all of us and for you too. I hope you will understand that it is very important that your children's teachers and teaching assistants have the headspace to think about the tasks and learning ahead. If you need to tell your child's teacher something please can you give a message or a note to either Mrs. Taylor or Michaela. They will pass this on. If you need to have a conversation with your child's teacher please either do so at the end of the day or ask Michaela to make an appointment for you to do so at a mutually convenient time. Please do not go into class to speak to them as they are really busy and will not have the time or headspace to give you the attention you deserve.



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..A reminder about our morning routines

We have regular opportunities to meet with parents to discuss your children's progress and needs throughout the year. Mrs. Claire Shanhan, our SENd leader is in school for one day per week. She is in contact with some parents more regularly. If you need to contact her please do so directly via email (claireshanahan@rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk) or give Michaela a message to pass onto her.

If you would like to speak to me then I am generally available on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 8.15am and on Wednesdays from 9.30. I teach all day Thursday and Friday so unfortunately, I am not available to meet. I am happy to meet afterschool on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

On a Monday and Thursday afternoon there is no one in the office to answer the telephones. Please leave a message, this will be checked before the end of the school day. Thank you all for your support.

With kind regards and best wishes for a lovely year ahead.
Sarah



During the holidays, the Rackenford Garden Club Show was well supported by some splendid entries from the School and from Little Angels. Evelyn won both the Rackenford School Cup and the cup for over 8s with her design for a seed catalogue and four other firsts, notably her poem about food; Arthur took the junior cup with his (water) park in a seed tray and Millie came second for her seed tray and first for her poster on saving the sea from plastic. There were some lovely animals and also necklaces from recycled materials (Alfie's was put on Instagram by an amazed visiting artist) as well as wild flower collections. Many congratulations from all.

Theatre Alibi

On Monday, the whole school will be heading to Heathcoat Primary School to watch Theatre Alibi's performance of 'I believe in Unicorns'. We will be back to school by 12.20pm in time for Lunch.

Reception Parents – On this day, pick up time will be 12.30am instead of 12am

Some parents are still to return the SOE3 consent forms, please return by Monday morning.

Thankyou

Next week Class 2 will be writing about somewhere they went or something they did during the summer holidays. This could be anything from a holiday, a day trip or even playing in their own garden! If they have anything that they would like to bring it to help such as leaflets, photos or souvenirs please can they bring these in on Monday.





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Diary Dates for Autumn Term



9th September

Theatre Alibi Performance at Heathcoat Primary

12th September

PTFA meeting

30th September 3.45 – 5.00

Meet the teacher drop in

4th October

School Photos
'New to you' clothes sale after school.

9th October

Harvest Service at All Saints Church

10th October

R – Y6 Vaccinations

Half term

21st - 25th October

30th November

Lantern Parade Tiverton

11th December

Nativity 2pm

13th December

Christmas Disco

18th December

Beauty & the Beast Panto

PTFA

PTFA meeting after school on Thursday 12th September. ALL WELCOME

4th October 'New to You' clothes sale after school. Donations of unwanted clothes very welcome. We will be doing a bag2school collection with the rest of the donated clothes. We will also hold a Macmillian cake sale at this event.

Huge thank you from the PTFA to Sarah and her husband Rich and all the people that helped to transform the outside space into such a fab learning area for the children.



At the heart of the community



JOIN US FOR OUR Open Events

Tuesday 8th October 2019
Tuesday 11th February 2020
Tuesday 14th July 2020

Meet our skilled and friendly teaching staff.

Explore our village primary school in the heart of Rackenfords.

Learn about our child-centred culture, including our flexi school options.





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ELIMINATING THE IDEA OF WASTE!

We will be becoming 'TerraCycle recyclers', which is an innovative recycling company who recycle typically hard-to-recycle waste. We will be able to recycle items such as baby food pouches, crisp packets, pringle cans, flexible cleaning product packaging

Please take a look at the posters on the recycling box for a list of accepted recyclables and place your items in the box provided.

TerraCycle will then credit us with points which we can exchange to money for our school.

Absence from school

As you know we have a duty of care for all children, and safeguarding is our top priority. If your child is ill or absent from school for another unavoidable reason it is important that you keep us in the loop.

Please can you telephone the school to let us know. Please can you call between 8.15 and 9.15 to inform Michaela (Miss Bundy) in the school office, giving the reason for the absence.

Absence Request forms

The law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. If the circumstances relating to a request are considered exceptional and the absence is authorised by the school, the authorising of the absences will be conditional on the child(ren) attending satisfactory up to the date covered by this request.

If you wish to request an authorised absence for exceptional circumstances only, please ask Michaela for a Devon County Council form: L5 Absence Request Form.

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Sarah Maude – Head of School

Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Tracey Taylor, Sharon Hagley

Schoolcomms/school gateway

The school uses a communication system called Schoolcomms where we can send information to parents via text/email message to your mobile phone.

When parents download the app, it means we can send you updates by text message for free.

To download, search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play.

Bumps, Babes and Toddlers

Our Toddler group is now open again every Thursday morning (term time only), 9 – 11am in the Flexi Space at Rackenford Primary School. Families are invited to come along for a morning of friendship, play, support, refreshments and more, in a well resourced, safe and inclusive environment.

