



Dear Rumboldswyke families,

Thank you so much for joining the fun today to celebrate the end of Go Green week. The children were very excited to tell me this morning about how they had recycled, repurposed and reused items to make their fashion choice of the day. Some of their outfits were utterly incredible and so very creative! From children who had made their own skirts and tie-dyed jumpers to unicorns, dragons, scuba divers and a very smart young man in a cardboard top hat, tie and glasses. How marvellous they looked!



Mrs Gilbert has been leading on the artistic creations and we will share photographs once they have been put together.

**Mobile Phones and social media**

Society is increasingly becoming reliant on social media and mobile phones. Most of you know, I think social media and the internet is a wonderful thing which can enhance our lives and put instant knowledge at our fingertips. However, there are many studies which show how it can be damaging to mental health and is increasing the amount of us diagnosed with neurodivergent conditions. We don't really have to wait for anything anymore!



Recently, there has been discussion about the use of Smart Phone and Social Media use in children. Earlier this year the DfE published [Ofcom's](#) report on smart phones and social media use.

They reported that:

- 99% of children spend time online.
- nine in 10 children own a mobile phone by the time they reach the age of 11.
- three-quarters of social media users aged between eight and 17 have their own account or profile on at least one of the large platforms.
- despite most platforms having a minimum age of 13, six in 10 children aged 8 to 12 who use them are signed up with their own profile.
- almost three-quarters of teenagers between age 13 and 17 have encountered one or more potential harms online.
- three in five secondary school-aged children have been contacted online in a way that potentially made them feel uncomfortable.
- there is a “blurred boundary between the lives children lead online and the ‘real world’”.

These are quite worrying statistics. Children are becoming exposed to grown up content much earlier than a few years ago.

This week, it came to my attention that a few children had smart phones in school as they were walking home at the end of the day. Our policy is that children **do not** bring mobile phones to school. Smart phones in particular come with significant social and safeguarding risks.

- 1) **Smartphones can be used to take images and video**
- 2) **Schools who collect phones while the children are at school have the responsibility of looking after an expensive piece of equipment. They also need to ensure it goes back to the correct child.**
- 3) **Children do not want to feel left out so this increasingly adds pressure on families to send their child with a phone (and sometimes the latest phone).**



**4) Children walking home alone with a mobile phone may be distracted whilst walking or could be at risk of having their phone snatched.**

Some schools are looking at alternatives such as only allowing non-smart phones in school for children in Years 5/6 who are walking home. Think of the old Nokia brick!. These can be purchased on Amazon for £23 and may be an alternative if parents are concerned about their child walking home. I would like to consult parents to hear their views. Please email me [head@rumboldswyke.org.uk](mailto:head@rumboldswyke.org.uk) to let me know your thoughts. We are entering a whole new world!

However, in the meantime, Mobile phones **MUST NOT** be brought to school!

**Uniform**

We currently have a number of children who have misplaced their school jumper and various other items of uniform.

**Please can we remind parents to ensure all uniform is named, so that we can make sure it is returned to the correct child.**

**Parents Evenings**

Parents evening for all classes will be held on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**. Please put these dates in your diary. More details will follow via email next week, including information on how to sign up via the Arbor Parent Portal / Arbor App.



**Harvest Festival – Save the Date**

We just wanted to let parents know that our Harvest Festival will be at St George's Church on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. All our welcome. More details will follow in our newsletter next week



**Pet Blessing Service @ St George's Church**

St George's Church will be holding a family-friendly Pet Blessing Service on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm where there will also be a chance to remember pets who have died.

This roughly coincides with the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Donations of pet food are welcome and sent to Mount Noddy Rescue and the Chichester Food Bank. We ask that pets are accompanied by their owners. Dogs must be kept on leads and other pets in suitable containers.

Have a lovely weekend.

With warmest wishes,  
Lisa Harris





**Diary Dates**

**September 2024**

30<sup>th</sup> Sept Art Club (Yrs 1 – 6)

**October 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Oct Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

7<sup>th</sup> Oct Art Club (Yrs 1 – 6)  
8<sup>th</sup> Oct Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

10<sup>th</sup> Oct Harvest Festival at St George's Church

14<sup>th</sup> Oct Art Club (Yrs 1 – 6)

15<sup>th</sup> Oct Reception parents – Stay & Play Session

16<sup>th</sup> Oct Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)  
Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

21<sup>st</sup> Oct **INSET Day – No children in school**

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)

23<sup>rd</sup> Oct Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

Parents Evening

24<sup>th</sup> October Parents Evening

28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov Half Term

**November 2024**

4<sup>th</sup> Nov Art Club (Yrs 1 – 6)

5<sup>th</sup> Nov Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)

6<sup>th</sup> Nov Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Swimming (Year 3)

Art Club (Yrs 1 – 6)

12<sup>th</sup> Nov Multi-Sports Club (Yrs 1 – 3)

13<sup>th</sup> Nov Dance Club (Yr 1 – 6)  
Football Club (Yr 3 – 6)

**Term Dates**

**Autumn Term 2024**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Half Term - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

INSET Day Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – children not in school  
Children's first day of school will be Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

INSET Day Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – children not in school

**Spring Term 2025**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Half Term – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

INSET Day Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – children not in school

**Summer Term 2025**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Half Term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Please note we are still in the process of organising the remaining 2 INSET days for the next academic year and will share these dates with you as soon as we can.