

# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from the RGSGQ*  
*[www.rgsgq.com](http://www.rgsgq.com)*



**RGS**  
GUILDFORD

## RGS House System

### RGS Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday  
26th September:  
Parents' Coffee  
Morning

Monday  
9th October:  
Parents' Association  
Meeting

Thursday  
26th October:  
International Day

This week the RGS House system was introduced to the pupils and elections were held for this year's House Captains.

The House system is at the very heart of School life at the RGS. There are six Houses in the School which are named after people who have made significant contributions to either RGS Guildford in the UK or RGS Guildford, Qatar. Each pupil and staff member is assigned to one of the six Houses on entry to the School with siblings being placed in the same House.

The six Houses, and their distinctive colours, are:

Austen (Yellow)  
Beckingham (Red)  
Hamad (Blue)  
Nettles (Green)  
Powell (Purple)  
Valpy (Orange)

House assemblies and regular events take place throughout the year which provide all pupils the opportunity to represent their Houses in a range of events from sports, to arts, to quizzes. Such regular events also help to produce a close-knit, cohesive group which provides strong links between age-groups and a supportive, vertical pastoral structure.

House points are awarded for participation and achievement during events and also for hard work and effort, high attainment and progress and good behaviour throughout school life. The points achieved are added together across the whole school and at the end of the School year we will find out the overall winner of the competition who will be crowned House Champions.

Last week pupils in Key Stage 2 were invited to nominate themselves to be House Captain for academic year 2017/18. I received a number of excellent letters from pupils across all six Houses and would like to thank everyone who put their name forward. On Wednesday, the nominees each took turns to present to their House teams and explain why they would make an excellent House Captain. Votes were cast and on Thursday the results were announced. The teachers were very proud of every pupil for how confidently they spoke and the effort they put into the election process. Our House Captains for this year are:

Austen: Zaid  
Beckingham: Haneen  
Hamad: Bilal  
Nettles: Zaynab  
Powell: Khalid  
Valpy: Turki



During assembly on Thursday the pupils took part in a variety of fun games and quizzes with points being awarded. Austen finished top of the points table and so take an early lead in this year's House competition!

If you have any questions about the House system please contact Mr. Walsh, our Pupil Welfare Coordinator, who is overseeing the House system this year.

Have a great weekend and I will see you next week.

Mr. Downs

## Swimming at the RGS

This week saw the first cohort of students from the RGS embark on their swimming lessons and it was just as exciting for me as I think it was for the young swimmers of RGS!

For the first lesson we wanted to help the students with confidence in the water, and some very basic safety skills, which was achieved through fun games and activities. I am greatly looking forward to helping the students gain confidence in the water, and will take great pride in helping to teach the students of the RGS the ability to swim. Swimming is not only a great life skill, but the ability to swim will help the students gain confidence both in and out of the water, helping the holistic development of your child.

I am greatly looking forward to seeing both the enjoyment of students, and progress in their swimming over the coming year.

Mr McCullagh



## Outside Play

As the weather has cooled slightly over the past two weeks we have taken the decision to allow children to play outside in the morning. From Sunday 24th September, when children arrive at school they should go to either the Early Years or Key Stage 1/2 play areas until the bell goes at 7.45am.

Pupils will still play inside during lunchtime until October when we expect the weather to have cooled further.

## Whole School Events at the RGS

Throughout the School year we hold a variety of whole school events. For some of these events we ask children to come to school wearing specific clothing. To help parents plan in advance please find below a list of events for which specific clothing is required:

International Day: Thursday 26th October 2017 (Pupils are asked to come to school wearing clothing that represents a country of the world).

Qatar National Day: Thursday 14th December 2017 (Pupils are asked to come to school wearing Qatar National Dress).

UK World Book Day: Thursday 1st March 2018 (Pupils are asked to come to school dressed as a famous book character).

I look forward to celebrating the above events and many more with our whole school community.

## Parents' Coffee Morning

Our monthly parents' coffee morning will be held from 7.15am - 8.15am. Please come along for a coffee and a pastry and catch up with fellow parents. I will also be there to get to know our parent community a little better and answer any questions you might have. I hope to see you there.

## International Day

Our first whole school event of the year will be 'International Day' which will take place on Thursday 26th October. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the many different nationalities that make up our school community and the wider world. We have scheduled International Day to coincide with United Nations Day which is held on 24th October, and so throughout the week students will learn about different cultures and take part in a wide range of activities aimed at increasing their understanding of the world around us.

On International Day all of the teachers will represent a different country and wear clothing from that country. Teachers will contact parents next week to inform them of their chosen country. We ask that all pupils also come to school on International Day wearing clothing that represents a country of the world. This might be your child's home country or the country that your child's teacher is representing.

All parents are invited to our International Day Assembly which will start at 7.55am in the Early Years Shared Area and finish at approximately 8.30am. For the remainder of the morning, pupils will spend time with their teachers learning about different countries and taking part in a variety of activities.

Our special International Day lunch will take place from 11.20am in the main school atrium. We would appreciate it if parents could choose a country to represent and bring in food from that country for pupils to share. Parents might also wish to create displays for the pupils to look at and learn from and wear national dress from their chosen country. A separate letter about this will be sent out next

## Weekly Awards

### RGS Superstars

Each week RGS Superstar certificates are awarded to pupils from each class who have excelled in an area of school life during the week. Pupils receive these awards for demonstrating one of the RGS Learning Habits and becoming a member of our RGS Super Squad!

This week the following pupils received one of these special awards:

Nursery Seahorses: Maryam  
Nursery Starfish: Dexter  
Reception Dolphins: Nawaf  
Reception Turtles: Abraham  
Year 1 Meerkats: Christine  
Year 1 Giraffes: Mazen  
Year 2 Lions: Rashid  
Year 3/4: Khalifa  
Year 5/6: Zaynab

## Class of the Week

Maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality at school are essential for pupils to ensure they maximise their learning time in school and reach their full potential; academically, socially and emotionally.

Each week Class of the Week trophies are awarded to the classes who achieve the highest weekly attendance and who achieve the highest percentage of punctual pupils arriving by 7.45am. This week saw Year 2 Lions claim the trophy for the highest attendance, while an amazing five classes shared the trophy for on time arrival. Well done to Nursery Seahorses, Year 1 Meerkats, Year 1 Giraffes, Year 2 Lions and Year 3/4.

Thank you very much for ensuring your children arrive at school on time each day and do not miss school unnecessarily.

## Top Table

To promote healthy eating and good table manners, pupils who demonstrate excellent behaviour, eating habits and manners during snack time and lunch time throughout the week are invited to eat lunch with me on the 'Top Table' at the end of the week.

On Thursday I enjoyed eating lunch with Omar (Reception Dolphins), Romeya (Reception Turtles), Musnad (Year 1 Meerkats, Mohd (Year 1 Giraffes), Mohammed (Year 2 Lions), Zein (Year 3/4) and Zaid (Year 5/6).

