

12TH OCTOBER 2017

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from the RGSGQ
www.rgsgq.com



RGS
GUILDFORD

RGS Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 18th
October: Reception visit
to Barzan Park

Wednesday 18th and
Thursday 19th October:
School Photographs

Thursday 19th October:
Year 5/6 Class Assembly
(7.55am – 8.30am)

Languages at the RGS

Children from Nursery through to Year 6 at the RGS benefit from specialist language lessons in either Arabic or French. There have been lots of exciting activities taking place in these lessons over the first half term, aided by a range of specialist materials and IT software.

As a school we are also focusing on developing speaking and listening skills in English as part of our whole school development plan for the current academic year. I have seen some great activities over the past few weeks which have supported this development. These have included storytelling in Year 1 and some brilliant videos made by the Year 5 and 6 pupils to describe the movement of the sun and the moon around the earth.

Mrs Kepple and Mr Trace are also in the process of finalising lists of words which will be put up outside in the Early Years and Key Stages 1 and 2 play areas so that our pupils are surrounded by key words in French and English during playtimes.

Keeping Healthy in Nursery

Following on from our assembly last week on Healthy Eating children in Nursery have been busy exploring this topic further. There have been lots of great activities taking place linked to the well-known stories, 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' and 'Oliver's Milkshake.' The children enjoyed a number activities, exploring using magnifying glasses, painting and even making their own delicious milkshakes just like Oliver did in the story. Yum! Yum!

Nurse Odessa also popped into Nursery to talk to the children about the importance of brushing their teeth and washing their hands. It really was a great week of fun, hands-on learning.



IT Suite

We were delighted this week to open our brand new IT Suite which has already proved to be a huge hit with our pupils! All classes have a dedicated Computing lesson when they have access to the IT Suite and pupils will also have the opportunity to use the Suite during cross curricular learning when IT skills are linked to other areas of the curriculum.

The IT Suite adds to the technology already available to our pupils at the RGS and ensures that the teaching and learning of the computing curriculum is supported by a range of hardware including digital screens, programmable robots, mobile devices and tablets, laptops and desktop computers.

IT Week at the RGS will take place from the 19th November which is a week dedicated to exploring all aspects of information technology. Ms Morris, Our Computing Coordinator, will contact parents after half term with further details.

We are very proud of all that has been achieved to date and the learning environment we have created for our pupils. I am personally looking forward to an exciting year ahead and more success in the future.



Quality Assurance

I had great pleasure in welcoming Mrs Clare Turnbull, Headmistress of Lanesborough Prep School in Guildford, to our school this week. Mrs Turnbull spent time in all classrooms observing the teaching and learning, in addition to reviewing our policies and procedures which ensure the safe and smooth running of the school on a daily basis.

As planned, Mrs Turnbull also worked alongside the teachers after school hours to introduce the Lanesborough Values Policy to our school which will form part of our assembly programme and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.

House Update

In our Achievement Assembly on Thursday our House Captains received their House Captain shields which they can proudly wear on their RGS ties. Mr Walsh and our House Captains also collected the points from all classrooms and calculated the current totals.

After the first five weeks of the school year Austen are leading the way, closely followed by Nettles.

Austen: 392

Nettles: 370

Hamad: 337

Beckingham: 225

Powell: 194

Valpy: 181

Don't forget that the closing date for the International Day Fact file competition is Thursday 19th October.

If you have any questions about this, please speak to your class teacher or contact me.



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Parents' Association

It was great to see so many parents at the Parents Association meeting earlier this week. The turnout really was excellent, so much so that we will need to find a larger room to hold the next meeting! The aims of the Parents Association were outlined and suggestions were put forward for events and activities which would help strengthen our community and benefit the children who attend the RGS.

A number of parents have already volunteered to become members of the Parents Association and/or take a role on the committee. I would like to thank these parents for their support and also to those parents who have come forward as Class Reps. If you are still interested in becoming a member of the Parents Association, or volunteering as a Class Rep then please contact me.

Our first Parents Association event of the year will be held on Saturday 18th November. This will be a Family Picnic at Barzan Park from 9am – 11am. The proposed date had originally been Saturday 11th November, however as you might be aware, this date is Armistice Day and so we have taken the decision to move the picnic to the following weekend. The Parents Association are also planning a movie night which will be held in early December. Keep an eye on the school newsletter and Parents Noticeboard for updates.

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

Mr. Downs

International Day

Thank you to all those parents who have already signed up for our special International Day lunch which will take place from 11.15am in the main school atrium on the 26th October. We would appreciate it if parents could choose a country to represent and bring in food from that country for pupils to share. Parents are welcome to choose a country on their own, or team up with another parent to represent a specific country. Parents might also wish to create displays for the pupils to look at and learn from and wear national dress from their chosen country. If parents would like to contribute items of food for pupils to share, then please add your name to the Sign Up Sheet which will be located in the Reception area of school.

Next week I will contact all parents who have volunteered and provide further information about this event.

If you have any questions, please speak to the school office or come and see me.

Parent Workshops

On Monday 23rd October we will be holding an Early Years and Key Stage 1 Parents Workshop focused on phonics. This will be led by Mr Trace, our English Coordinator. The workshop will explain how phonics is taught at the RGS and also provide parents with some ideas for how to support their children at home.

After half term on Monday 6th November I will be presenting to parents about the characteristics of the UK curriculum. This will be as session aimed at explaining the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (Nursery and Reception) and UK National Curriculum in Key Stage 1, 2 and 3.

Both the phonics workshop and curriculum presentation will start at 7.45am.

School Photographs

Next week we have professional photographers from 'Pret a Portrait' in school to take individual, class and siblings photographs of all children. These photographs will be taken on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October and so for this reason I ask that all children wear their normal school uniform on Thursday 19th October and NOT their coloured House t shirt.

If you have any questions, please speak to me or contact the school office.

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: Adina

Nursery Starfish: Maryam

Reception Dolphins: Heba

Reception Turtles: Essa

Year 1 Meerkats: Malek

Year 1 Giraffes: Wali

Year 2 Lions: Nora

Year 3/4: Alya

Year 5/6: Hessah



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 Nursery Starfish, Year 1 Meerkats, Year 2 Lions and Year 5/6 share the trophy for on time arrival, while Nursery Starfish, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 shared the trophy for the highest weekly attendance.

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 Leo (Reception Dolphins), Ssanyu (Reception Turtles), Jana (Year 1 Meerkats), Resal (Year 1 Giraffes), Rhiley (Year 2 Lions), Noah (Year 3/4) and Saif (Year 5/6).





RGS Diary Dates

Wednesday 18th October: Reception visit to Barzan Park

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October: School Photographs

Thursday 19th October: Year 5/6 Class Assembly (7.55am – 8.30am)

Monday 23rd October: EY and KS 1 Phonics Parents Workshop (7.45am – 8.45am)

Thursday 26th October: International Day

Monday 6th November: UK Curriculum Presentation (7.45am – 8.30am)

Saturday 18th November: RGS Family Picnic (9am – 1am at Barzan Park)

Sunday 19th November – Thursday 23rd November: IT Week

Thursday 30th November: Year 3/4 Class Assembly (7.55am – 8.30am)