



# Reddal Hill Primary School Parents / Carers' Newsletter January 2026



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## WELCOME

Welcome to the January Parents / Carers' Newsletter.

A belated Happy New Year to all of our pupils and families. I hope that you all had a lovely break over the Christmas holidays.



The pupils have arrived back with a positive attitude towards their learning and continue to work hard. During the first few weeks back, the pupils who belong to the Planet **SATURN** received an afternoon film and snack to celebrate raising the most Planet Points during the autumn term, for demonstrating exemplary behaviour, a positive attitude towards their learning and making super progress too; this was a fantastic way to start the new year. Please read on for more exciting experiences our pupils have taken part in.

Just a few reminders: please ensure that your child does not wear hooped earrings at school as these can be easily pulled out in our very busy playground. Please also remember to remove your child's earrings when they have PE or teach your child to do this and provide them with a box/ pot to pop them into during their PE lesson. Additionally, please ensure that your child does not wear nail varnish when they are in school.

It is important to commence with these good habits for your child as when they move onto high school, there will be sanctions for not wearing the correct uniform. Please support us as a school and your child in establishing good habits. Thank you.

## School Admissions

**RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE 2026: Please note:** The application process for reception school places for September 2026 is **NOW CLOSED**. If you have not applied for a place for your child, you will now need to complete a late application form. Please click on the following link for late reception application forms:

[Applying for a reception place / Year 3 junior school place | Sandwell Council](#)

**Please note, National Offer Day for RECEPTION is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

**YEAR 7 SCHOOL PLACE 2026: Please note:** The application process for Year 7 school places for September 2026 is **NOW CLOSED**. If you have not applied for a place for your child, you will now need to complete a late application form.

Please click on the following link for late secondary application forms:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/school-admissions/applying-secondary-school>

**Please note, National Offer Day for YEAR 7 is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.**

If you require any support in applying for a school place, then please speak to Mrs. Begum, our Parents Support Advisor, who is more than happy to help.

## School Council visit to the Houses of Parliament

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the School Council representatives, along with staff, had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament, where they enjoyed a fascinating tour of the historic building. We were also delighted to meet our local MP for Halesowen, Alex Ballinger, who kindly took time out of his very busy schedule to speak with the children and answer their questions about his role and the work of Parliament. Alex then offered the children an incredible experience by allowing them to sit in on a live debate in the House of Commons, giving them a memorable first-hand insight into democracy in action. Throughout the visit, the children's behaviour was exemplary. They were respectful, attentive, and represented the school with pride. They should feel very proud of the maturity and enthusiasm they showed during such a special opportunity. We would also like to thank our parents for supporting this visit and allowing their children to take part in such an enriching experience. A huge thank you as well to Mrs Spence for organising this invaluable opportunity.



## Attendance

At Reddal Hill, we really value the attendance of all our pupils. As such, every week, the class with the best attendance, are rewarded with an extra 5 minutes play and our attendance trophy. At the end of each term, the class who has the highest attendance percentage for the greatest number of weeks, will enjoy a movie and popcorn afternoon. Please see below the classes that have won the highest attendance since we returned to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Week commencing	Winning class	Percentage
05.01.2026	Hagrid	93.8%
12.01.2026	Dumbledore	98.7%
19.01.2026	Lilies	99.3%



Reddal Hill's attendance for the autumn term 2 2025 was 92.78%. (National: 94.92% - 2024/2025) – unfortunately, we are currently **below** the National percentage. Please support Reddal Hill Primary School by ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time. Thank you.

## Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)



We are delighted to share that our school is beginning its OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey. OPAL is a nationally recognised programme that supports schools in transforming their outdoor spaces to create high-quality, meaningful play opportunities for every child.

Over the coming months, we will be working together to develop play experiences that are richer, more imaginative, and more inclusive. We look forward to keeping you updated as our outdoor environment evolves and as we begin to see the positive impact this has on the children's play, wellbeing, and learning. Mrs. Rogers (AHT – Behaviour, including attendance Lead)

**SCHOOL MOTTO: GLEE: 'Growing – Learning – Enjoying – Excellence'**

## Dates for the diary



### 2025-2026

#### Autumn Term 2024:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Children return to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Half-term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### Spring Term 2026:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Half-term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### Summer Term 2025:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Bank Holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Half-term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

#### Teacher Training Days 2025 - 2026:

Day 1 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Day 2 - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

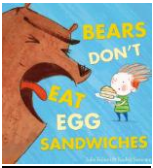

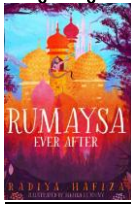
Day 3 - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Day 4 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 5 - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## Books of the Month

Please see below the following recommended book/s you can read with your child. For older children, your child could read this book to you. These books are age appropriate and provide key vocabulary that is important in supporting your child's developing language skills.

EYFS	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
 <p><b>Bears Don't Eat Egg Sandwiches</b> by Julie Fullon</p>	 <p><b>The Adventure of Captain Underpants</b> by Dav Pilkey</p>	 <p><b>Rumaysa Ever After</b> by Radiya Hafiza</p>

#### Reading with your child

Reading every day helps children build vocabulary, improve comprehension, and develop confidence. It also sparks imagination and creativity, opening doors to new ideas and adventures.

#### How does Read to Succeed work

Every time your child reads at home, they earn a tick in their reading record, even if they read more than once in a day. As they collect ticks, they can achieve exciting milestones:

Bronze Reader - 45 reads

Silver Reader - 90 reads

Gold Reader - 135 reads

For the ultimate challenge, if your child reads 50 different books, they become a **Platinum Reader** - even if they read two books in one day!

## Safeguarding

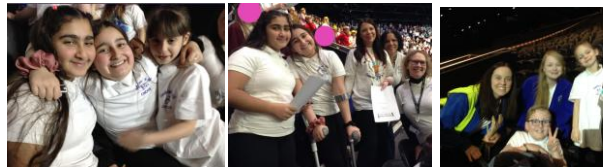
At Reddal Hill, we take our safeguarding duty very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, then you must contact the school or the Sandwell Children's Trust on 0121 569 3100 in confidence. If a child is in immediate danger, you should contact the police, call 999. The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs. A. Bashir-Pugh and the Deputy DSLs are Mr. J. Stokes, Mrs. H Rogers, Mrs. T. Whitehurst, Mrs. K Beard and Mrs. Begum



We are a **Nut Free Zone**. We have a number of pupils and adults who are **seriously allergic** to nuts. Please do not send your child to school with ANY Nutella or chocolate spread unless the label clearly states that it **does not contain nuts**. Please support us in protecting our pupils and staff.

## Young Voices 2026

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, twenty-eight Reddal Hill Choir members from Year 4 to Year 6 visited the BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices Concert. The pupils had an absolutely amazing time, and so did the adults who accompanied them. The choir sang beautifully, danced with Urban Stride, and performed like true superstars. It was a brilliant experience, and the choir were an absolute credit to our school. Well done to the Reddal Hill Choir, and a huge thank you to Mrs Leach for organising this fantastic opportunity for our pupils.



## Girls Football Tournament



On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, eight talented footballers, represented Reddal Hill at the Girls' Football Tournament at the WBA Dome. They demonstrated outstanding teamwork and determination earning a well-deserved place in the semi-finals, where they narrowly missed out on penalties. We are extremely proud of our team and their exceptional performance. Well done, Team Reddal Hill and Mr. Benningfield.

## Thought for the Month

'Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.' ~ Unknown

Kind regards,

*A. Bashir-Pugh*

Mrs. A Bashir-Pugh

Headteacher