



### Rowhill School Mission Statement

Developing the responsible citizen for tomorrow by raising self-esteem and independence through education and care

# Rowhill School Winter Newsletter

## Severe Snow / Ice Plan for Parents and Families

### Inside this issue

Moroccan Appeal.....	2
Hefay.....	3
OT welcome Niamh.....	3
Pythons Day Out .....	4
Youth Club.....	5
Christmas activity.....	6
Year 11 Careers Advice.....	7
Resources.....	8

During the winter months, extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only a limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Rowhill School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points and so on.

### ***How will we let you know if the school is closed?***

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mr G Bartrum may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Rowhill School is open or closed please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk). Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Rowhill School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

### ***What can you do to help?***

Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing. If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

Mr G Bartrum  
Head Teacher

# Moroccan Appeal

On September 8th a devastating earthquake hit Morocco in the late evening, killing thousands of people and leaving many more injured.

As many of our school community know, Dino was impacted by the tragedy, and quickly moved into action.

Dino teamed up with the parent Hub to host the Moroccan Appeal during the September parent coffee morning.

*We raised £640 !!*



The school organised a cake sale, and much needed clothes were donated ready to be shipped to Morocco for those in need.



Here's what Dino had to say:

*"I just want to say a massive thank you from the bottom of my heart. We raised £640 this will make so much difference. The guy came to pick up all the clothes that everyone has donated I will be collecting clothes all year. Thanks again so much MA ❤️"*



# The Dog Mentor Affiliated School



A big congratulations to Hefay, who after working hard at Rowhill school this year, has been awarded the Dog Mentor Gold Award!



Hefay has become an integral member of the Rowhill team and is an incredible support to so many pupils!

Over the past year, Hefay has supported pupils from across the school to attend trips, visiting the seaside, using public transport, going to the cinema, and even going fishing!

Jenny, founder of The Dog Mentor has said:

*It's wonderful to hear about the positive impact he is making on school life"*

Well done Hefay :-)



## Welcome Niamh!

Rowhill school is pleased to welcome a new member to the therapeutic team, Niamh!

Niamh joined the team in September 2023 as an Occupational Therapy Assistant working alongside our Occupational Therapist, Fola.

Occupational therapy within a school setting aims to support children who have difficulties carrying out everyday functional tasks. These can be in the areas of self care, productivity or leisure. At school our OT team work with pupils to either achieve or maintain independence in order to access the school curriculum to their full potential.

Niamh is excited to be part of this team and had this to say: *"I have really loved joining the therapy team and getting to know the different children I get to work with. I am enjoying helping them work towards their targets and seeing them develop in different ways".*

*"A future goal of mine is to become an occupational therapist, so this is great preparation for that."*

## Be You Project

In September, Darren from the Be You project attended Rowhill School across lunch time to offer drop in space for any pupils who were interested to talk about, or to seek support from themselves or someone they know, who identifies with the with the LGBTQ+ community.

Darren set up a stall in the Drum, with information leaflets and resources for staff and pupils. Many pupils were interested to know more, and to ask about avenues of support for themselves or someone they know.



A big thank you to Darren for the support he is providing our pupils.

## Pythons Cinema Trip!

The Pythons visited Woodville Halls in Gravesend to watch 'Elemental'. They really enjoyed the film and represented Rowhill School beautifully with their positive attitudes and perfect behaviour.

Following our visit, we have explored the elements and their properties in our Science lessons.



*"Well done Pythons!"*

## Scorpions day out!

In October Scorpions Class visited the Spitfire and Hurricane museum.



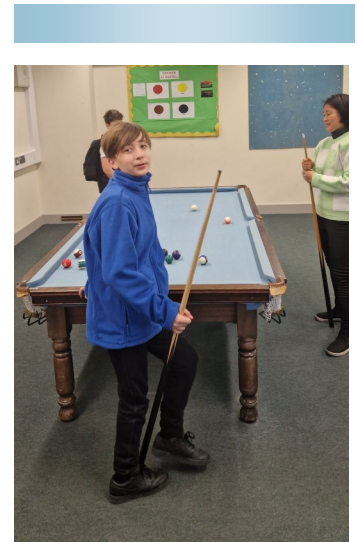
## Rowhill Youth Club

The P.E. team at Rowhill have introduced the Youth Club. It is open to all students and is held every Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The aim of the youth club is to provide a positive outlet for our students, where they can develop new skills, build self-confidence, and form meaningful friendships with their peers. The club will offer a wide range of activities, such as games, arts and crafts, x box, sports, Lego, forest school, music and team building games.



We encourage all students to participate in the youth club, as we believe it will provide a valuable and enriching experience that will help them to thrive both in and outside of school.



## Parents Tea Party with The Pythons

Earlier this term The Pythons invited their parents for a tea party!

The children wrote letters to their parents and sent them through the post. The Pythons visited Waitrose to buy cakes and biscuits to decorate for their parents, the children worked hard decorating the classroom too!

They were so excited for their parents to visit and enjoyed playing games with them and introducing them to their friends. We also explained how we use the Zones of Regulation in our class to help us and sent a tool kit home with parents so they can use it at home too.



A big thank you to all the parents and carers for attending our tea party, lots of fun was had by all!



## Christmas Holiday - conversation Jenga!

Liz, Rowhill's Play Therapist has shared a fun way to connect and bring back conversation in the home, for family's to try out across the Christmas holiday!



Most people would have heard of the game Jenga. This is a fun game to play with the family and today I would like to share with you an alternative version to bring back family connection. Do you sometimes feel you do not talk to each other like you used too? Always having to compete with screen time? Well...try this game out! Let the family all see if they can learn something new about each other.



### Example questions:

- If you could be any animal what would you be and why?
- What do you like most about Saturdays?
- If you could only keep one toy which one would you keep? Why?
- What's your favourite time of day? Why?
- Who makes you laugh the most?

You do not necessarily have to have the actual game Jenga there are other versions out there at a discounted price.

If you didn't want to write on the Jenga blocks you could write the questions on pieces of paper and each time a player removes a block they can select a question from the pile.

If you have a tower with colour blocks like the example shown, you could colour code the questions by putting questions on coloured card matching the colour blocks.



HAVE FUN!

## In other news...

Rowhill School Primary & Secondary are taking part in the Salus Anti-bullying Survey 2023. The online survey provides children and young people with a voice to share their experiences with bullying. Schools receive an anonymised report of pupil responses to facilitate planning and review of school practice, identify any areas of concern, and gather evidence for Ofsted.

<https://salusgroup.org.uk/support-service/anti-bullying/>

### **Year 10's and 11's have also been taking part in the following workshops:**

Hayley Williams from The Education People delivered 3 separate 45min workshops to support our KS4 with their career direction.

Post 16 options

Apprenticeships

Labour Market

Skills & Employability

## Year 11 Careers Advisor

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Simon, a careers advisor attended Rowhill school to meet with our Year 11's to think about next steps, and to offer careers advice. Each year 11 learner was offered a 45min session.



Some information on Simon: I am a professional careers advisor, but I also coach people who are neuro-divergent and having challenges at work. Many of these have ADHD, dyslexia or autism, but some have dyspraxia like I do. I also coach teams of disadvantaged people on intensive challenges that have been set by big global companies. When I meet people for careers guidance I want them to enjoy a conversation, think about what they want to do and then help them plan a path forward, even if it is only the first couple of steps. Sometimes I find that people think about their strengths for the very first time and this is a real joy - everybody has strengths and I can help them realise.

Some other things about me include having a five month old springador puppy named Deefur (see other picture). Deefur is a bundle of fun and energy and keeps me busy when I am not working. I was on Tipping Point, the game show hosted by Ben Shepherd and I won. I have been in local amateur pantomimes, followed the Lionesses (England women's football team) to Spain and recently went on the zipwire across the Eden Project in Cornwall.

## Reminders

**Contact Details:** Please can you inform the school of any changes to your contact details, including mobile phone numbers and emergency contact information. We should not need to contact you often, however when do, we really need to, and if we aren't aware of changes this can delay the process of sharing information with you.

**No Smoking:** Please can we remind all parents and carers that Rowhill School is a no smoking site, neither vapes or cigarettes are permitted to be used. We thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring their child does not bring these into school.

**Absence:** If your child is absent from school, please can you inform the school on the first day of the absence. Should you wish to discuss any attendance issues, please speak to Cathy Webb. Parents and Carers can contact Cathy Webb (DSL) on 01474 705377 ext. 1 then 141, to explain the absence for your child.

**Medical Forms and Medication:** If you have recently received a medical form please can you return this to Natalie Russell as soon as possible. We also ask that parents and carers ensure we have a sufficient supply of medication for their child for the term.

## Tree of Self-Esteem

Throughout the term staff acknowledge the hard work and positive behaviours of pupils from across the school. Here are some of the highlights from this term:

*Congratulations Reggie! He has got off to a fantastic start in Science this year. He's very enthusiastic and motivated and always attempts all tasks.*

*Maggie – kindness in looking out for her peers when they felt sad.*

*Mikey showing kindness to others.*

*Rash gaining confidence and having fun on his first swimming lesson.*

*AJ for speaking to Josh about his challenging lesson and resolving it together.*

*Lucas for working exceptionally well in bicycle maintenance.*

*Preston for making kind comments to others.*

*Johnny for providing help to others by inflating basketballs.*

## KCC Elections

Rowhill School Secondary learners have taken part in Kent Youth County Council elections between the 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November.

“Wow what an amazing amount of talent we have in ICT. I can't wait for the next chapter!”



## Governors

Should parents and carers wish to contact the governors, they can be reached at: [secretary@rowhill.kent.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@rowhill.kent.sch.uk)

## School dinners

Please note that school dinners are £2.20 per day, £11.00 per week. This is payable weekly, monthly, or termly.

Payments need to be made in advance of the meals being taken. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to:

**KCC re: Rowhill School.**

Please can we ask that if your child wishes to change their lunch option, you let the school know as soon as possible to ensure we can let kitchen staff know.

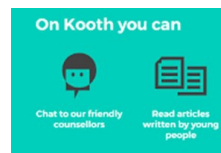
## Staying Safe Online

**At Rowhill school we are very keen for our students to safely experience the wonders of technology.**

As well as using all of the basic software programmes such as; Word, Power point, Excel, Publisher and Database, we cover block coding in Computer science. We also take online safety very seriously. In the Primary and Transition Hubs we make wallet cards with details of helplines, and encourage our students to give them to people who may need help.

## Resources

**Kooth** offers emotional and mental health support to 11–19 year olds.



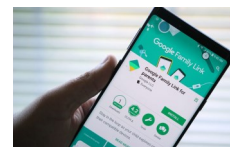
**Childline:** no problem is too big or too small. Children and young people can call free on 0800 1111 or get in touch online.



**National Online Safety:** help equip school staff, parents, and pupils with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers.



**Family Link** is a highly recommended app that lets you set digital ground rules for your child using devices. It is compatible with android and apple products.



## Guidance for Taking your Child out of School

Parents no longer have the right to take their child out of school during term time. By law you must ask permission for your child to miss school. If you do not, you risk being served with a penalty notice from the local authority.

The Head Teacher does retain the right to authorise absence due to 'exceptional circumstances'. If you wish to take your child out of school during term time please write to the Head Teacher in the first instance detailing your reasons for consideration, we will then send a form home for you to complete.

## Parent Coffee Mornings

In 2024 we will continue to facilitate monthly coffee mornings for parents and carers to meet in school for a coffee and a conversation.

Parents and carers have told us that this space is an invaluable opportunity to meet with other families who are managing similar difficulties, to share ideas and strategies for what works.

Dates can also be found on the school website! Keep an eye out for school comms with reminders too :-)

