

11th September 2026



Welcome back, everyone, to a brand-new school year! We hope you've all had a wonderful break and are feeling refreshed, energised and ready for what promises to be another fantastic year across The Rowan Schools.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new staff who have joined the Rowan family. We are also delighted to welcome our new pupils who have started at Rowan Park School, as well as our new Reception class at

The Rowan Tree. We are so pleased to have you all as part of our school community and look forward to getting to know you throughout the year.

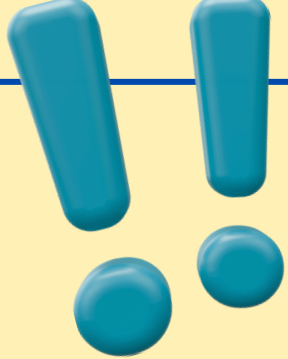
As in previous years, we have some exciting learning opportunities planned for our pupils. The topics this year sound fantastic, with wonderful books, resources and activities carefully chosen to bring learning to life and help our pupils make meaningful connections.

Once again, each class will take a turn to share their Class News in our newsletter. This is a lovely opportunity for everyone in our school community to find out what each class has been learning, the activities they have been enjoying, and some of the exciting things they have been getting up to.

Important Dates

- Macmillan Coffee Morning – Rowan Park – Friday 25th September at 10am
- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – The Rowan Tree – Friday 25th September at 2pm
- Pupils Break Up – Thursday 22nd October
- Pupils Return – Monday 2nd November





Important Information

Holidays

If for any reason you are thinking of taking your child on holiday during term time. You will need to ask permission from
The Rowan Schools Head Teacher; Karen Lynskey
This request can either be hand written or emailed to school.
You will need to state the reason why you feel it necessary to take your child out of school.

The Rowan Tree:
Adminrt@rps.mvlt.co.uk

Rowan Park School:
Adminrp@rps.mvlt.co.uk



Contact Details

If you have recently changed your contact details, including your mobile phone number or email address, please let the office staff know as soon as possible.

We also kindly ask that you update any emergency contact names and phone numbers. Keeping this information current is vital so we can reach you regarding your child or in the case of an emergency.



Reporting a school absence or arriving late

If your child is ill and will not be attending school that day you must call the school office to report their absence.

If you have messaged your teacher via Dojo or told transport, this is not reporting a pupils absence.

Please report the absence or if you will be late by **9:15am**

Rowan Park School: 0151 222 4894

The Rowan Tree: 0151 928 3010

Please leave a message if the phone line is busy.

Thank you



After School Club

A letter was sent home to all families this week informing everyone that our After School Clubs are back.

We started on Wednesday 16th September. The sessions are from 3:30 to 4:30 pm | Please contact the school office on your child's school site if you need another letter sending home.

For those who are new to The Rowan Schools, we offer After School Club on Wednesday's, dates are detailed in the letter.

At the club we extend our school day by just doing the fun bits!!
The cost is £2 per session (paid termly).

Please note: There is NO transport provided by Sefton. Therefore, your child would need to be collected by 4:30pm

Important Notice

Please can all parents/carers label all of the items of uniform and belongings that your child/young person brings into school:

All uniform (including spares), bags, lunch bags, coats/jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, wellies, swimming bag (and contents).

As we are still getting used to new classes/staff and new pupils some items are easily mixed up at busy points of the day i.e. coming into school and at home time.

For those pupils who come into school on transport, it would be more efficient for the hand over of some belongings and the correct bag to be given to the pupil to independently carry in to school themselves from a vehicle.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Name

Allergy Questionnaire

To help us keep our records up to date and ensure we have accurate and up-to-date allergy information, we kindly ask that you complete our Allergy Questionnaire for your child, even if they have no known allergies. Please can you complete even if you have done one previously.

Please scan the QR code

We would be grateful if you could complete it as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.



Student Allergies and sensitivities
2026/2027



EHCP Annual Reviews

The Pupils EHCP Annual Reviews are due to start again very soon.

For those of you who are new to the school, we hold Annual Review Meetings with Parents/Carers/Guardians for every child. This is to maintain, and update their EHCP's as they are on their educational journey through school.

These meetings are very important and are a great opportunity to update school with the developments of your child in regards to their EHCP.

For there to be a meeting held for every child, we have planned a schedule for The Rowan Schools that starts from October 2026 through to Easter 2027.

A letter will be sent home with the details of your meeting. The letters will be sent out to parents on a termly basis.

If your Child is in:

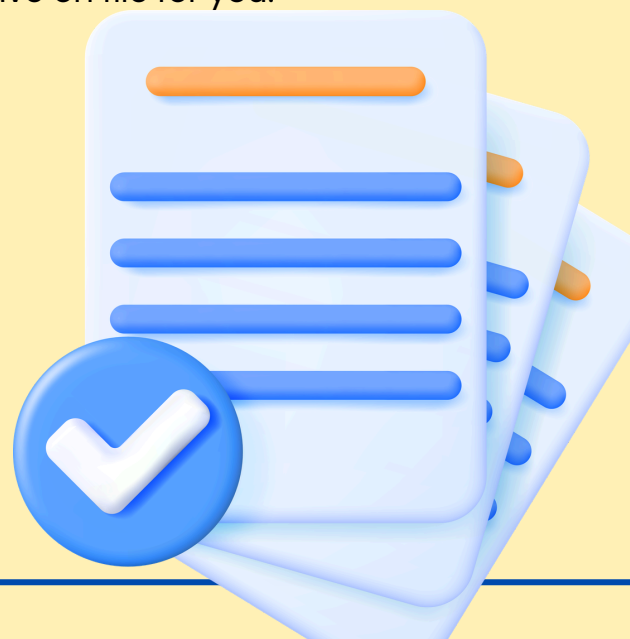
Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 6, Year 11 and Year 14 your meetings are being held this term, and you will receive a letter soon with your appointment date and time.

We can only reschedule appointments in exceptional circumstances, as we are sure you can appreciate. Ensuring that every child has the opportunity to have their meeting can be challenging, and our schedule is already very tightly arranged, making it difficult to accommodate changes at short notice.

Approximately 3 weeks before your meeting you will receive an email inviting you to school to attend the Review Meeting. We aim to give you plenty of notice (letters and email) for you to prioritise your scheduled meeting in school.

Please inform the school office if your email address has changed recently, as we will email your invite to the email address we have on file for you.

Thank you



Important Notice

Changes to Free School Meals

Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility from September 2026

We would like to inform you of upcoming changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM), which will come into effect from 1 September 2026, as set out by the Department for Education.

Current Eligibility Criteria

At present, Free School Meals are available to children from households where families receive one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit (with a net household income of less than £7,400 per year)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only (not receiving Working Tax Credit) with an income below £16,190
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after stopping qualification)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

New Eligibility Categories (from 1 September 2026)

From September 2026, there will be two categories of Free School Meals eligibility:

1. Targeted Free School Meals

- For children in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income of £7,400 or less
- These children will also qualify for additional support, including Pupil Premium funding and other related benefits
- This category reflects the current FSM system

2. Expanded Free School Meals

- For children in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400
- Children in this group will be entitled to free school meals only
- They will not qualify for additional support such as Pupil Premium funding or extra benefits (e.g. holiday food vouchers)

Applying for Free School Meals

All applications must be made directly through the Local Authority. Once your application has been processed, both you and the school will be notified of the outcome.

You can find further information and apply using the links below:

Sefton Council – Free School Meals Information: [Free school meals information](#)

Application Form: <https://forms.sefton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/>

Please note:

You must apply every year, your application will not roll on to the following year even if you have been entitled to FSM in the past. Please, reapply.

Important Notice



To our Students and Parents/Carers,
Mobile Phone Policy – Updated Guidance (2026)

In line with the most recent UK Government guidance on mobile phones in schools (Released Spring 2026), The Rowan School's is reinforcing its policy on the use of mobile phones and smart devices during the school day. This policy is designed to promote focus on learning, safeguard students' wellbeing, and maintain a calm and respectful school environment.

Rationale

The 2026 government guidance makes clear that limiting mobile phone access in schools:

- Improves behaviour and concentration
- Reduces online bullying and misuse of technology
- Supports students' mental health and wellbeing
- Encourages positive social interaction

Our policy reflects this guidance and ensures a safe, focused learning environment for all.

Mobile Phones Not Permitted

- Mobile phones, smart watches, and similar devices are not allowed on site for students
- We understand that a great deal of pupils use devices for their journey to and from school, therefore, phones or ipads (not used as communication aids) can be handed in on arrival to school.

Helpful Information: Toy Events

Toy Events happening on the High Street!

- 7th September – ASDA Big Toy Rollback
- 9th September – Argos Toy Sale
- 14th September – Tesco Toy Sale
- 5th October – Aldi Wooden Toy Event
- 21st October – Sainsbury's Toy Sale
- 21st October – Smyth's Toy Sale
- 25th October – Aldi Toy Event
- 17th November – Smyth's Voucher Event
- 27th November – Black Friday
- 4th December – B&M 3 for £20 – Toys

Sales may be both online and instore, depending on retailer, check before traveling.



Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn 1

INSET DAY (Trust)– TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2026

INSET DAY – WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2026

Pupils Return - Thursday 3rd September 2026

Pupils Break up - Thursday 22nd October 2026

Half Term Break

Autumn 2

Pupils Return - Monday 2nd November 2026

Pupils Break up - Friday 18th December 2026 (Finish at 2.00 p.m.)

Full Term Break Christmas Holidays

Spring 1

INSET DAY – MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2027

Pupils Return - Tuesday 5th January 2027

Pupils Break up - Friday 12th February 2027

Half Term

Spring 2

Pupils Return - Monday 22nd February 2027

Pupils break up - Thursday 25th March 2027 (Finish at 2.00 p.m.)

(Good Friday 26th March 2027, Easter Sunday 28th March 2027 & Easter Monday 29th March 2027)

Full Term Break Easter Holidays

Summer 1

Pupils Return - Monday 12th April 2027

Pupil off for May Day - Monday 3rd May (Day) 2027

Pupils Break up - Friday 28th May 2027

Half Term Break

Summer 2

Pupils Return - Monday 7th June 2027

Pupils Break up - Friday 16th July 2027 (Finish at 2.00 p.m.)

Full Term Break Summer Holidays

INSET DAYS – MONDAY 19th JULY 2027, TUESDAY 20th JULY 2027 & WEDNESDAY 21st JULY 2027 (to be worked as TWILIGHTS)



Class News at The Rowan Tree

In Bumblebees Class

Bumblebees class have transitioned brilliantly to their new class.

Our topic for this half term is all about The Big Wide World.

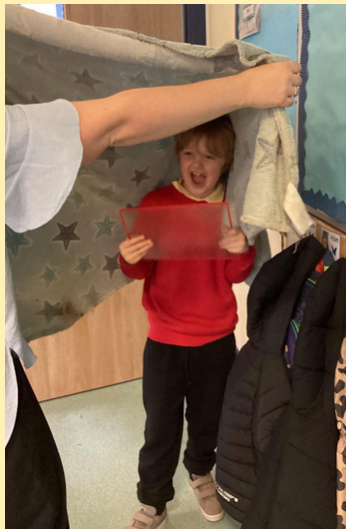
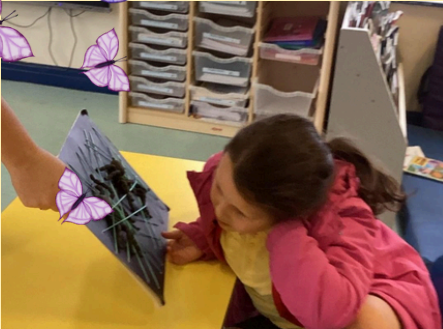
This week we have been settling in learning to how to sit alongside our peers and exploring our new environment.



Class News at The Rowan Park School

In Butterflies Class

We have had a lovely first few days back at school in Butterflies class, we have enjoyed exploring our props for our new story 'First Day at Bug School' and we have also enjoyed going onto the big playground to compare it to our playground.



FUN



In Tryfan Class

In Tryfan class this week we have been working on our ball skills and balance skills. Everyone enjoyed throwing the ball to each other and throwing them through the hoops, we then practiced our balancing and jumping skills on and off the benches, we finished our PE lesson with a little quiet meditation. Well Done Tryfan great work on your first PE lesson of the year.



100% CLASS ATTENDANCE

A Big Well Done to:

**Dragonflies, Grasshoppers, Otters,
Owls, Thames, Cairngorm and Catbells
Classes**

Who achieved **100%** Attendance this
week at The Rowan Schools

100% PUPIL ATTENDANCE

There are **177**
pupils who
have **100%**
Attendance this
week at The
Rowan Schools

Well Done to the Classes with **95%** and above attendance:

Clyde, Kingfishers and Tryfan Classes

**Have a great
weekend
everyone, see
you all on
Monday
morning!**

Executive Headteacher:

Karen Lynskey

Head of Schools:

Katie Jones

Rowan Park School

Sterrix Lane Litherland L21 0DB

0151 222 4894

Adminrp@rps.mvlt.co.uk

The Rowan Tree School

41 Caradoc Road Seaforth L21 4NB

0151 928 3010

Adminrt@rps.mvlt.co.uk

<http://rowanparkschools.com/>

friendsoftherowanschools

