

## Rockmount Primary School Parent/Carer Forum FAQs

The Parent Carer Forum representatives identified some questions that had been asked on a frequent basis. They hope that the responses consolidated here will be a useful resource to other parents and carers.

### Concerns about a specific child

Whilst the Parent Carer Representatives meet with senior school staff, the Forum must not be used to raise specific areas of concern relating to individual children; these should be addressed through the child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Parent Carer Forum is guided by the Parent Carer Agreement which details scope and protocol. This is available on the school website.

In case of specific concerns, please contact the school office or your child's teacher using emails below. The school office will be able to direct you to the relevant member of staff for support.

If you feel your issue applies to other children or is generalisable, please do contact your Class Rep (see email addresses below).

### Parent/Carer workshops

There are lots of workshops and presentations specifically for parent/carers on the 'Parents and Community' area of the website [here](#). All future workshops are notified by the school to parent/carers in their regular communications.

### Communication

The Communication Policy has been reviewed, simplified and updated and is on the website. The Senior Leadership team meet to agree the letters that need to go out to parent/carers, but it is the responsibility of each member of staff to release the letters. These are the different types of communications parents/carers can expect to receive:

- Texts are used when there is a more urgent message or reminder.
- Curriculum letters come out each half term and are uploaded to the website.
- Letters from the Headteacher are emailed out, usually every other week, and are a roundup of school-wide news and events as well as any important messages. If you are not receiving these please check with the office that your email and contact details are up to date.
- Text messages  
Text messages are usually sent to one parent contact only to avoid duplicating the cost to the school. Where any family circumstances require the need for an additional contact to be set up, please let the school office know.
- Email communications will come from [noreply@rockmountprimaryschool.juniperwebsites.co.uk](mailto:noreply@rockmountprimaryschool.juniperwebsites.co.uk)  
Please add this address to your contacts.
- Text messages will arrive at your inbox from **RockmountPS**.

## Curriculum Maps

Year Group Curriculum Maps provide a lot of detail about your child's year group learning objectives and subjects. They are located in the 'Pupils' area of the site – just navigate to your child's year group. You can also find a link to them under 'Key Information/Curriculum'.

Subject specific Curriculum Maps detail the provision for any subject across the school years. This is useful when looking at the progression in skills and coverage within a specific subject area. These are located under 'Key Information/Curriculum'.

## Homework

We try to avoid paper letters and copies of spelling/homework etc. wherever possible and spellings are posted on Google Classroom in advance of the half term ahead. If you need a reminder of your child's Google Classroom login please check with their teacher.

Google Classroom often also contains updates and good resources to share with students and parents about current learning and subjects covered in class.

## Key events

Key events are on the calendar on the school website [here](#).

Key events include community, family and student-only activities. Examples would be Rockmount Community Club and summer and winter fairs (public/community), parent consultations and STEM fair (families and students), class trips (student only).

## Rockmount Children's Club (RCC) - Breakfast and After School Club

We provide wrap around care through our Rockmount Children's Club (RCC). This is high quality provision run by school-based staff who know our children and families well. In recent years due to growing demand, it is very difficult to provide spaces for all who request it. Please make sure to request a place as soon as your child is given a place at the school by contacting our Extended Schools Manager via the school office. When specific days or sessions are at capacity, a waiting list system is in place.

No guarantee of a place within breakfast or after school club should be assumed; we try to support parents/carers in making alternative arrangements for childcare where possible.

In the summer term, letters are issued to current users asking parents/carers to confirm if they wish to continue with their current offer or amend or cancel for the autumn term. Staff then start planning the provision for the following year, also reallocating places that arise due to year 6 leavers or other children leaving the school at the end of the summer term. The RCC has expanded as much as possible to ensure high standards of provision are maintained.

There is no requirement for parents/carers to commit to booking for the whole year. If they wish to cancel, they are required to give half a term's notice.

Rockmount Breakfast and After School Clubs have to ensure the correct ratio of staff to children and that catering provision is maintained, which makes it hard to accommodate ad hoc requests. RCC do try to help in the event of occasional emergencies.

## **Activity Clubs – provision and booking**

Activity clubs are extra-curricular clubs and specialised lessons that run after school until 4:20PM every half term

<https://www.rockmountprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=After+School+Activities&pid=140>

Club details are sent out by email the week before the end of the current half term, for the next half term with the date and time for booking shown.

Consideration has been given to the best time to open the bookings for activity clubs and there is never a time that suits everyone. Various times have been trialled over the years.

All clubs need to be added manually to Parentpay and so this is done in the working day.

Staff may also offer additional opportunities for pupils in need of academic booster sessions or opportunities for Pupil Premium, FSM children and vulnerable children.

If any parent is interested in running a club please let the school know via the school office.

## **Lunchtime Sports Provision / Football Friday**

A few years ago, a decision was made that football would not be played in the playground every day as it tended to dominate the whole of the playground and playtime.

The school took this opportunity to promote other sports during break times on Monday to Thursday through a half termly focus sport. The half termly focus sports are displayed on the main hall external doors throughout the year and are championed by a member of staff, usually culminating in a tournament or match.

On Friday's children who would like to play football assemble by the arena and are supervised to have turns playing football. All pupils are encouraged to get involved in 'Football Friday'. In order to achieve this, teams including girls will get priority to play.

## **Lost property**

New lost property boxes are situated outside the large hall area to keep the uniform tidy and easier for children and parents/carers to locate lost items. Please ensure all uniform is labelled clearly – staff will return items to your child where they can!

## **Pupil Premium**

Pupil Premium forms are provided on the website and sent out annually. Parents/carers who think their child may qualify Pupil Premium are encouraged to fill in the form and return it to the office as the school receives additional funding to support Pupil Premium pupils.

## **School photos**

Individual photos will be taken in the second half of the Autumn term by an external company for parents/carers to purchase if they wish to do so. There is an opportunity for sibling photos to be taken. Whole class photos are usually taken in the Summer Term.

## **Strikes**

Union members are balloted on strike action and any individual school does not have the capacity to overturn this. If only one union is striking then the school will try to ensure that only the affected classes will close but the school must be able to operate on safe and appropriate ratios. Union rules/guidelines are always taken into consideration in any planning to address strike action. The success of the school is largely due to the staff working as a tight knit team and the Senior Leaders are very mindful of this when planning any contingency arrangements.