



Mrs Scripps' Scribbles

It's a busy time here at school. Our Year 6 children are doing their final mock SATS before the tests in May. Year 6 Parents Evening is today. We have our whole school cinema trip on Friday. Next week is Mental Health week and we will be using the film as a focus for our tutor group activities based on the theme of 'This is my place'. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to look at your child's work with them over the weekend. If you have not already done so, please take a couple of minutes to complete our online feedback form by [clicking here](#).

Safeguarding Matters at Ralph Sadleir

Many parents assume that private tutors and independent clubs are subject to the same strict government regulations as schools. In reality, the sector is often unregulated. While most providers are dedicated professionals, the responsibility for "safer recruitment" often shifts from the school to the parent. If you are hiring a tutor or signing your child up for a local club, it is perfectly reasonable—and highly recommended—to ask for evidence of their safety measures. A professional provider will welcome your diligence.

Your Safeguarding Checklist

Before your child's first session, consider asking these five essential questions:

Can I see your Safeguarding Policy? Any reputable club should have a written document outlining how they protect children and how they handle concerns or "disclosures."

Do you have an Enhanced DBS check? Ask to see the original certificate (not a photocopy). For tutors, ensure it has been issued or checked within the last three years.

Who is your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)? Every organization should have a named person responsible for child protection who has undergone specific training.

Are you First Aid trained? Ask who the designated first aider is during sessions and where the first aid kit is kept.

What is your Code of Conduct? This should include clear rules on professional boundaries, such as not messaging children directly on social media or personal phones.

Top Tip: For home tuition, always choose a communal room like a kitchen or dining room—never a bedroom. Keep the door open and stay within earshot.

Your child's safety is a partnership; if a provider is reluctant to answer these questions, it is a sign to look elsewhere.

Ralph Sadleir Award

We are almost half way through the year and the students are making good progress with House Points, participation in House Competitions and their improved attendance towards their Ralph Sadleir Award 2025/26. A reminder that Community Service and participation in Extracurricular events outside school are an important element, so please do nominate your child.



Community Service Award

We are always proud to celebrate the many ways our students give back to the community. Students can be nominated for a special act of service, such as volunteering at a local sports club, helping to tidy a park, visiting a care home, fundraising for charity, supporting a younger sibling with learning, or taking part in an environmental project.

[Please click here if you wish to nominate a student.](#)

Extracurricular Award

Children can be nominated for a **specific accomplishment** (e.g. Player of the Match, earning a badge, or reaching a tournament final). We look forward to sharing our students' achievements next week.

[Please click here if you wish to nominate a student.](#)

Excellence Matters at Ralph Sadleir

75342 House points have been awarded across the school this academic year. Well done to everyone, but special congratulations to these students who earned the most House Points so far this year.

| | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st | Maddie H | Eva E | Brooke T | Rosemae M |
| 2nd | Toby B | Jesse D | Charlie S | Spencer W |
| 3rd | George H | Charlotte Y | Lola J | Beau C |

Our 'Five a Day' voucher scheme for students whose behaviour consistently meets our high expectations in every lesson is going well. The vouchers can be exchanged for stationery items and other small prizes when students have earned enough. A total of 2833 vouchers have been awarded to students across the school since the start of November. Congratulations to these children who have received Ralph Sadleir pens in recognition of their exemplary behaviour and attitude since the last newsletter: Alice P, Beau C, Eva E, Grace D, Isla G-H, Kiara B, Rohan R, Skye L, Sophie S-C, Alice Pr, Daisy C, Ernie A, Harvey L, Henry B, Harvey L, Kalani W, Lewis S-C, Lottie P, Oscar M, Scarlett S and Spencer W.

Attendance Matters at Ralph Sadleir

When students attend school regularly, they aren't just learning—they're belonging. Every day in the classroom is an opportunity to strengthen friendships, keep up with new concepts, and build a sense of community. Last week the students with 95%+ attendance during the autumn term received a letter from the Attendance team and a certificate. We love seeing our students' commitment to their education and want to celebrate everyone who arrives ready to learn and do their best!

| | Last Week: 26th—30th Jan | So far this year: 2nd Sep—30th Jan |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st | 6D 97.5% | 5C 96.2% |
| 2nd | 7K 97.0% | 6E 95.9% |
| 3rd | 6E 96.5% | 7N 95.6 |
| Whole school | 92.9% | 94.5% |
| 95%+ attendance so far this academic year | 190 students | |
| 100% attendance so far this academic year | 41 students | |

Maths Matters at Ralph Sadleir

As our students progress through Key Stage 2 and into Years 7 and 8, we often look for that "magic key" to unlock their mathematical potential. It turns out that key is something quite simple: fluent recall of multiplication tables. Far from being just a memory exercise, times tables are the essential building blocks for almost every advanced concept your child will encounter. We cannot stress enough how vital this skill is for your child's academic journey. To support them, we ask that all students regularly use Times Tables Rock Stars. Consistency is Key: Just five minutes of daily practice—through the app, games, or even singing along to songs—makes a world of difference. Please ensure your child completes their compulsory weekly tasks on TTRS. Congratulations to the following students who have earned the most coins in the last week.

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 5C Mia T | 6D Bence R | 7K Alice Pr | 8R Toby D |
| 5O Stefan R | 6E Sofia T | 7I Preston T | 8E George G |
| 5N Toby B | 6T Eddie R | 7N Amber P-M | 8S Emma T |

Reading Matters at Ralph Sadleir

To celebrate the National Year of Reading, in each RSN going forwards, we will share with you a recommended great book for each year group. They should all be available to borrow from Buntingford, Ware, Hertford or Royston library. If they don't have it in stock they can order it in for you.

Glassborn by Peter Bunzl

Year 5

When the clock strikes 13, Acton, the youngest of the four Belle siblings, finds himself in fairyland and forced to work for an evil queen. Can Cora, Elle and Bram save their brother before it's too late? The spectacularly realised fantasy quest story is brilliantly written, with convincing characters in an unforgettable world. It's a must-read for fans of magic, daring adventure and gripping twists. Highly recommended for readers in Year 5.

Fantasy | Adventure



Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick

Year 6

Never, ever fall asleep in this fast-paced and mysterious horror thriller! When Lance sets foot in the Crater Lake activity centre, little does he realise what awaits him and his friends. Will they be able to stop aliens in time before they brainwash all their teachers and classmates? A cracking creepy page-turner for independent readers.

Horror | Adventure



Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson

Year 7

Nathaniel doesn't want to go on a ship and leave his family behind in Jamaica. But this is 1783 and he doesn't have a choice. He is a slave, and his master has decided for him. But there's a sliver of hope that Nathaniel clings to – a chance of freedom once he reaches England. An emotive and passionate story about slavery and one child's real experience, this novel is highly recommended for year 7 book clubs.

Historical fiction | Slavery



Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron

Year 8

Stranded in a snowstorm, three teens find themselves in the middle of a murder plot at Bramble Estate. Are they snowed in with a killer? How much danger are they in? This taut, twisty and compelling thriller, narrated separately by Devi, Lizzie, and Jayne, blends classic suspense with modern gaslighting in a clue-ridden plot. 12+ readers who like puzzles from Cluedo to whodunnit podcasts will love this clever murder mystery that appeals to analytical minds and features an ending no one will see coming. Highly recommended for Year 8 libraries.

Crime



Dates 2025/2026

New events are in green and changes to the dates are in red. As there are so many events across the year, please look at the second column to see who the event is for, that way you can ignore many of the dates! We have a calendar of the events for this year on our website, [click here to see it.](#)

| Date | Who | What |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 2nd—5th February | Year 6 students | Mock SATS |
| 2nd February | Selected students | Y8 Netball v Presdales |
| 3rd February | Year 6 Parents | Parent Teacher Consultations, 3.30 - 7.00 p.m. |
| 6th February | All students | Whole School Trip to Letchworth Cinema |
| w/b 9th February | All students | Assessment Fortnight |
| 10th February | Freman House students and parents | Freman House assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 10th February | Year 5 students | Visit to STEM Centre in Stevenage |
| 11th February | Sadleir Bentley students and parents | Sadleir Bentley assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 12th February | Salisbury Hindhaugh students | Salisbury Hindhaugh assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 13th February | Wellington Draper students | Wellington Draper assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| w/b 16th February | All students and parents | Half Term Holiday |
| w/b 23rd February | All students | Assessment Fortnight |
| 25th February | Selected Y5 and Y6 students | Sportshall Athletics at Wodson Park, Ware |
| w/b 2nd March | All students | Tutor Student Review Week |
| 2nd March | Selected Y5 & 6 students | Dance Festival |
| 3rd March | All students and parents | Science Fair, 3.00 - 4.15 p.m. |
| 9th - 11th March | All students | Tutor Student Review Week |
| w/b 9th March | All students | House Netball during games lessons |
| 12th March | Selected students and parents | Netball Tour Meeting for Parents, 4.15 p.m. |
| w/b 16th March | All students | House Netball during games lessons if wet last week |
| 16th March | Year 8 students | Careers' Day |
| 18th March | Selected Year 8 parents | France Trip Meeting for Parents, 5.00 p.m. |
| 19th March | Selected Year 5 and 6 students | Girls District Football at Presdales, Ware |
| 19th March | Selected students | Trip to Hercules |
| 20th March | All students and parents | Spring Term Reports home |
| 20th - 22nd March | Selected students | Netball Tour |
| 24th March | Freman Riddle students and parents | Freman Riddle assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 25th March | Sadleir Brooks students and parents | Sadleir Brooks assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 26th March | Salisbury Haigh students and parents | Salisbury Haigh assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 26th March | Selected Year 5 and 6 students | District Netball at Presdales, Ware |
| 27th March | Wellington Mikelsons students and par- | Wellington Mikelsons assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 27th March | All students and parents | House Easter Bake Off Competition, 12.30—1.00 pm. |
| 27th March | All students and parents | End of Term, 1.00 p.,m |

| Date | Who | What |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 28th March—12th April | All students and parents | Easter Holidays |
| 13th April | All students and parents | Start of Term |
| 13th—24th April | Parents of students with SEND | IEP Review Meetings |
| 21st April | Freman Young students and parents | Freman Young assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 22nd April | Sadleir Dobson students and parents | Sadleir Dobson assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 23rd April | Salisbury Coppen students and parents | Salisbury Coppen assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 24th April | Wellington Arthur students and parents | Wellington Arthur assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 24th April | Year 7 Students | Trip to see The Hunger Games in London |
| 26th April - 1st May | Selected Year 8 students | Year 8 trip to France |
| 4th May | All students and parents | Bank Holiday Monday - school closed |
| 11th - 14th May | Year 6 students | Key Stage 2 SATs |
| 15th –18th May | All students and parents | 'Celebrate my Learning' weekend |
| 18th May | Year 8 students | HPV vaccinations |
| 19th May | Freman Owens students and parents | Freman Owens assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 19th May | Year 8 Parents | Parent Teacher Consultations, 3.30 - 7.00 p.m. |
| 20th May | Sadleir Dias students and parents | Sadleir Dias assembly, 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 21st May | Salisbury Mclver students and parents | Salisbury Mclver , 8.40 - 8.55 a.m. |
| 22nd May | All students and parents | INSET Day - school closed |
| 25th - 29th May | All students and parents | Half Term Holiday |
| w/b 1st June | All students | Assessment Fortnight |
| w/b 8th June | Year 5, 7 & 8 students | Assessment Fortnight |
| w/b 8th June | Selected Year 6 students | Year 6 trip to PGL |
| w/b 15th June | All students | House Athletics during Games lessons |
| 17th June | Year 7 students | Watersports at Stanborough Lakes |
| 18th June | New Year 5 Parents | New parents Meeting, 5.00 p.m. |
| w/b 22nd June | All students | Tutor Student Review Week |
| w/b 22nd June | All students | House Athletics during Games lessons if wet/too hot |
| 24th June | Year 5 Parents | Year 5-6 Moving Up Meeting, 5.00 p.m. |
| 26th June | New Year 5 students with SEND | SEND Welcome Tea Party, 3.30-4.45 p.m. |
| 26th—29th June | All students and parents | 'Celebrate my Learning ' Weekend |
| 29th June - 1st July | All students | Tutor Student Review Week |
| 30th June | Year 7 parents | Parent Teacher Consultations, 3.30 - 7.00 p.m. |
| 1st—12th July | Parents of students with SEND | IEP Review Meetings |
| 1st July | Year 6 Parents | Year 6-7 Moving Up Meeting, 5.00 p.m. |
| 1st July | Selected Year 8 students | Trip to see Wicked |
| 2nd July | All students and parents | Sports Afternoon, 1.30 - 3.10 p.m. |
| 7th July | All students and parents | Reserve Sports Afternoon, 1.30 - 3.10 p.m., if wet/too |
| 8th July | Year 7 parents | Year 7-8 Moving Up Meeting, 5.00 p.m. |
| 9th July | All students | Transition Day |
| 10th July | Year 5 parents and students | Year 5 Awards Assembly, 2.30-3.00 p.m. |
| 10th July | All students and parents | Summer Term reports home |

| Date | Who | What |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 13th July | Year 8 parents and students | Year 8 Awards Assembly, 2.30-3.00 p.m. |
| 14th July | Year 6 parents and students | Year 6 Awards Assembly, 2.30-3.00 p.m. |
| 15th July | Year 7 parents and students | Year 7 Awards Assembly, 2.30-3.00 p.m. |
| 16th July | Year 8 students | Leavers' Celebration Day |
| 17th July | All students and parents | End of Term, 1.00 p.m. |
| 20th & 21st July | All students and parents | INSET Days - school closed |

Autumn Term 2025

1st September: INSET Day

2nd September : Start of term

27th –31st October Half Term Holiday

5th December : Occasional Day

19th December: End of term

22nd Dec— 2nd Jan: Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2026

5th January: INSET Day

6th January: Start of term

16th—20th February: Half Term Holiday

27th March: End of Term

28th March—10th April —Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2026

13th April: Start of term

22nd May: INSET Day

25th—29th May: Half Term Holiday

17th July: End of term

20th and 21st July: Allocated INSET Days*

* Twilight sessions throughout the year.

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September: INSET Day - school closed to students

Wednesday 2nd September: **Term starts**

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October: Half Term

Friday 4th December: INSET Day - school closed to students

Monday 7th December: Occasional Day - school closed to students

Friday 18th December: **End of Term**

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January: INSET Day - school closed to students

Tuesday 5th January: **Term starts**

Monday 15th - Friday 19th February: Half Term

Thursday 25th March: **End of Term**

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April: INSET Day - school closed to students

Tuesday 13th April: **Term starts**

Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June: Half Term

Wednesday 21st July: **End of Term**

Thursday 22nd July: INSET Day