



REIGATE ST MARY'S  
PREPARATORY AND CHOIR SCHOOL

**Friday 10 January 2020 - Week 1**

[RSM Website](#) [RGS Website](#)

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## Headmaster's Roundup



Further to my welcome back letter I would like to once again wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2020. It has been lovely having the children back at school, hearing about their holidays and as always seeing their energy and enthusiasm for all that lies before them this term. During the Christmas holidays we once again ran our RSM and Early Years Holiday Clubs and if this is a facility you would like to make use of during future holidays, do please ask the School Office for more information.

This term we welcomed 12 new pupils to the school and also two temporary members of staff, Miss Alleyne and Mrs Chase who will be working as Teaching Assistants.

We are very proud of our Year 6 cohort who are not only wonderful ambassadors and young leaders in the school but they have also worked incredibly hard and attained very high standards during their time with us. As a result of this 88% will be moving on to Reigate Grammar School and the remainder are awaiting offers from other excellent senior independent schools where they have sat exams during this past week.

On Wednesday morning we had a giant turnip in assembly and I was grateful to a number of staff who helped me pull it out of the ground, (Mr Alden was an excellent dog). It was of course an enactment of the Russian folktale 'The Enormous Turnip', to start our term's focus on collaboration. There was a lot of laughter!

There is much to look forward to this term. Personally I love it when the weather warms up and we can start to make even better use of the grounds, with lots of outdoor learning. We also have choristers singing at St Paul's Cathedral, Year 1 will be visiting Hever Castle, Year 6 are visiting the Sutton Life Centre, Year 4 will be going on their overnight residential trip, Year 3 will be visiting Wakehurst Place and Year 2 will be heading down to the South Coast to visit the Brighton Museum and the RNLI Lifeboat Centre.

We have a plethora of sports fixtures including swimming galas (the first being tonight), and the annual National IAPS Netball Regional Qualifier Tournament. On top of this we have informal concerts and of course what promises to be a brilliant Year 5 and 6 production of 'Ye Ha!'. We also have the FOSMA Quiz Night on 7 February so do get that one in your diary!. So an exciting term ahead.

I was delighted to have a chat with two pupils from 3S on our first day back at school where they shared with me how they had been sticking coins onto a paper heart to show practical care for Maria who is their Compassion charity sponsored child in Brazil. As a class they have decided they would like to make a present of £20 (the amount they have collected) as a birthday gift to Maria and her family. This class action is very much at the heart of our focus on Education for Social Responsibility where we see children truly caring for others and taking the initiative to do something to help them. Well done to all the children in 3S.

Finally, some of you will recall our former Drama and Dance Teacher, Mrs Sally

Townsend, who moved to Australia 5 years ago. Since leaving the UK she has been heavily involved in the ethical fashion industry combating modern day slavery and working to protect the rights of workers around the world. Sally is speaking at Redhill Baptist Church on Saturday, 11 January at a 'Ladies Breakfast'. Anyone who would like to attend at 10am would be more than welcome. Her story is certainly a fascinating and powerful one and she is an excellent communicator.

***Marcus Culverwell***

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## Key Dates

**Monday 13 January** - Electives Begin

**Tuesday 14 January** - GS, KG & Reception Phonics Information Evening - 7.00 pm  
Sports Hall

**Thursday 16 January** - GS & KG Coffee Morning - 8.30 am Library - Year 4 Parent Information Evening for Windmill Hill Trip September 2020 - Dining Room 6.30 pm

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## School Notices

**Spring Term Electives - Please see your SchoolsBuddy Account**

### Parent Portal

Please use the hot button below where you will see the following items on their including consent forms which are contained within the interactive tab at the top.

**Whole School** - Term Dates for 2020 and 2021

**Spring Term Lunch Menus** - Week 2

**Early Years** - Weekly Update

**Year 4** - G live School Trip

**Kindergarten** - Library Trip

## **2019 Autumn Team Sports Team Photographs**

Are now available to view and order online at [www.nationalteamphotographers.com](http://www.nationalteamphotographers.com)

Please see your email for your password. click on any picture to enlarge and view.

Photographs ordered by Friday 10th January will be delivered to school free of charge for collection.

Photographs ordered after this date will be posted out incurring £3.50 p&p or £5.00 p&p for framed photographs.

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[\*\*Parent Portal\*\*](#)

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## Music



### ABRSM

We were delighted with our ABRSM results from last term. 20 children took graded exams (ABRSM and Trinity) in addition to 3 children taking their preparatory tests. Six children were awarded a Distinction and 7 children a Merit for their hard work. Our thanks go to our brilliant team of peripatetic teachers who help prepare the children and Mrs Johnson for organising the exams. If your child learns an instrument outside of school and would like to take an ABRSM exam at school next session, please let [Mrs Johnson](#) know via email. If your child learns an instrument at school, their teacher will liaise with us. We propose to hold the exams on Saturday 21 March 2020.

### Music Lessons

If you are considering singing lessons in the New Year one of our singing teachers Emily Blows will be working an extra day at RSM so we will be able to offer additional places for Year 3 pupils and upwards, however Year 2's will also be considered. We will be appointing a new Brass Teacher in January so please contact [Mrs Johnson](#) if your child would like to take individual Music Lesson at RSM.

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## Artemis Anglo Scottish Championships



Well done to Tallulah W who took part in the Artemis Anglo Scottish Championships 2020 5th - 7th January 2020. She skied brilliantly against a really competitive field. As a result of her hard work and determination she came away with 2 bronze medals. Many congratulations Tallulah – keep up the hard work!

## Compassion



Year 3 have been keen to show their support for Maria, from Brazil, who they sponsor as part of Compassion. They have worked collaboratively to fill the heart with coins, in order to help make a difference to Maria's home and school life. Thank you Year 3 for thinking of how you can help others around the world.

## First Lego League Success

# Razor Sharp Minds



On Tuesday 17 December 'Razor Sharp Minds', a team of Year 6 pupils, participated in the First LEGO League Regional tournament at Brighton College. The First LEGO League challenges children in developing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills, 'Sport For The Mind', and asks children to think like scientists and engineers. The theme for the season is CITY SHAPERS, challenging the team to identify a real world problem with our cities and to create a unique solution.

The team built, tested and programmed an autonomous robot, named Frankie, using LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 to solve missions in the Robot Game. The robot was programmed to deliver/collect objects and to activate models to score points. Throughout the experience the team worked enthusiastically, reliably considering the First LEGO League signature set of Core Values, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®. The pupils recognise that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible on and off the playing field; that taking part and learning is more important than winning.

Throughout the competition the Razor Sharp Minds pupils performed superbly,

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demonstrating their understanding, knowledge and hard work within each of the judged categories. The pupils collaborated with each other effectively, demonstrating their technical understanding and presented their ideas on how skyscrapers can become much more people, energy and environmentally friendly!

The team whom use a unique 'tag team' system piloted their robot precisely, successfully completing missions and achieving an impressive point's score for the regional round. Razor Sharp Minds were named overall winners and presented with the Champions Award. The children were euphoric, with huge smiles and squeals as they punched the air. Several of the teams participating were Secondary Schools, emphasising the achievement and the level of competition they faced. The trophy, which was obviously made of Lego, was held proudly aloft by the team Ben F, Sophie D, Katie A, Aisha K, James M, Riya R, Jaya P, Aqsa K, Jack L and Izzah S.

Congratulations must go to all of the pupils who represented the school so brilliantly. The judges were complementary about the team's performance, enthusiasm and understanding. I am extremely proud of the children; their untiring enthusiasm and dedication throughout the elective has been superb. Razor Sharp Minds must now improve everything as they have qualified for the National Final in Bristol on Saturday 22 February where they will compete against 55+ other regional tournament winners.

I would like to thank Mrs Clark for her support throughout and for her ideas and guidance in the creation of the research project. Also, a thank you to the parents for their support; allowing the pupils to prepare each week in the elective and also during the Saturday workshop.

***Simon Williams***

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## **RSM Holiday Clubs**

Our RSM Holiday Clubs are available from 8am to 6pm for all RSM children from Green Shoots (2 years) upwards. Clubs will be running on the following dates:

**February Half Term** – no holiday clubs

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## **Easter Holidays 2020**

RSM Holiday Club – Wednesday 1st April to Friday 3rd April 2020

RSM Early Years Holiday Club (Age 2-4 years) – Wednesday 1st April to Friday 17th April 2020

Ultimate Activity – Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2020

Summer Holidays 2020

RSM Holiday Club – Friday 3rd July to Friday 24th July 2020

RSM Early Years Holiday Club (Age 2-4 years) – Friday 3rd July to Friday 28th August 2020

Ultimate Activity – Monday 27th July to Friday 21st August 2020

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## **FOSMA**

**smash**

‘SMASH’, the St Mary’s Adult Social Hub, is launching this month. ‘SMASH’ is the platform for the Reigate St Mary’s School community to get to know each other. If you have a hobby or passion you wish to share, or just want to meet new people who have the same interests as you, then set up a ‘SMASH’ group. So far, those coming in the New Year include: cinema, running, book and dog walking groups.

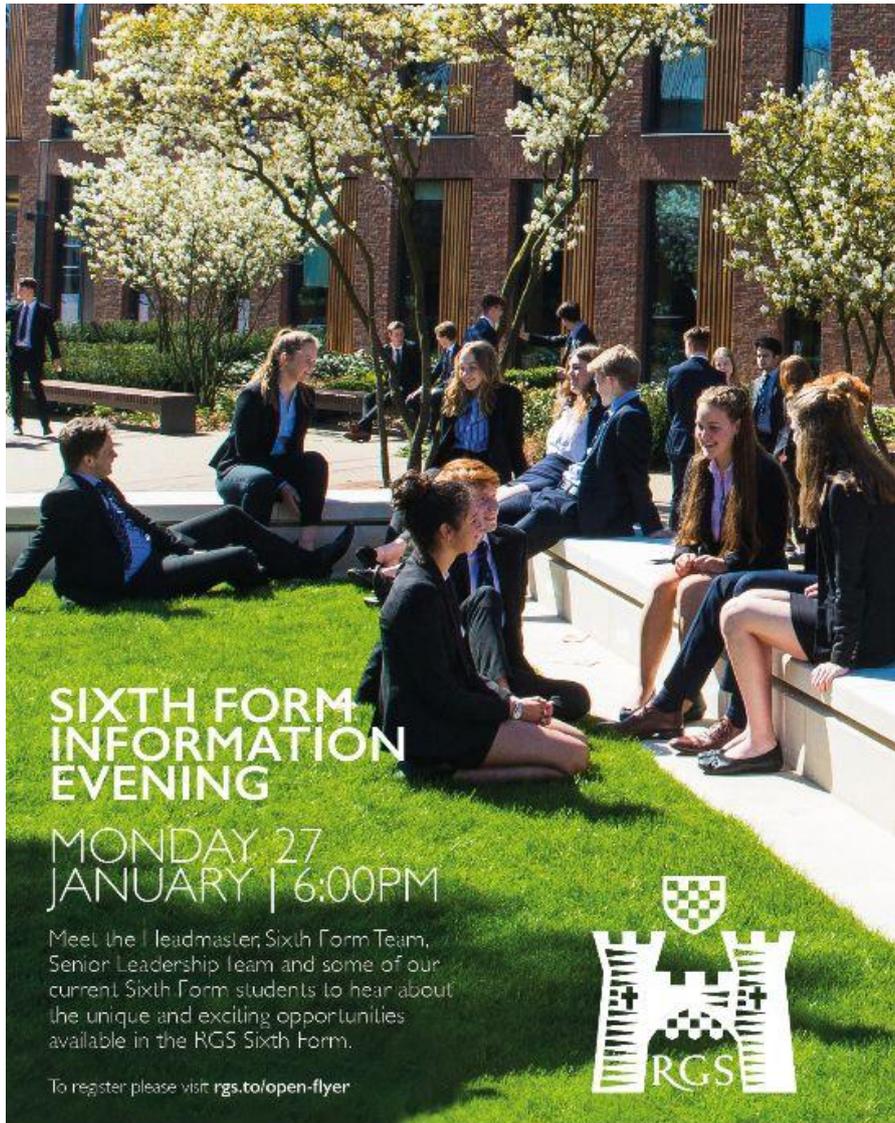
More details to follow...

FOSMA is always busy and 2020 is no exception. We would love to hear from anyone who is keen to help with events like the Spring Fair and the Summer Ball. If you are keen to get involved please email us at [fosma@outlook.com](mailto:fosma@outlook.com)

**The FOSMA Team**

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 **tes**  
SCHOOL OF  
THE YEAR 2019  
PASTORAL CARE



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