



Methodist Church Hall, Cligmar Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2NL
Tel: 07546 584314 Email: rascalsplaygroup@gmail.com
www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk

Newsletter – SummerTerm 2026

Welcome to the Summer Term at Rascals.

A newsletter will be issued at the beginning of each term containing lots of useful information. Copies of this newsletter as well as important updates will also be posted on our website. We also post regular reminders and useful information on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RascalsPreSchoolPlaygroup so please feel free to LIKE us for regular updates and information in your newsfeed. This should enable you to have access to all the information you need when you need it.

Staffing:

Tracey - Manager/Safeguarding lead
Claire - Supervisor (Senco/ Inco)
Alana - Senior Assistant
Beckie - Assistant
Hannah - Assistant

Melanie - Bank Staff
Hayley - Bank Staff
Charli - Volunteer
Lauren - Volunteer
Julie - Volunteer
Collette - Volunteer

Term Dates:

Summer Term 2026

Term begins: Monday 13th April

Term ends: Friday 17th July

Half term week: 25th May – 29th May

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

Autumn Term 2026

Term begins:

Tuesday 1st September

Term ends:

Friday 11th December

Half term week:

26th October – 30th October

Spring Term 2027

Term begins:

Monday 4th January

Term end:

Thursday 25th March

Half term week:

15th February - 19th February

Summer Term 2027

Term begins:

Monday 12th April

Term ends:

Friday 16th July

Half term week:

31st May – 4th June

Bank Holiday 3rd May

Stay and play

We will be holding our last stay and play of this academic year on **Friday 8th May**. If your child usually attends on a Friday, you are very welcome to come in with your child and stay until 10.15am but we politely ask that you ensure a member of staff lets you out of the setting to secure the doors. Thank you for your support with this.

Forest School

We are extremely excited to have booked a visit for our oldest children to the forest school at Summerlea school on **Wednesday 17th June**. Unfortunately, we cannot extend this visit to our younger children but we hope to repeat it next year and they will then have their chance to attend once they reach school age. A letter to confirm attendance and further information will be going out to those families that this relates to.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultation evening has been booked for **Wednesday 10th June**. This provides us with an opportunity to discuss our plans for the following term for those who are staying with us and the children who are leaving to talk about any concerns you may have regarding your child starting school in September. We will be in the coffee lounge from 5.15pm and your key person will be in touch before half term to confirm appointment times.

We realise you may not be able to make the appointment time given to you and if this is the case, please do get in touch with us via email so that we can try to change it to a more suitable time for you. If you are away or know that you won't be able to make it that evening, please also let us know so that we can arrange to see you at another time and day that would be suitable.

Last day Friday 17th July

Invitation to church at 12.00pm

As we draw closer to the end of term and some of our children are getting ready to leave us for school, we would like to invite you into the church for one last time to say goodbye. All children who will be leaving us for school are invited in for the morning, even if your child doesn't usually attend on a Friday but we would ask that you please confirm by text or email that your child will be coming in that day so that we are able to ensure we have the correct number of staff to safely accommodate this.

If your child is staying with us in September (our younger children), we ask that you collect them at 11.40am please. You are then welcome to join us in the church with your child if you would like to.

The older children (those who will be leaving us for school) will go through to the church with us at 12.00pm and will be performing a few songs. The church doors will open at 11.50am so please take your seats once the doors are open.

Once the service is finished, we will take the older children back through to playgroup to gather their things and will then invite families through to give out the children's learning journals as the children leave.

Arrivals and collections

Throughout the year our cloakroom becomes much busier in the mornings due to the number of children attending each day. In order to help this situation, we would be grateful if you could please start encouraging your child to enter independently, leaving you at the main outside door. We will ensure an appropriate number of staff are on hand in the cloakroom to support this and we will help the children to put their own lunch and water bottles on the trolley.

This is particularly important for our older children as they prepare for school, but we feel some of our younger children may also be ready for this next step too. Obviously, we do understand that some of our newer children may not quite be ready for this so please do still come in with your child where necessary.

We are also still very happy for you to come in if you need to discuss anything important with your child's key person.

From next week we will also be putting our lunch trolley outside at the end of the two long days, now the weather is nicer, so you can help your child rather than them having to carry everything themselves. We are also going to trial an artwork file system. We have ordered two expandable files and each child will have a section labelled with their name. Throughout the day, the children will be encouraged to put their artwork in their section for collection at the end of the day. These files will be put outside at the end of the session so you can help your child collect their artwork before you leave.

It would be helpful if you could come forward when you hear your child's name in order to help them gather their things. We appreciate your cooperation with this and please do let us have any feedback about this new system once it is up and running.

Mobile phones

Could we please remind everyone that mobile phones must not be used when in our setting or at collection time. We would ask that calls are wound up prior to drop off and collection please.

Labelling children's belongings

We would like to offer a polite reminder to our families to ensure that all of your children's belongings are **clearly labelled**. This is particularly important for drinks bottles, lunchboxes (and boxes inside), bags (clothes inside) and coats so that we can be sure we are always sending the children home with their correct items. Many thanks.

Sun Cream

We are looking forward to spending as much time as possible outside this term and we are hoping the weather will continue to warm up! Even though it is still a little chilly, when the sun does come out it is very strong and we would ask that you send your child to playgroup with a named sun hat. We would also ask that you start applying sun lotion to your children before they come to playgroup in the mornings. As you can imagine we simply don't have enough hands or time to apply lotion to every child so we would really appreciate your support. We will be purchasing some sun lotion so that we can top the children up during the afternoon sessions but if you have any concerns about this please do let us know so that we can show you which sun lotion we are using.

Spare clothes

Could we please remind **all** parents/carers to bring spare clothes for your child. We do get very messy and wet at Rascals and will need to change the children at various times. It is also great practise for the children in preparation for school to get their own bag and to change their clothes.

School Readiness

As we prepare to say a sad farewell to our older children, we thought it would be beneficial to reflect on how at Rascals we help to prepare the children for school and how you too can help them at home.

At Rascals we promote your child's independence from the moment they start with us. Within our supportive environment, your child is encouraged to think and act for themselves.

Toilet independence: Once your child is fully toilet trained, they are encouraged to use the toilet and maintain their personal hygiene independently.

Personal Belongings: Your child is encouraged to look after their own belongings. They are encouraged to hang up their own coat and bag and to collect them at the end of the morning.

Getting Dressed: Your child is encouraged to dress themselves. Taking off and putting on their own coat and shoes and will practice this through various dressing up and role play opportunities. (Please try and purchase shoes for your child that they can manage themselves). We also show the children how to recognise if their sleeves are inside out and how to pull them back through, so they are the right way before they put their coat/cardigan on.

Free flow: Your child is encouraged to explore their own interests and are given the opportunity to access a variety of resources to support their learning.

1 to 1 Reading sessions: In the academic year before your child starts school, they will have regular 1 to 1 reading sessions with their key person. They will have the opportunity to take the books home for the week to share with parents / carers.

School Role Play: We have a school role play area at Rascals throughout the year. This is more frequently set up during the summer term so the children become more familiar with the school uniforms that they will be encountering in their new schools.

Lunch Time: Those children who stay for full day sessions (Mondays and Tuesdays) have the opportunity to eat lunch together twice a week and this is an opportunity for the children to practice eating their lunch independently in a social situation.

Liaise with local schools: We maintain close links with local schools and annually review transition arrangements.

Teacher Visits: We usually invite the local schools to visit Rascals to meet their new intake.

Top Tips for Starting School:

- Involve your child in the process of buying uniform and other necessities for school.
- Encourage your child to dress and put on their shoes and coats independently.
- Encourage your child to manage their own personal hygiene after using the toilet such as teaching your child to wipe their own bottom and hand washing.
- Talk about starting school together BUT don't refer to it as starting 'BIG' school as this can prove intimidating. Instead use the schools name or refer to it by the colour of its uniform.
- Read books about starting school together

The following web link provides information and advice on developing the key skills your child needs to be school ready. This can be found on our private facebook group and has also been emailed separately to the relevant families.

[Starting-Reception.pdf](#)

Charity Monthly Market

There will be a table top sale of new and pre-loved goods, books, jigsaws etc at the Rustington Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 2nd May, 10am – 12 noon. Arty Farty Group will have a stall of soft bears and gifts on behalf of Breast Cancer Now. There will be refreshments available.

Rascals occupancy list:

If you have a younger child or you know of someone who would like to put their child on our occupancy list to attend Rascals, please let Tracey know. We have a list for the next few years, so it is important to register children as soon as possible.

In addition to this newsletter, you will find below a Termly Reminders sheet which we hope you will find useful. We realise this is a lot of information to take in all at once but feel it is useful to provide you with as much detail as possible and hopefully this will answer some of the questions you may have. However, if there is anything you are unsure of or if you just need a bit of advice about something, please do speak to a member of staff who will be more than happy to help you.

We look forward to enjoying the Summer Term with you all.

THANK YOU.

THE RASCALS TEAM

Rascals mobile: 07546584314

Rascals email: rascalsplaygroup@gmail.com

[PLEASE NOTE: The Rascals mobile phone and email address are constantly monitored by Tracey. During out of hours and particularly over weekends and holidays you may not receive an immediate response. However, if you are contacting us with a matter of urgency an email is always the best form of communication].

TERMLY REMINDERS

Personal Details:

- Please ensure you inform us immediately of any change of details such as mobile phone numbers or other contact details for parents and your emergency contacts. It is essential that our records are kept up to date in case of emergencies.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL A MEMBER OF STAFF IF SOMEONE DIFFERENT IS COLLECTING YOUR CHILD. WE WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO GO WITH ANYONE UNLESS WE HAVE YOUR PRIOR PERMISSION. THIS APPLIES IN ALL CASES. WE ARE OPERATING A PASSWORD SYSTEM FOR ANYONE WHO HAS NOT COLLECTED PREVIOUSLY SO PLEASE BE PREPARED TO THINK OF A SPECIAL WORD THAT YOU CAN SHARE WITH US AND YOUR ELECTED PERSON.

Change Bags:

- Please ensure that your child's bag is NAMED CLEARLY on the outside as some children do have similar bags and it is difficult for them to tell us which is theirs.
- Please always check your child's bag when you get home as used nappies or soiled clothes will be placed in there during the morning if necessary. Unfortunately, we do not have facilities to dispose of soiled nappies on the premises and therefore these will be placed into a nappy sack and put into your child's bag.

Clothing:

- Please make sure your child wears suitable clothing for the weather each day.
- It is important to send your child to playgroup with more than one set of spare clothes as they will most definitely get dirty at some point!
- Please ensure that you don't send them to playgroup in their best clothes or coat as the children need to feel free to explore and play.
- If the weather is warm and sunny please ensure you apply sun cream to your child before you bring them to playgroup as it does get very hot in the garden.
- **PLEASE make sure you write your child's name clearly and visibly on all their belongings to avoid any confusion. This includes their hats, gloves, scarf, shoes, water bottles, lunchbox and bags.**

Health and Safety:

- For safety reasons we prefer jewellery is not worn at playgroup. We do understand that the jewellery may be of cultural or religious significance, and we are happy to make an exception for this. However, this will be at your own risk; as we are unable to take any responsibility for injury, damage or breakages. We would also ask that if your child has their ears pierced, please could you ensure they wear plain studs for playgroup.

Food Allergies/Safety:

- We are a nut free zone, please could all parents refrain from putting nuts in your child's lunch, thank you.
- Please also ensure that no food is left in your child's bag. If you need to bring them a packed lunch to have after playgroup please pass it to a member of staff who will keep it safe.
- Please also ensure you chop any food such as grapes, large blueberries, olives etc length ways or ideally quarters before putting them in your child's lunch. Also items such as sausage, cheese, cucumber, carrots should be cut into long thin strips rather than chunks.
- We are a no sweets setting so please do not bring sweets or chocolates for your child's birthday. If you would like to bring something to share with your child's friends, please bring small tubes of bubbles instead.

Medicines in Playgroup:

Please be advised that any medical products needed at playgroup, **MUST** be given to a member of staff for us to store in our medical box in the Main Hall and paperwork will need to be completed.

Please could all parents check **NO** medical products are left in their child's rucksack on their peg during the course of the morning, as all the children do have free access to their pegs.

Illness:

Please **DO NOT** send your child to playgroup if they are unwell. You will be asked to take them home again. We also ask you NOT to bring your child to Rascals if they have taken any medication in the morning. If they have suffered from diarrhoea or sickness please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. This also applies to those children who have started a course of antibiotics.

Policies and Procedures:

Please ask a member of staff if there are any particular policies you would like to see so these can be forwarded to you electronically.

Car Parking and Children's safety:

Please remember not to use the Tesco or the front church car park, as the church staff and church members require access at all times. Please use the car park on the far side of the church at all times.

Please be aware of small and young children running around in both car parks.

Please ensure your child is fully supervised when waiting to come into playgroup in the morning. We have had experiences in the past where broken glass or other unsavoury litter has been found discarded on the church grounds and would not like any of the children to injure themselves.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May - Rascals will be closed.

Stay and Play - Friday 8th May

Half Term - Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Parent Consultations – Wednesday 10th June

Forest School (School Leavers only) – Wednesday 17th June

Leavers Celebration – Friday 17th July (Last day)

(Younger children to be collected at 11.40am)

FIRST DAY AUTUMN TERM – Tuesday 1st September