



Friday, 4th September 2026

Dear Parents,

Teaching and Learning Across the School

A very warm welcome back to Ripley Court. I hope that everyone enjoyed a lovely summer and is looking forward to the term ahead. As we begin the new term, I wanted to share some reminders and updates regarding teaching and learning across the school.

Curriculum

At the end of last term, we shared our new Form Welcome Packs, which we hope you found informative and useful. We will shortly be sharing our Long-Term Plans with you, which will provide an overview of the topics your child will be covering in each subject throughout the year. The Long-Term Plans will replace the Curriculum Overviews that are usually shared at the beginning of the academic year. Going forward, the Long-Term Plan grid will also be included within the Form Welcome Packs.

Reasoning (Upper Court)

As part of our continued commitment to thoroughly preparing our pupils for the 11+ examinations, from Year 3 onwards, pupils will have two Reasoning lessons each week. One lesson will be book-based and will follow our usual Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning programme. The additional lesson will take place in the Computing Room and will give pupils further opportunities to become familiar with Atom Learning, an excellent online platform used to prepare pupils for the ISEB Common Pre-Test, which many Year 6 pupils sit as part of their senior school entrance examinations.

Maths Badges

A reminder that, from Year 1, pupils will begin working towards their Number Bonds Star Badges. There are three badges to collect: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Form teachers will set tests in class to assess pupils' progress and award the badges accordingly. Number Bonds badges are charged at £2.00 each. Once a child has earned all three Number Bonds badges, they will move on to working towards their Multiplication Tables badges. There are seven Multiplication Tables badges, linked to the expectations of the National Curriculum:

Level	Colour	Criteria - Multiplication Tables and Speed
1	White	2x, 5x, 10x (heat map at 5 – 6 sec)
2	Green	2x, 3x, 4x, 5x 10x (heat map at 5 – 6 sec)
3	Blue	2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 8x, 10x (heat map at 5 – 6 sec)
4	Brown	2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x, 8x, 10x (heat map at 5 – 6 sec)
5	Purple	2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x, 10x (heat map at 3 – 4 sec)
6	Dark Blue	All tables 2x to 12x (heat map at 1 - 2 sec)
7	Gold	All tables 2x to 12x (heat map at 0 - 1 sec)

Pupils will be awarded badges approximately every three weeks — midway through each half term and at the end of each half term. If your child has been working particularly hard on TTRS, they may be awarded two badges in the same assembly. Multiplication Tables badges are charged at £3.30 per badge.

Homework and Prep (Upper Court)

Your child will be issued with a homework timetable. Unless otherwise stated by the subject teacher, homework should be handed in the following day. Prep will now take place in Newte, with Years 3 and 4 based in the History Room and Years 5 and 6 in the Geography Room. Children should be collected from Newte by 5.00pm. During Prep, pupils will only be permitted to use iPads for homework that has been set on Atom Learning. Once all homework has been completed, pupils may use the final 15 minutes of Prep to work on TTRS. If your child has not been collected by 5.00pm, they will be taken to Après School, and you will be charged for the time they spend there. If you intend for your child to attend Après School, please ensure that they are booked in advance.

Maths and English Setting

From Year 4, pupils will continue to be set for Maths. Children will remain in their current sets unless you have been contacted by your child's teacher. Over the past few years, we have had a variety of arrangements for English setting across Upper Court. In order to promote greater consistency across Key Stage 2 and within our English provision, we will be moving to a mixed-ability model for English. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be taught English by their Form Teacher. There will be no changes to the teaching arrangements for pupils in Years 5 and 6. They will continue to be taught in two mixed-ability groups, with both groups working towards the same learning objectives. We believe that pupils benefit greatly from learning English in mixed-ability groups, where they are able to share creative ideas, learn from one another and develop their understanding collaboratively.

Games

We are excited to be moving Upper Court's Games training sessions to the morning and increasing this learning time from two periods to three. These sessions will be supported by experienced Reeds sports coaches. This term, Lucy Balls (Head of Girls Sport) and Georgie Gardens will be supporting with netball. Jonny Gall and Will Davis will be supporting football. During the Autumn Term, training sessions will take place at Ripley Court. We hope that, when the children begin learning hockey, training sessions will take place at Reeds, allowing us to make use of their excellent astro pitches. Final arrangements will be communicated with parents in due course.

Stationery and Pencil Cases

From Year 4, pupils are expected to bring a pencil case containing the following items:

- Pencils
- Handwriting pens
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Two coloured pens (for self-marking)
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils
- Two highlighters
- Protractor (from Year 5)

We ask that you check your child's pencil case regularly to ensure that they have all the items they need and that supplies are replaced when necessary.

I look forward to leading the academic development of the school and building on the excellent foundations already in place. We are dedicated to ensuring every child receives a first-class education and are excited to work in partnership with you to help your child enjoy a happy, positive and successful year ahead.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at westernkayeh@ripleycourt.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Harriet Western-Kaye
Deputy Head (Academic)