

Romilly School

Plaza Open Day and Updates for Parents



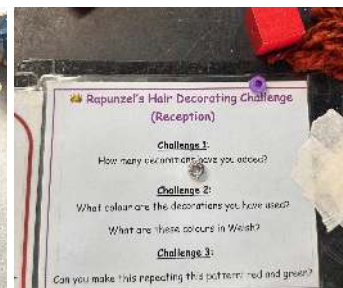
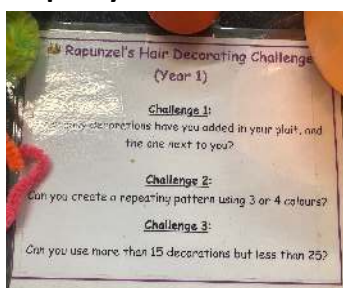
Thank you to everyone who has booked a tour. The children have settled well, and our staff have worked incredibly hard to make the Plaza a welcoming, engaging place to learn. We are proud of the learning taking place, the energy in the classrooms and everything the team has achieved in such a short time. An external education consultant with experience as an HMI inspector, visited the Plaza this week and was very impressed by what he saw. We are excited to welcome you in and show you how the Plaza is working, while continuing to develop it together.

What to expect on your tour?

- Please arrive shortly before your **booked time** at the main school gates. We'll check your name against our visitor list.
- We'll begin with a brief welcome under the covered area near the canteen on the infant playground.
- A member of the senior leadership team will guide you through **all five classrooms**, including your child's home classroom. This allows class staff to carry on teaching and supporting the children.
- Tours last around **20 minutes**. They are a chance to see everyday learning in action, rather than a stay-and-learn session.
- Please attend only your booked slot, with **one adult per family**. The **9:20 am tour is full**, so we cannot add visitors to that group.
- If you have not booked, please contact the school office to ask about places on a later tour: **10:15 am, 11:10 am or 1:15 pm**.

How do we support and challenge your child in the Plaza?

- Teachers find out what children already know and can do, then plan their next steps. Some children need more support to get started; others are ready for a greater challenge.
- On the tour, you will see this in activities led by an adult and in children's independent learning and play, both indoors and outdoors. Children may explore the same activity, but the support and challenge will be matched to their stage of learning.
- **Some examples you will see on the tour include:**



-Measuring: Children might make a plait for Rapunzel as part of a practical activity. Some will begin by measuring and comparing lengths using blocks or other everyday objects. Others will move on to using a ruler or tape measure and measuring in centimetres. Staff guide each child towards the next suitable challenge, whether they are in Reception or Year 1.

-Woodland artwork: Children create collages using natural materials, choosing and arranging them to express their ideas. When they are ready, staff might challenge them to think of a title and write it for their artwork. Children receive help with this according to their writing stage.



Literacy and Numeracy Development

- Children have started their phonics programme to read and write (We use **Read Write Inc.**) Children learn in ability groups matched to their current phonics and reading stage.



- From **Monday 28 September**, children working at **Read Write Inc. Red level and above** will begin bringing home books matched to their stage. Please send in book bags from Monday. Books will then be changed on **Fridays**. We'll explain home reading arrangements for children at earlier stages.



- To help support parents understand how to help their child learn to read at home using strategies from

Read Write Inc we are hosting workshops on Monday 19 October- a letter will be sent next week with more details.

- Maths takes place in the home class, with activities, challenge and support matched to children's needs in focused groups. Again, the learning and activity will be created to meet the next step in an individual child's learning.

What happens next?

- As children become ready, we plan to make greater use of the different learning areas across the five rooms. We expect to begin this **after the October half-term**, introducing it gradually and taking account of how children are settling.
- Staff will keep watching children's wellbeing, friendships and progress. If your child is unhappy or you have a concern about friendships, please tell their class teacher so we can follow it up.

Looking ahead to next year

- We cannot confirm next year's class structure yet. It will depend on pupil numbers, the school budget and the number of classes agreed with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. We expect to have more information during the summer term of 2027.
- We know families would have appreciated earlier notice of this year's changes. We will share next year's arrangements as soon as they are confirmed, giving you as much time as possible to prepare.

Questions after the tour

- We cannot discuss an individual child's progress, support or friendships during a group tour. Please contact the school office if you would like a private conversation.
- Parents' evenings on **6 and 8 October** will also provide time to talk with your child's class teacher.
- Whether or not you can attend, you can send Plaza questions and feedback using:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgiPXtlwkw1Lxq-TIH9V5h5jR9IXe87xCBi3xI50KSJ76elg/viewform?usp=header>.
- We'll respond to common questions in a further update to all Plaza families.



Thank you for sharing your questions and working with us. The Plaza is developing, and your feedback helps us make it better for the children.