



Dear families,

For our Crystal girls and their families, welcome back to another exciting term of Rainbows! For our girls in Topaz Class, welcome to Rainbows!

At St Edmund's, we like to offer our children as many enriching opportunities as possible and would like to offer all our girls in Key Stage 1 (Topaz and Crystal Classes) the chance to become Rainbows! We will be inviting all our KS1 girls to join in the first part – with games, crafts and songs – for free during Golden Time on Friday afternoons but will also be running an official Girlguiding Rainbows group after school on Fridays until 3.40pm which will have a termly sign-up fee of £25. Members of this paid after school group will also be invited to take part in other Girlguiding activities in the local area. Joining details can be found at the end of this letter.



Rainbows is a club exclusively for girls and, as the youngest section Girlguiding, aims to help them have fun, friendship and adventures while discovering their full potential. They take part in a range of activities, earn badges, build their self-confidence and develop skills like communication and leadership through games, crafts and exploration. At the heart of Rainbows is the Promise, encouraging girls to do their best, find out more about themselves and empower them to become kind and helpful members of their communities.



At Rainbows, every week is different! The ideas for each week come from the girls' suggestions and are outlined below. Girls choosing to only come to the first part of the session during school 'Golden Time' will only take part in some of the activities below. Those who sign up to become members of Girlguiding can also join in with some larger scale events with a * in the table below where they can join together with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from other groups in our district.

Date	Planned activity	Further information
Friday 18 th September	Teamwork Challenges	
Friday 25 th September	Construction Time	
Friday 2 nd October	Story Week	
Friday 9 th October	Hunting and Hiding	
Friday 16 th October	Action for Others	
Friday 23 rd October	Guiding for Good	
Friday 30th October	Half term – no meeting	
Friday 6 th November	Forest Fun	
Sunday 8th November	*Remembrance Sunday Church Service	
		10.30am at St Mary Magdalene's Church in Longfield. Families are encouraged to stay. A consent form will be required if Rainbows are left with the leaders



Friday 13 th November	Pocket Pals	
Friday 20 th November	Helping Nature	
Friday 27 th November	Parliament Week	
Friday 4 th December	Thinking of Others	
Friday 11 th December	Winter Craft	
Sunday 13th December	*National Girlguiding Cinema Day – 9am(ish) Hexed at Chatham Odeon	Timings will be confirmed nearer the time – please let us know as soon as possible if your daughter would like to come along. Tickets are likely to cost around £7 and include a limited-edition Hexed cinema badge.
Friday 18th December	Last day of school – no meeting	
Sunday 20th / Monday 21st December	*1st Longfield Rainbows' 10th Birthday Bash! – Save the date!	Mrs Daniel's other Rainbow group will be 10 years old, so we are hoping to invite all the local Rainbows to a special event to celebrate. Details to follow!

* All activities marked with * require a consent form to be completed before girls are able to take part. For official, paid members only.

Subs termly payments (optional – for those wanting to become official members through GirlguidingUK)

In order to be a part of GirlguidingUK, each member needs to pay towards an annual fee which covers insurance, national and more local projects (such as developing new badges or activities). Money is also needed to pay for the girls' badges and resources for our meetings. The payments we ask from parents to cover these costs are known as 'subs'.

Subs are £25 each term (working out at around £2 per meeting) and payments can be made through Arbor.

If you ever find it difficult to pay subs or for any event your daughter is invited to, please do let us know and we will always try to find a way to help.

Uniform



Uniform can be bought new from the Girlguiding website or pre-loved. It is not essential for meetings at school but does help the girls feel part of the group and gives them a place to display their badges. Please ask if you would like help getting hold of uniform.





Badges

While we work on some badges at Rainbows, the girls can also work on interest badges at home. Full details are in the Rainbow Badge Book (available online).



Joining Rainbows

	Option 1 – Only take part in short sessions during Golden Time on Fridays	Option 2 – Become an official GirlguidingUK member: Everything in option 1 plus:
Cost	None	£25 per term (3 x per year)
Activities	Weekly sessions at school on Fridays from 2.40-3pm in Golden Time	Longer sessions from 2.40-3.40pm starting during Golden Time and through our after school group plus invitations to additional events – see plan above for events this term!
Awards	Stickers for completing challenges	Official GirlguidingUK cloth and metal badges and certificates
How to sign up	Just choose to come along on Fridays!	See instructions below.

If you would like your daughter to **join Girlguiding UK as a Rainbow** and attend out after school Rainbows group, please:

- 1) Head to www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on 'Register a child'. To join our new school Rainbows group, select **1st St Edmund's Rainbows**. If you have older children interested in joining Brownies or Guides or are interested in other Girlguiding groups, you can register your interest with them through this website too.
- 2) Sign up for our Rainbows after school club on Arbor.
- 3) Pay the £25 termly fee, also through Arbor.

Please ask if you have any other questions. We plan to begin our Winter to Spring term on Friday 8th January.

Mrs Daniel