

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th September 2013

Dear all,

Along with today's newsletter you'll find our 'Governors' Newsletter' – as prepared by Mrs. Julie Cooke, our Chair of Governors. Julie produces these a few times a year, to give an update on the work of our governing body, and all they do to support our school. It's been a busy time for them, as you'll find when you read it through.

In school, we've started working in a slightly different way this year, using a drama-based teaching approach called 'Mantle of the Expert'. There are many different permutations of this technique which are used in schools, varying from very intense projects to long-running dramas. I shall try to explain a little about our approach ...

Essentially, Mantle of the Expert (MoE / 'mantle') is about harnessing children's ability to suspend belief and to enter into an imaginary world. The premise is that a 'company' of some description is set up, with the children taking on the roles of the professionals within that organisation. For example, if we were to become a company responsible for building a new hospital, we may have children in the roles of architects, medical advisors, accountants etc. Thus, they become the 'experts'. The staff (in role as different characters) are responsible for introducing dramatic tension – the problems which the experts have to solve. In this way, the 'mantle' becomes a vehicle to deliver the curriculum. Taking the hospital example: the accountants may have to 'balance the books' (Maths), and the medical advisors would need to source suitable equipment (Science). Archaeologists could discover significant remains on the site (History) and planning officers may refuse consent - requiring persuasive letters to be written (English) to convince them to permit the building.

We will be spending short periods of time each week or so, 'in mantle' – taking on these characters by putting on our imaginary cloaks (mantles), and letting the story take shape. This will involve our Key Stage 1 and 2 children, who will then step out of character and return to their classrooms (/departments!) to execute their tasks.

Our first mantle is that of 'Raven's Eye Films Inc.'. A struggling TV Production Company, we are currently putting in a tender to the BBC to win a contract for a new series based on Tudor Monarchs. The children have been busily writing letters to the BBC this week, to demonstrate our knowledge of the subject, and what a great job we will do on the series. Will the BBC grant us the commission? We'll have to wait and see...

A few other bits of information to share with you this week:

Netball Club – this year, a number of local schools have joined together with Richmond (Secondary) School to deliver some after school sports using their facilities and coaches. The first of these will be running on Tuesdays, 5-6pm as a Netball club for years 3-6. This is a free club (to you), and is open to boys and girls. I'm sure it will be fantastic.

School Friends – we are very blessed to have an active School Friends organisation supporting our work here at Ravensworth. The Friends (PTA) run a number of fundraisers every year, and have financed many projects, facilities and trips which, without their support, would never have

come to fruition. The first meeting of the year is at 8pm on 17th September at the A66 Motel. A particular invitation to our *new parents!*

Parent Governor – whilst we're in the 'recruiting' mood (!), I wish to draw your attention to the parent governor vacancy on our governing body. Full details are in the Governors' Newsletter.

Songs of Praise – on Sunday 15th September, Dalton and Gayles Village Hall have asked us to publicise their Songs of Praise event at 6:30pm. The service is based on the favourite hymns and songs of members of the community.

A Stitch in Time... - a request from Mrs. Jackson for a few volunteers (parents, grandparents etc.!) who might be willing to stitch some hanging tabs on our Red Class dressing up clothes please! It would really help if the children could hang their Cinderella dresses and chef's aprons up when they were finished with them!

Jeans for Genes Day – next Friday (20th) is Jeans for Genes day. If your child would like to wear their jeans for school that day, please bring a donation for this great charity working for children with genetic disorders. Check out <http://www.jeansforgenesday.org/> for more information.

Email - We are hoping to begin to use email increasingly in the school as a means of communication with you all. Obviously, sending letters home with children can be a somewhat unpredictable affair (!), and on occasions, information doesn't make it to you! We would be most grateful if you could fill in the slip below to enable us to build up a database of email addresses. We'll also try to send newsletters via email in future to those that wish to receive it in this way (although that might take a while to organise!).

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 17th September – 5-6pm, Netball Club, Y3-6, Richmond School
Tuesday 17th September – 8pm, School Friends', A66 Motel
Thursday 19th September – 3pm, Football Club
Friday 20th September – Jeans for Genes Day

And Finally...

I am curious as to how many people noticed my mistake on last week's newsletter. I gave the date as Friday 9th September. Three days into term and already the days were rushing past...

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell



Child's Name: _____ Parents' Preferred Contact Number: _____

Parents' Email Address: _____

I would / would not like to receive newsletters via email in future. (Please delete)

