

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 19th September 2014

Dear all,

Well, the morning is a somewhat bleak and 'dreich' (as the Scots would have it!), but school is, as always, full of life and bustle. It's Jeans for Genes day, and the children are all sporting their funky denim and trousers – there's even a few proving that the indefatigable British spirit of 'clinging-to-summer-at-all-costs' is alive and well through wearing shorts! We've raised a brilliant £83.85 which will go to supporting children who have genetic disorders. Thank you all for your kind donations. Here's a few shots of the children in their legwear of choice!



This week has also seen our first 'School Friends' meeting of the new term. Thanks to those who attended, particularly our new volunteers. It's exciting to hear of the upcoming events and plans, no doubt more information will follow in the next few weeks and months.

Communication – with the movement of children into new classes, and our new starters, I just wanted to reaffirm the school's eagerness to partner with all of you in your children's education. We love to hear from you, whether that's to ask a question about your child's learning, share their successes, or just check some practical details. The best way to contact your child's class teacher is via email (see below) or to catch them before or after school to arrange a meeting.

- Class 1 - sjackson@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Class 2 - acrisp@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Class 3 - droycroft@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk

If you want to phone the school, please be aware that Mrs. Richmond's hours are currently 9am-1:30pm; if possible, please ring during this period, as, at other times, the phone is rarely manned. Other administrative items can be emailed to Mrs. Richmond (admin@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk). Finally, if the class teacher can't help, or you wish to contact me directly, please feel free to email me (headteacher@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk) or ring to arrange an appointment. Research has shown that children's learning is most successful when strong school-parental links are in place; if there's anything we can help with, please do let us know.

SFX Open Evening – just a note for our Year 6 parents; St Francis Xavier School is holding their open evening on Thursday 25th September. Doors open at 6:30pm with a welcome from the Headteacher following at 7:00pm.

Teesdale Mercury – you may recall that I squeezed a tiny photo into the corner of last week's newsletter of our Reception pupils. This was our version of a full photo which will be printed in the Teesdale Mercury on the 8th October, so don't forget to get yourself a copy!

Pupil Premium – as many of you may know, the government has introduced a special grant known as the Pupil Premium which is designed to support children from lower income families. This is a substantial amount of money per pupil, and can go a long way to providing help for children in their education. A form was sent last term regarding this, and copies have been resent to those who have not returned them. Please fill these in and return them by Monday, as the information contained therein has a direct impact on our funding from October. In addition, if you think you might qualify and have *not* received a form, please contact Mrs. Richmond or drop me an email, and we'll get one sent out. All information received is treated in the strictest confidence. Thank you.

Reading Volunteers – we are very excited to be involved in a project with some of the other schools in the Swaledale Alliance called 'Reading Matters'. This project involves a number of elements, but, crucial to its success, is the role of Reading Mentors. These are volunteers who will commit to be available for 2 hours per week (ideally 1hr per day on separate days) to work one to one with children in school to develop their reading skills, for three terms. Obviously, this is a significant commitment, but does make a real difference, particularly for pupils who struggle with reading. A full day's accredited training will be provided by 'Reading Matters', and this project will be running in a number of local schools. If you would like to know more, or to become a 'Reading Mentor', please contact Mrs. Jackson who will be co-ordinating the project. Your help would be much appreciated.

Milk and Juice – just a reminder from Mrs. Richmond; whilst the government is now fully funding Free School Meals to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, unfortunately (!), this does not cover the cost of milk or juice! If your child takes milk or juice at break, the cost of this is still £1 per week. Many thanks.

Pupil Congratulations – a huge well done to two of our pupils who have been meeting with 'agricultural successes'! Firstly, to Jake Lawson, who came 5th in a Young Handler's competition with his lamb Coca Cola, and won in another class with his terrier, Holly, at the Bowes Show! At the Muker show, Stephen Vaughan won a competition with a papier maché, and in his floral arrangements, even making it into the paper!

Dates for the Diary:

Clubs this half term: Archery (Weds), Football (Thurs)

Tues 23rd Sept – Class 1 Trip to Harlow Carr

Tues 25th Sept – 6:30 for 7, SFX open evening



FLORAL SECTION: Stephen Vaughan took the trophy for the best garden flower



And Finally...

It's amazing what children consider to be important. I asked some of our year 6's what they'd want to know about a new member of staff... some of their burning questions: "favourite pizza?", "ketchup in a puddle on the side, or spread all over the chips?" and, my favourite "when in school, do you frolic?!". What do you say to that?!

Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

