

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 20th September 2013

Dear all,

Another week has sailed by and the term is now fully 'up and running'. The children are all settling well into their new classes and groups, even though for many, this represents a big change.

We've also introduced a new system – Focus Skills time – a short slot each day in which the children are regrouped and work on key English and Maths skills. This will often be with a different teacher or staff member to their normal class teacher. By mixing the groups up in this way, we are able to really deeply address the particular skills that each child needs to develop to help them meet their personal targets.

We have good news to celebrate for some of our children who attend Martial Arts. William Storrow got his orange belt with the 2nd highest mark of the whole group, whilst his brother, Edward passed his red belt, along with Ollie Cooke. Well done to all the boys!!

Jeans for Genes Day – it's great to see everyone in their jeans today – I must say I felt rather odd climbing into my car with shirt, tie, jacket and faded jeans! However, the children all seem to like the *temporary*(!) change of uniform and have donated a fantastic £73! Thank you all.



Start of School Day – we have noticed that a number of children have been arriving very early in the morning for the start of school. This proves very challenging in terms of staff cover and setting up for the day. May I remind parents that the official start of school is **8:30am**, and that we will be open from no earlier than 8:20am. Please do not drop your children off before this time, thank you.

Red Class (Class 1) – some of you have been asking about Mrs. Jackson, who has had some time off recently. Her daughter has been unwell, and she has therefore needed to care for her. However, Mrs. C Stanwix has been doing a fantastic job in Mrs. Jackson's stead on these occasions, and I have been regularly in class too.

Name Tags – a renewed request for all clothing to be clearly named (biro has already worn off!). We've had a number of items misplaced already, and, when found, some haven't had a name on, please help us with this!

New Curriculum – many of you will have heard about the new National Curriculum which is being introduced for Years 1-6. This will be statutory for *all year groups* from September 2014, but schools are being encouraged to introduce this in a phased manner throughout this year. There is a lot of information out there, and we as a school are seeking to find the best way to implement this transition. The governors and staff have met and discussed this at length, taking advice from the Local Authority and other Headteachers in the area. The following has been decided:

- *Foundation Subjects and Science* – the new curriculum is to be taught to all pupils from this year.
- *English* – the new curriculum skills are to be taught to all pupils; however, these will be delivered and organised around genres. These genres will be drawn from the old framework, and will act as vehicles to implement the skills based structure of the new. Mapping against the old curriculum will be continual for Y1,2,5 and 6 to ensure no areas are missed during this year.
- *Maths* – for children in Y1-3, the old curriculum will form the basis of our Numeracy work. However, during the course of the year, opportunities to introduce topics from the new curriculum will be sought and explored. For children in Y4-6, the new curriculum will form the basis of our teaching, thus ensuring children gain familiarity with these concepts during this year. However, all children (especially those in Year 6) will be given every opportunity to draw on their prior knowledge gained under the old curriculum, and their progress will be tracked against this document to ensure they have all the necessary skills for their SATs at the end of the year. For the purposes of organisation, the 'blocks' of learning from the Primary Framework will still be used to plan and teach numerical skills.

Over the course of the year, we will be receiving further information from the government and Local Authority, and will be re-developing a curriculum policy, carefully detailing how each element may be delivered. Should any of you have any concerns or queries on this issue, please do come in and talk with me, or drop me an email.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 24th September – 5-6pm, Netball Club, Y3-6, Richmond School

Thursday 26th September – 3pm, Football Club

And Finally...

Points definitely go to young Mr. Stephen Vaughan for wearing a beautiful pair of maroon jeans which perfectly complement our school uniform!

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

