

# Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 09/10/2015

Dear all,

It's Friday again, and the couldn't be more different to last week – glorious sunshine streaming in through the windows here. Let's hope it continues into the weekend...

As you'll have heard from the children, we had a visit from Radio York on Wednesday in which many of your children's voices will have been heard (even if only as part of a Berserker's cry or a Class 3 choir!) Unfortunately, much of the material they recorded ended up on the cutting room floor, not least of which were some excellent descriptions of Viking long houses by Adam, Mary and Ellie! In case you missed it, a link will go online in our 'In the news' tab.

Class 1 have been becoming adventurers this week – they've built a boat and are setting sail off to discover a volcano. I'm hoping a risk assessment has been completed! I also enjoyed hearing them re-create the story of the Knuffle Bunny, our children should have a good understanding of how to do the laundry now, so I do hope this helps with the chores at home... Class 2 and 3 have been continuing with their Viking studies, and Class 3 have been producing some amazing newspaper reports. I promised them I'd share with you some of their headline puns... see what you make of these!

"There's Nor-way the Vikings can be stopped!" – William Brown  
"Vikings use Norse Code to initiate attack" – Eve Cooper  
"Unexpected Leathering Ruins Monastery" – Isobel Brooks  
"Doorway to Norway" – Edward Storrow  
"Vikings make 'mark' in 'Den' of England" – Amy Potter  
"Vicious Vikings Vandalise Village" – Monte Andrew  
"Leather hits Pillage" – Jack Nelson

Yesterday, Y3/4 had the chance to attend a story afternoon at Richmond School with Taffy Thomas, the Storytelling Laureate. Feedback I've had from the children has been excellent – particularly about his rather wonderful coat...



Last night also saw our parents' information evening for children going on our Y5/6 Residential at the Longrigg outdoor centre. The pupils have come in buzzing this morning, and we're really looking forward to this exciting trip!

Our children are currently in the middle of their Fire Safety talks from North Yorkshire Fire Department, so they should be fully up to speed with how to keep themselves safe in school and at home – why not test their knowledge later on?

**Staff Car Park** – Mrs. Richmond has asked me to remind parents again to please avoid bringing cars in to drop children off in the staff car park, and to use the green wherever possible. Many thanks.

**Uniform Orders** – next order to go on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please download the form from the website or ring the office. Mrs. Richmond says "no late orders please!". Many thanks.

**Behaviour Feedback** – a while ago, the governors conducted a parental questionnaire, along with staff and pupil questionnaires to help identify strengths and areas for improvement. The outcomes of these were all really positive, but there were a number of responses which suggested parents “Don't Know” about the effectiveness, consistency or approach to behaviour management. The children's questionnaires also identified behaviour as an area they would like to improve. We've taken this on board, and have worked hard as a staff to ensure real parity between every staff member on how we deal with any incidents of misbehaviour. A full description of how we deal with Behaviour can be found on our website in our Behaviour Policy (School Office > Policies > Behaviour), but I thought it might be helpful to mention a few headlines below:

- We always endeavour to make behaviour management as positive a process as possible, by applying sanctions, but providing reasons, getting children to reflect, and basing this firmly on our values.
- We have recently introduced a recording sheet (used verbally in C1 and C2, and written in C3) upon which children record / discuss the reasons behind the application of sanctions, and what they can do to avoid a repeat of this behaviour. This has been well received by the pupils and staff, and serves the purpose of really encouraging self-reflection. It also has the option for children to share with staff 'mitigating circumstances' or areas in which they might appreciate support or help to improve their behaviour.
- Our main sanctions are determined by the use of our 'traffic lights' and 'red cards' – which involve children having 'time out' (and filling in a behaviour record) during their break / lunch times. These are always preceded by warnings, so that children have the time to adapt their behaviour before experiencing a sanction.
- One of the most difficult elements for children to understand is our use of differentiated behaviour management. Some children with Special Educational Needs require adjustments to our usual behaviour management approach. These are all listed in those children's Provision Maps and/or on our central staff list of behaviour management approaches to ensure consistency. For example, this may mean a child has an extra warning, or greater flexibility in our expectations etc.. Obviously, this can appear to be 'unfair', but we always endeavour to explain to children (as fully as possible, without singling individuals out) that some pupils may really struggle and it's our job to help them succeed and improve.

I hope that the above helps give a brief insight into this area and our approach - please do feel free to ask anything further to either your child's class teacher, or myself.

**Last Football Practice** – this will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October – the evenings are drawing in!

**Messy Church** – Messy Church (with a Harvest theme I believe) will be taking place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 3:30-5pm. This is a lovely after school event to which all children (and parents) are invited. A short talk, craft activities, and always a delicious meal make this a great evening!

#### **Dates for the Diary:**

[Clubs this half term (3:10-4:15pm): Thursdays, Football, Y3-6]

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – Scholastic Book Fair for 1 week (parents welcome 9:30am Weds / Thurs)

19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October – Y5/6 Residential Trip.

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> October – Messy Church, 3:30-5pm

23<sup>rd</sup> October – 12pm Harvest lunch 12pm and afternoon Harvest Service, 1:30pm

#### **And Finally...**

Amid the puns created by the children, Mr. Roycroft was particularly pleased with his own – “Extreme Leather Warning – Scandinavian ‘Reign’ Imminent”.

So that's where the children get it from...

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

