

# Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear all,

After a foggy start, the day has brightened beautifully and the sun is shining again on Ravensworth. The Key Stage 1 children have set off for their Multi-skills tournament and are all very excited – I look forward to hearing all about it on their return! Meanwhile, our work on the Romans has been continuing. There have been yet more fantastic art projects going on (the mosaics in Class 3 are now complete and up on the wall – a beautiful display!) with Roman inspired clay pots, plates and coins being prolifically produced!



**Harvest Celebration** – as mentioned in the last newsletter, we're having a special Harvest celebration on the last day of half term. We will commence with a lunch together at 12:00pm and then, if the weather is kind, we will walk up to Kirby Hill church for a simple service. If, however, the autumn rains hit us (or the muddy path) hard, then we have a bus on stand-by. If we do take the bus, the service will start earlier (circa 1:15pm); you will be notified by text in the morning if we're going to be in the coach. As in previous years, we are going to take a collection of produce to make a donation to the elderly residents in the Dakyn flats across the green at Kirby Hill. It's a lovely opportunity to share our blessings with the local community – if you are able to make a donation of food, please send this in with your child from Wednesday next week.

**Scholastic Book Fair** – this is arriving in school on 24<sup>th</sup> November and is always an exciting event! It's brilliant to see the children so excited about the books on show, and really getting into reading. The school gets 100% commission on any books bought, so it's great for us too! Parents are invited on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to view the books – get your Christmas presents!

**Catering and School Dinners** – please note the North Yorkshire County Caterers have asked that all intolerances and allergies must now be supported by a doctor's note please. This excludes those children for whom we already have medical information (e.g. anaphylaxis), as the Health Care Plan covers that information.

**Guitar Lessons** – no further guitar lessons will take place until 13<sup>th</sup> November, due to the teacher being away, and then the KS2 trip to the theatre. Obviously, monies paid will just be rolled over.

**Dogs** – please could we ensure that no dogs are brought into the children's play areas on the school grounds. There can be unfortunate 'consequences' to having a dog around, and obviously this can present a health and safety risk if children are then playing around those areas. Many thanks.

**Football Club** – football club cancelled next week due to parents' evenings.

**School Bus** – I've been asked to put a plea out to parents re: the school bus in a morning. I'm told that parents often get on the bus with their children and then 'stick around' on the coach for a catch up – obviously, this can delay the pupils getting on and settled. I don't know quite what the best way to avoid this is, but if parents could just be aware of this and perhaps chat after the bus is away, then this might be appreciated by others! Thank you.

**Welcome to the team** – we are delighted to welcome to the school team Mrs. Lydia Shazell, who will be joining us as a Teaching Assistant from Monday. Mrs. Shazell will mainly be working in class 3 and has already been in and getting to know the pupils. The children, when they helped us with our interview process, described her as 'Shamazing' (!), her love of the Great British Bake Off certainly won over a few of our Year 6 girls, and her enthusiasm for Marvel Superheroes endeared her to some of the boys too! We're sure she will be a real asset to the team and will bring a lot to the school.

**School Council** – you may have noticed that, in the last year or so, the work of our school council has been reduced and under review. We have now come up with a new system. In our new model, instead of having a little group of 'council reps' who always struggle to represent the views of everyone, we are going to have a 3 stage process. Firstly, each class will dedicate some time, every half term, to have a 'class council' involving all pupils in the class. We will discuss the children's views on particular school improvement issues, or things they'd like to see changed in the school. The class councils will gather their ideas together and share these with the whole school in a special assembly, constituting the 'whole school council'. That way, every pupil in the school gets to hear the other children's views. The suggestions and ideas from the whole school council will then be passed to an 'action group' with representatives from every class who will work with myself and other staff to decide which ideas we might pursue. We had our first school council this week, and the children have come up with some great ideas to improve playtime and lunchtime (some are more possible than others – I don't think the budget will stretch to a swimming pool, and the idea of a school cow is also problematic!). Next step will be for our action group to get together and try to make some of these improvements!

**Purple Mash** – the school has recently signed up for the 'Purple Mash' online learning environment. This is a fantastic resource with huge amounts of activities and themed content which the children will be using at different times in school, but, since the platform is web based, children can use it at home too. We have begun introducing this to the older pupils who should all now have individual logins, there's a link on our website in the top tab. Younger pupils will soon get access too. Please enjoy exploring this brilliant resource.

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

Tuesday and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Parents' Evenings

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest lunch and service, school closes 3:10pm

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – School re-opens

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – KS2 Theatre Trip, School Photos

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 Hearing Tests.

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

Congratulations to Thomas Smith who came second in the front crawl category at his swimming gala last night – perhaps that school swimming pool isn't such a bad idea...

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

