

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Thursday 12th November 2015

Dear all,

Well, putting a newsletter out on a Thursday is sure to mess with my head for the rest of the week – it feels like a Friday writing this! But with the Jorvik trip tomorrow, I thought it'd be a good idea to get some information out today.

We've had a very full week thus far, with more excitement to come. On Tuesday, the children had their jewel jar treat, (from last half term), in the form of a visit from 'Jay's Animal Encounters'. This was an absolutely brilliant afternoon, the children (and staff) were introduced to a gamut of weird and wonderful creatures including black scorpions, Merlin the meerkat, Sydney, Darwin and Alice the bearded dragons, Esmerelda the giant toad, Daisy the skunk, Maria the tarantula, Prince the giant frog and a 3 stone black blood python! Jay was full of fascinating scientific facts about the creatures, and the children learned loads of biology, as well as having a brilliant time encountering and holding the animals. The teachers even got to join in the fun! Here's some of the children's comments: "I had the snake around my neck and he weighed a tonne!" – Adam Smith; "My favourite bit was when he showed us an Ostrich egg." – Cecelia Watson; "The frog was so soggy!" – Matthew Cooper; "I loved the skunk!" – Zach Wardle. Children from Class 3 have been writing some brilliant reviews of Jay's teaching session, which we're sending to him and hoping he'll publish on his website – watch this space!

Many thanks to school friends for funding this exciting experience for the children.



Yesterday, we held a short Remembrance day service around 11am in school. My apologies for the short notice invitation to parents for this – last year we sent flyers etc. around but didn't get these out in time this year. However, the service was still poignant – a simple reminder of the great cost of war for our freedom. The children's behaviour was excellent, and a really special atmosphere rested over the occasion. Pupils from Class 3 had composed some amazing poems of remembrance which were truly moving, and they performed these for us. I was going to include a few excerpts in here, but it wouldn't really do them justice – we'll try to get these up on display or make them available in the children's folders soon.

Many thanks to all who have attended / are attending parents' evenings. I trust these are useful opportunities for you to hear how your children are doing, and we certainly value the chance to hear from you regarding what's going well and any concerns you may have.

Curriculum Resources for Home - During the parent consultations a number of resources have been mentioned which are helpful when working with children at home. I've put these up online (high frequency word cards, times table booklets etc.) on our website under the 'Curriculum > Resources' tab. We aim to add to this over time, and we'll keep you updated of any particularly significant items that go up.

Also on this page, the National Curriculum can be found. This is a very helpful guide to what the children should be able to do at each stage of their education, and includes detailed advice and guidance. Particularly helpful are the spellings lists in the Appendix. Please partner with us in supporting your children's learning at home, as this always yields positive results.

Missing Cardigan – please could pupils in Class 1 carefully check names in clothing, as a new cardigan has gone missing, and may have been taken home by mistake! Thank you.

Coats – it's that time of year, please do ensure that your children come to school with a coat. Often, we want to do bits of outdoor education etc., and this is made really difficult if pupils are standing outside and freezing cold.

Farewells – as you'll know, Miss Crisp will soon be heading off on maternity leave, and Mrs. Shazell will be taking over in Class 2. Miss Crisp's last day with us will be next Friday 20th, and we wish her all the very best.

Another really sad piece of news is that the wonderful Mrs. Mundy is retiring at the end of this term. She has served the school for nearly 30 years - an incredible commitment. She's been a kitchen assistant, a one to one support, a caretaker, a cleaner, a dinner lady, a teaching assistant and a wonderful, caring colleague who will always "go the extra mile" for the children (and teachers!). I'm sure I'll write more about this nearer to her actual date of departure, but we just wanted to let parents know. Mrs. Mundy will be staying 'on the books' as a relief TA however, so I'm sure it won't be a permanent separation for us!

Dates for the Diary:

Friday 13th November – GNAA Bag Collection 8:30am, Village Hall

Wednesday 18th November – Class 1 Trip – Seven Stories

Thursday 19th November – 3:15-5pm – Messy Church

Looking Ahead...

Friday 27th November – 5-7pm, School Friends Christmas Disco (details to follow)

Thursday 3rd December – 5:30pm, Christingle in Church

Tuesday 15th December – 5pm Class 1 Nativity

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 18th December – Wear your Christmas Jumper Day, school closes **1pm**



And Finally...

Mr. Roycroft and Miss Crisp both held the tarantula – both looked terrified, but, in the end, I think they rather enjoyed the experience. Christmas presents sorted.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Campbell'.

Rob Campbell

