

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 20th November 2015

Dear all,

Well, what a week of weather! Gales, rain, bright sunlight, crisp frosts... and on the subject of 'crisp', it's our day to say a (temporary) farewell to Miss Crisp, who heads off on maternity leave today. Miss Crisp has done a stalwart job over the last few weeks, particularly as 'little hill' has got bigger and bigger, and we want to say thank you to her for her hard work, as we wish her well for the next few months! She thinks she'll be "popping into school" and "seeing to the horses at 5am" with new-born-babe-in-arms; the current parents among our staff have their doubts...

Sticking with the weather theme, it never rains but it pours... since last newsletter, we've had two school trips, Messy Church, a governors' monitoring morning and a peer-review! Let's take these in turn.

The Jorvik Trip for Class 2 and 3 was a great success! The children had a chance to explore 'Dig' and become archaeologists for half the day, excavating the different 'phases' of Coppergate, discovering artefacts and evidence from the Roman, Viking, Medieval and Victorian eras. Then we analysed trays of bones and had a good look at coprolite – a substance we all found fascinating until we found out it was, in fact, fossilised Viking poo. After this discovery, the girls' interest waned, but the boys were all the more engaged... Following the exploration at 'Dig', we headed over to the main centre, in which the children got to meander around the remains of a Viking house, took a trip on the ride through a Viking village, and made their way to the main museum to fill in quiz sheets and further enhance their knowledge. The guide noted we were the most knowledgeable school group they'd had through this year! Must be thanks to some outstanding teaching! A great time was had by all.



I was then fortunate enough to be able to join Class 1 for their trip to 'Seven Stories' in Newcastle. This is a wonderland of children's literature, in which the pupils got to hear tales and nursery rhymes from around the world, explore artwork, animation and sculptures, and learn songs and actions taught by the (energetic!) 'Professor Charlotte'. A brilliant place to extend language, and make multi-cultural links with children's experiences across the planet. We then headed into Newcastle for a walk and exploration of the city – its bridges, buildings and busyness – the children are writing contrasting poems about their contrasting experiences of the countryside and the city. Many thanks to the parent helpers who came, and the school friends for financing the tickets etc. for these trips.



Yesterday, we had a monitoring morning across the school, and two headteachers came to do a peer review – a sort of 'practice Ofsted'. They observed teaching in all classes, examined work, had pupil discussions, watched behaviour, checked my evidence and looked at school data. Their conclusions were really encouraging, they saw brilliant examples of outstanding and good teaching and learning, and helped us identify where we can keep improving. All those involved (governors and the headteachers) remarked on the excellent behaviour and interpersonal relationships within the school – I went home a very proud (and tired!) headteacher last night.

We also enjoyed a lovely Messy Church event – welcoming Rev. Antony to the team. We looked at Jesus as light of the world, and how, when He is in our midst and hope is aflame, the lights of peace, love and faith can all shine on, even during the struggles of life and the tensions of this world. Thanks to all the team who do such a great job.

Christmas Decorations Afternoon – well, much though my inner Scrooge wants to fight it, there's no denying that Christmas is approaching. We would love to invite you to come in and, under the deft leadership of school friends (!), join us next Friday afternoon from 2pm to decorate the school. The children will be doing some crafty activities, and we need to get the hall all prepped and ready for the Christmas disco! Thank you.

New Parent Governor – following an unopposed election, I'm delighted to welcome Melissa Thompson to our governing body as a new parent governor. Melissa has great experience in the world of recruitment and in bringing education and business together, so her skills will be a real asset to our governing body team. Melissa has a 10 year old in the school and a younger child who will be joining us in a couple of years. Welcome to the team!

School Meals - a quick note to say thank you to the vast majority of parents who have now moved over the 'Parentpay' to pay for school dinners. From today, *no pupil lunch payments will be taken in cash*, so please ensure you use the online system for payments. We aim to move over to half termly milk and juice payments online after Christmas, in our move to become a 'cashless school'. Thank you.

Children in Need – a big thank you for all your donations – we raised a fantastic £107.60 for this great cause, yet another evidence of our values being lived out. (Also, there were some *marvellous* spotty trousers / accoutrements on display!)

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 25th November – 12-3pm, Class 3 Athletics afternoon, Richmond School
Friday 27th November – 2pm, Decorations afternoon, followed by 5-7pm, Christmas Disco
Thursday 3rd December – 5:30pm, Christingle in Church, Kirby Hill
Tuesday 15th December – 5pm Class 1 Nativity, in school
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch, letters to follow
Thursday 17th December – 11am, Carols on the Green
Friday 18th December – Wear your Christmas Jumper Day, school closes **1pm**



And Finally...

Miss Crisp's 'Good Luck' Cake baked by our wonderful cook!

Miss Crisp received some lovely pressies today, including full length 'Peter Rabbit' baby-grow. The children of Class 2 picked this up to model their parenting skills, which were, shall we say, less than delicate! Quite a sight!

Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

