

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 24th January 2014

Dear all,

Firstly, may I wish you all a happy new year! Apologies for the lack of a Newsletter the past two weeks, things have been particularly hectic at school, and I've found myself teaching all day on Friday, so had no time to settle to the 'task in hand' of letter writing!

So, there's a fair bit to catch up on... perhaps the most significant development for the children has been the start of a new 'Mantle'. As you'll know, the children in Blue and Green classes spent last term running the film company 'Ravens' Eye Films (inc)' – working for the BBC to produce a series of programmes about the Tudors. They built sets, wrote scripts, managed the finances and learned the parts, presenting to the BBC inspectors a truly great series. The culmination came when the inspector challenged them to research Tudor links in their own locality for the final programme, and the children discovered the grandmother of Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's final Queen Consort, lived in Ravensworth Castle, and that therefore a Queen of England most likely roamed and played on the school fields – 500 years ago.

However, all good things must come to an end, and so we said farewell to the world of film and have entered the world of farming! 'Castle Hill Farm' sits, proudly, in the North Yorkshire countryside, and its owners, Messers Phillip Greene and William Blue (aka Farmer Phil and Farmer Bill) have just purchased the neighbouring 'High Hill Farm' to expand their business. The bank has signed the loan agreement, the tractors and machinery have all been exchanged and they are ready for action. The trouble is, the farmers don't seem to have much of a clue about how to run a successful farming enterprise... Their mantra of 'it'll be right' doesn't seem to wash with Mr Wilberforce, their accountant, nor Mr. Jones the bank manager. Here's hoping their friends and colleagues (aka the children of Ravensworth!) can give them some good guidance...

The first problem was the plan of the farm. Phil and Bill weren't altogether sure of the layout of their current farm, never mind the new one, and their business plan was full of holes. A day of mathematical problem solving followed – drawing birds' eye view plans of the farm and calculating areas for sowing and perimeters for fencing. The next step was to consider planting locations - Phil and Bill were all for sowing the corn in the pig pen (no need for fertilizer) and scattering the oats on the pond (to save watering them). The children are now conducting scientific experiments on the best conditions for plant growth to try to address Phil and Bill's woeful inadequacies in that department...



School Friends – just to remind you all about the events listed on last week's Friends' Newsletter. I'm very much looking forward to the Quiz night tonight (I got some funny looks in Morrisons last night with a trolley full of wine and beer!) – should be a great event. We also really need volunteers who can help with the Bag Pack at Morrisons (Barnard Castle) on February 8th – please contact Clare Storrow or Jo Metcalfe if you can help (times TBC).

The other great bit of news is that we were able to secure Barclay's fund matching to the value of £750 for the Race Night last term. This, added to our total makes an amazing £1650 raised that night for the children. Thanks again to all involved.

Coats – please could all parents note that coats are (at this time of year particularly) a compulsory part of school uniform. I'm aware many children give the answer "I don't want/need a coat", but, unfortunately, their tune changes when it's 1°C outside and they're told to stay out! Please ensure that your child always has a coat with them – it avoids much moaning!

KS2 Multiskills Club – hopefully you all received the letter about the after school multi-skills club running this half term (and possibly next as well) for Y3-6. Mike Layfield has been our sports coach in school for a number of years and is brilliant – the children love working with him. Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15.

Transport Arrangements – please could parents ensure that any changes are *phoned* in, rather than emailed. I am a huge advocate of email, but, unfortunately, it seems that the internet lines in rural North Yorkshire aren't! We spent a day without the internet this week (along with 25 other schools!), and we nearly ended up missing some important bus messages. However, we always check the answerphone at end of day, so this is the more reliable method! Thanks.

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 29th – KS2 Multiskills club, 3:15-4:15

Thursday 30th – Beading Club 3:15-4:15

Wednesday 5th February - KS2 Multiskills club, 3:15-4:15

Thursday 6th February – Beading Club 3:15-4:15

Saturday 8th February – School Friends' Bag Pack, time TBC

Tuesday 11th February – Parents' Evening 3:15-5:15pm (letter to follow)

Wednesday 12th February – KS2 Multiskills club, 3:15-4:15pm

Thursday 13th February – Parents' Evening 5:00-7:00pm (letter to follow)

Friday 14th February – School Closes for Half Term.

And Finally...

Huge congratulations to our resident 'fish' – Thomas Smith, who has recently been invited (at just 7 years old!) to join the Richmond and Dale Amateur Swimming Club. Thomas completed an hours' trial comprising over 20 lengths of crawl, breast, back strokes and fly, diving, turning and flipper use – what an incredible achievement!

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

