

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 31st January 2014

Dear all,

It's hard to believe January is over already. That's a twelfth of a year. It's only 10 months until December, when we start getting ready for Christmas...

However, back from the future to the present... This week has seen the commencement of a lot of exciting work. In the mantle, we've received a rather grumpy letter from the RSPB suggesting that farmers Phil and Bill aren't permitted to make the most of their land - expanding their field sizes by cutting down the hedgerows. Apparently the hedges are home to a rare tree sparrow, and cutting them down will cause huge issues in the natural balance of the ecosystems. I think extensive discussion is going to be required about the right course of action...

In the meantime, Red Dragons have been very busy writing instructions and learning about how to stay healthy. Toby told me "you've always got to clean your teeth with a toothbrush", and Daniel wrote a great story about a naughty monkey stealing a banana! In their farm shop café, the children have been buying fruit and veg using money - doing lots of tricky adding up too!

Also in the news this week is a piece that should have featured in last week's letter, but space didn't permit. Last Tuesday I went with the Year 3 and 4 pupils to a Multiskills Competition at Richmond School. As you know we have Multiskills every week with a specialist coach in PE time, and we also have an after school club running this term. This input is really paying off! Children from Ravensworth won no less than 10 of the 18 events - a huge achievement considering we were up against 7 other schools, fielding a total of 187 pupils! Congratulations to our winners - Reece Edwards (Zig Zag), Scott Best (Bean Bag Retrieve), James Tallantire (Boccia 1 and Diagonal Dash), Francis Nicholson (Target Tray), Ollie Cooke (Fast Feet), Thomas Smith (Close Control), Emma Scott (Frisbee), Isobel Brooks (Speed Bounce) and Stephen Vaughan (Boccia 2)! All the children conducted themselves very well, and it was a great event for all.



Uniform Orders - this will be sent to the suppliers on 7th February. Please contact the office for a form before this date if you wish to order uniform. Alternatively, order forms can be downloaded from the website.

Blue Story Sacks - just a reminder from Mrs. C. Stanwix that the fantastic blue story sacks need to be returned by Friday each week by children in Red Dragons. Thank you!

'Bag Pack' – the School Friends *urgently* need volunteers *with their children* who can help pack bags in Morrisons to raise money for the school. Please do come and help, even if you're not on the School Friends committee - the more volunteers we have, the less time you'll need to be there, so recruit each other! Please contact Clare Storrow on 07885 367474 if you can help.

Irish Night – the School Friends' Irish night on 28th March is already booking up fast! Tickets are great value – just £5 each. This will be a great night, with Irish Band 'The Emerald Thieves' – again, please contact Clare Storrow. Who knows, we might even get our resident Irish teacher dancing...

Monday Adventures – on Monday afternoon (3rd), children from Green and Blue classes are going 'out and about' for some Forest Schools style work. They'll be following up their science from this week and learning more about hedges and habitats. *Please send your child with warm, old clothes, a good coat and welly boots on Monday – since we're going to try to get away 'whatever the weather'!*

Morning Routines – we're trying a new approach to our morning routines. The children from Green and Blue class have been arriving and 'milling about' (somewhat noisily!) in the hall; we're now going to use this 'pre-school time' as extra reading time for the children. They'll be expected to quietly come in and sit down in the hall with a book. We're also really working on children's independence in all classes – getting them to take greater personal responsibility for their organisation etc. Please help us in this by dropping your children at the door and leaving them to sort out their coats, bags etc., rather than providing an escort for them! Of course, parents are always welcome to come into school if you wish to talk with the class teacher etc., but we're trying to get the children to stand on their own two feet a bit more – and minimise disruption in the hall. Red Dragons will also now be able to enter straight into their cloakroom rather than going round the side of the school, saving the walk, and the inevitable traffic jams in the classroom!

Dates for the Diary:

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

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

Wednesday 12th February – Grandparents' Lunch 12:00pm

Thursday 13th February – Parents' Evening 5:00-7:00pm

Friday 14th February – School Closes for Half Term.



And Finally...

Congratulations to Lara Nisbet and Sybil the dog for successfully completing the KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme 'Puppy Foundation Assessment'. Six weeks of hard work doing sits, stays, and heel work recalls!

Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

