

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 30th January 2015

Dear all,

Well, the story of the week has certainly been the white carpet which blankets our school field. Actually, after 3 days of snowman building, snow angels, snow football, snow tig and snow sculptures, (plus a little sunshine), our field is more of a muddy and slightly squelchy mess, peppered with a smattering of white among the brown...! Still, the children have been having fun (and one or two extended playtimes...)!



Class 1 have been struck by the call of the seven seas this week and have been somewhat pirate themed over the last few days. I was there for some excellent descriptions of the 'mean and nasty pirate', and I understand that an adventure on the ocean has been carefully devised! Pirate hats abound following Ethan's desperation for this particular item of clothing, and the children are certainly enjoying their headgear!

In Class 2 and 3, the mantle is slowly progressing, with the members of the Logistics Corps recently undertaking an information gathering exercise from the Harbour Master at Middlesbrough. We've been planning out our route to Germany and have concluded that Teesport would be suitable for the transfer of some of our heavy equipment. Our thanks to Mr. Brooks who fulfilled that role perfectly (very convincing – almost as if he did it for a living!).

Books – some of you may know that the school has historically had access to the Schools' Library Service (SLS) based in Northallerton. Every term, we sent off a list of our topics, and hundreds of relevant books came our way. Very sadly, the SLS has been closed as part of the government cuts to Local Authorities, and the entire collection has been redistributed across all the schools in the County. This is a sad loss, but we are trying to see the silver lining, in that we now have 14 full boxes of books from the service which are now 'ours' to keep (although we'll sorely miss the variety of the service).

Of course, this brings with it some other challenges, primarily with regards to storage and organisation. Our Literacy Governor (Mrs. Brooks) has been diligently working on our Library for some time now, and has done a fantastic job of organising and relabeling our collections to make them much more 'user friendly'. This has been part of a long term plan for raising the profile and enjoyment of reading across the school. We're hoping to have some volunteers who will help the children to 'discover' the library and work with very small groups to help them find books of interest to them and to learn about the new system.

However, having spent many, many hours re-organising our previous collection, Mrs. Brooks is now facing 460 new books which all need levelling, labelling, sorting and stocking! To this end, we're looking for volunteers who would be able to help in these endeavours. Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Wallis have been brilliant today and have begun this process, but we're looking for anyone who might have a spare hour or two to help with this job. Mrs. Brooks has an excellent 'system' in place, so full instruction is available! If you are able to help for a short while, please do get in touch with her by email: alison.brooks@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk. Many thanks.

Quiz Night – another quick plug for our Quiz and Chilli night - I know the nights are dark and cold, but what could be better than a cosy room, friendship and company, a good laugh, warm chilli, a chance to show off how clever you are, and a nice glass of your tipples of choice?! Hope to see you all at Dalton Village Hall at 7:30pm, Friday 6th February.

Messy Church – a reminder that this is next Tuesday (3rd), after school to 5pm. All welcome!

Celebrating Success – as you know, I'm always eager to hear about what our pupils have been up to out of school. I know that there's so many of you who are busy with activities and sports etc., and I'd love to share these successes with our larger community. So, if your child has been achieving great things, be that on horseback or trials bike, on a piano or a skateboard, in a pool or a sports-hall, at cubs or at a farm stall – we want to know! Just ping me an email.

Once again, Monte Andrew has been meeting with great success on his Trials Bike, coming fourth in the British Solo Youth Trials! Amazing! Monte won a trophy and medal and travelled to Birmingham for the awards ceremony. Conrad did brilliantly too, and was also awarded for his efforts.

Meanwhile, Isobel Brooks has been busy chattering... she came runner up in the Cubs Chatterbox Challenge across all of Richmondshire, involving preparing and delivering a presentation lasting precisely 3 minutes on the topic of Gymnastics. Apparently, every second over or under incurred a loss of points – I could do with that kind of precision in my newsletter writing...

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday Feb 3rd – 3-5pm, Messy Church

Friday 6th Feb – 7:30pm, Quiz and Chilli Night, Dalton Village Hall

Friday 13th Feb – 3:10pm, School closes for Half term

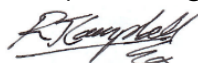
Monday 23rd Feb – 8:30am, School re-opens

Tuesday 24th Feb – 4pm, Parents' E-Safety Talk

And Finally...

The snow's been causing some disruption to travel into school, but not for Mrs. C Stanwix, who's been arriving in style... 'John Deere style'!

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

