

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 12th February 2016

Dear all,

I can hardly believe another half term has passed – time veritably flies here! That said, when I look back to Christmas, it feels like many years ago, so that's quite a paradox. Anyway, as we head into the holidays, I hope you all have a great time with your children!

The week has remained busy for all at Ravensworth. Class 1 have done some beautiful writing of postcards about our local area – complete with pictures of their favourite places, and all the lovely things they can do around here. They've also set up a dinosaur museum complete with a café in which you can partake of some delicious delicacies! Class 2 have been doing lots of human and physical geography linked to Mantle, and some science on muscles – they have even been learning the anatomical names in Latin – unsurprisingly, the one they all remembered was the Gluteus Maximus. Class 3 have been researching and analysing 'power speeches', great works of rhetoric and influence. They've studied Martin Luther King, Harold Macmillan, Winston Churchill and President Obama and have been picking apart what techniques these leaders used to rally their supporters and convince their audiences.

The children have also had the opportunity to visit Ravensworth Methodist Chapel as part of their RE work with Mrs. Stanwix. Mrs Mundy was also welcomed back to help with the visits – the pupils were delighted to see her again! A lovely opportunity to explore a different church tradition, and to compare and contrast with Kirby Hill.



Space Exploration – Class 1 will be considering space as part of their topic next half term. We thought it would be great if you have any opportunity over the holidays to go out with your children and do a bit of star gazing. I heartily recommend the 'Google Sky Map' app which shows all the constellations you can see in real time according to your position. Have fun!

Newspaper and Junk Modelling Request – Class 2 are planning to do some exciting creations next half term, including using the (delightfully messy) medium of papier maché! To that end, we'd appreciate any newspapers you can donate, along with smallish boxes etc. for the model making escapades that the children will embark on.

Football Tournament – an after school football tournament, hosted at Richmond school will be commencing late February and early March on Monday evenings. Final dates haven't yet been released, but we will be entering a team, and PC Godfrey will be supervising. Letters will follow for the children in the team.

Sports Clubs – football practice will commence (Y3-6) from 3rd March next half term, letters etc. to follow. In addition, Mike Layfield will be running a lunch time Tag Rugby club on Wednesdays next half term, so please ensure children have their PE kit.

Milk and Juice Payments – a brief reminder that these are now available to pay for on Parent Pay for the next half term. Mrs. Richmond has requested prompt payments please – due by 22nd February. Many thanks.

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) – this is a vital part of our curriculum and is important for many reasons. Last year, the governors and staff spent a long time creating the SRE framework the school uses which details what information will be taught in each class. This is in line with the National Curriculum and Local Authority guidelines. Please do take time to have a look at this on our website (Curriculum > Sex and Relationships Education). We pick up on elements of this regularly throughout the year, but SRE will be a particular focus of our Citizenship lessons on Friday afternoons in the next half term, so we felt that it was important for parents to remind themselves of our SRE curriculum.

Children in Y5 and 6 will be studying puberty, and some of the changes that their bodies will go through during this time. In the past this has been covered by the school nurse, Caroline Palmer. However, this service has been cut, and schools are now delivering this themselves. Mr. Roycroft will talk with the boys, and Mrs. Stanwix will work with the girls to discuss these issues. Previously, Caroline has run an information evening for parents to show the video materials she would use. However, following updated advice from County, we will, this year, be using the 'Busy Bodies' resources for this. Helpfully, these are available for parents to view themselves online, and can be found via our website. If, having watched these and read the SRE framework, you have any further questions about what the children will be taught, please do contact Mr. Roycroft or Mr. Campbell and we will be happy to answer these.

Life Centre Trip – just a brief reminder to please return consent forms and travel contributions asap for those who have not yet sent these in. Many thanks.

School Friends AGM – hosted at Rokeby Inn, 8pm, Wednesday 24th February. A flyer will be going out about this today. Please could I invite all parents / grandparents / carers etc. to attend this. The School Friends do a brilliant job fundraising for our school and provide all kinds of 'extra' experiences and opportunities for the children which wouldn't otherwise be possible. However, they can't do this without your support. Please do consider going along and finding out how you could help (it's not desperately onerous, I promise!). Many thanks.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 22nd Feb – 8:30am, school re-opens

Thursday 25th Feb – Class 1 Trip to the Life Centre, Newcastle

Thursday 25th Feb – 3:15-5pm, Messy Church

Wednesday 2nd March – 6pm, Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 3rd March – 3:15pm, Football Club commences

Tuesday / Wednesday 8th / 9th March – Y5 Cycling lessons (letters to follow)

And Finally...

I opened my office door the other day to find a huge present waiting for me. Excitedly, I reached down to open the box, and out popped a lovely smile! See below!

Have a lovely half term,
Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

