

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 14th March 2014

Dear all,

There's been a great sense of anticipation building this week in the 'run up' (pun intended) to the Key Stage 2 area Cross Country at Catterick Racecourse yesterday. I've had children whizzing (and wheezing) past my office around the grounds in training, and have led classes over hill and dale (well, around the local farmer's field next door) in preparation for the big day. More on that later...

Red dragons have been a little more sedentary this week – and have been busy developing their skills as mechanics, farmers and bakers! Alex came up with the idea of having a workshop to fix all the cars and farm vehicles, so this has duly been set up. Tools, and overalls were delivered, and the children got to work. Unfortunately, this was to the detriment to one of our lovely bikes – which was promptly unbolted and taken apart! Still – I suppose it's all great learning! The children also made bread and their own homemade butter yesterday – I'm sad to have missed that – it sounds delicious!



Meanwhile, back on the farm (!) in mantle, we've discovered that we're really not making enough money. It seems that we're drowning in red ink, and even the chicken's eggs aren't selling. A fact finding trip to a nearby successful farm might just help us crack this particular one (see later)...

Cross Country – what an event! Our children really did us proud – not only in their abilities on the track, but also in their behaviour and conduct throughout. The heat was pretty intense, but our pupils really did demonstrate our school values and were great ambassadors for Ravensworth. I was particularly proud of some of our less confident runners, who tackled the event and gave it their all – 100% effort is all we can ask for and our children delivered.

In terms of our successes – we seem to be getting better every year! Three years ago, 2 children from Ravensworth went on to the County trials, last year we had 3, and this year, we have no less than 10 children going through! This is really fantastic – we are such a small school compared with many of the others around the area, and yet we can hold our own. Our champion runners are:

Fraser Proudlock, Philip Wozny, Henry Watson, Edward Storrow (the winning Y3 boys team), also to be accompanied by James Tallantire and Ollie Cooke at the County event.

Our individual runners are Fraser Proudlock (5th), Isobel Brooks (6th), Emily Riley (4th), Isabella Watson (5th), and Bailey Proudlock (9th) – all of whom will be going through to the County event next week. What a brilliant 'medal haul' for Ravensworth – well done to all! Also, thank you to all our parent helpers, particularly Mrs. Riley, for all their support.

Lunchtime Golden Table – congratulations to Yellow table again this week – our winners for courteous behaviour at lunch time!

Football Tournament – our Y5/6 footballers did really well at Brompton this week, we made the Quarter finals and showed real skill – Jack Dean put in some great crosses and Mackenzie Monteith had some fantastic saves. We lost out on a place in the semi-finals after a very evenly matched game, a couple of lucky shots from our opponents just slipped past us. Well done to all! (Also, a well done to our parents, I'm sure we're always the best represented school in terms of supporters – we're certainly one of the most vocal!) Good luck to the boys as they take on the Arkengarthdale tournament next week!

Gymnastics Club – this is proving to be a real hit, and we've got some children really shining – Isobel and Isabella have both been commented on by our coach as having excellent technique and poise.

Green Beans Spellings – a quick plea from Mr. Roycroft re: the new spellings homework that is being set; please could parents try to help their children tackle these *progressively* through the week, rather than sitting down in one long session and writing them all out. Research shows that short, frequent sessions in which words are introduced and returned to are far more effective in embedding spellings and helping pupils to learn than long work periods. Many thanks.

Mainsgill Visits – next week, Mainsgill will be hosting us twice, on Wednesday, children from Green and Blue classes will be going on a mission to solve Castle Hill Farm's financial crisis in the kitchens, as well as working on some of the practical tasks of farming outside (please wear suitable 'Forest Schools' kit all day). On Thursday, it's the Red Dragons' turn, they'll be visiting the animals and learning all about how they are looked after, again, warm clothes and wellies / appropriate footwear to be worn, please. Letters to follow.

Dates for the Diary:

Clubs this half term: Mondays – 3:15-4:15pm Football; Wednesdays – 3:15-4:15pm, Gymnastics; Thursdays – 3:15-4pm, Beading.

Wednesday 19th March – Green and Blue Class Trip to Mainsgill

Wednesday 19th March – 6pm – Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 20th March – Red Dragons Trip to Mainsgill

Friday 21st March – 1:00-4:00pm, Y6 Revision Club

Thursday 27th March - 1:00-4:00pm, Y6 Revision Club

Friday 28th March – 7:30pm, 'Emerald Thieves' Night, School Friends

Wednesday 2nd April – 3:15pm, School Friends' AGM

Wednesday 2nd April – 4pm – Girls' Football Tournament, Brompton on Swale

Friday 4th April – Easter Lunch – 12:00pm, School Closes 13:30.



And Finally...

I really wish I'd known that there was a 'staff race' yesterday at the Cross Country. If I had known, I'd have sent Mr. Roycroft. Unfortunately, bowing to the pressure of children, parents and the Chair of Governors (!), I was prevailed upon to tackle this event. When I turned up at the start to find a number of lithe, athletic looking young teachers limbering up, wearing fancy running shoes and looking very serious, I knew this wasn't going to go well. I crossed the line in 6th place (out of about 8 or 9), although I prefer the statistic that, in the *headteacher's* race, I came 1st. Out of 1. Finally makes sense of Matthew 20:16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last"... Still, it's all for the children, whose cheers certainly buoyed up the tired limbs!

Have a great weekend,
Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

