

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 4th April 2014

Dear all,

Well, it's the last day of another term, and yet we're busy right until the final moments! Many schools 'wind down' in the last week of term, but not Ravensworth – we've had visitors, projects, assessments and, of course, Castle Hill Farm Café this week, plus our Easter service and lunch!

The Café was a huge success, as a result of the hard work of many people. Thanks to all our helpers: Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Bell for biscuits and coffee, Mrs. Dean for the beautiful table decorations, and the staff for all the extra work purchasing ingredients etc. Special thanks also go to Mrs. Whittaker and Mrs. Wolstenholme for being very accommodating around our access to the kitchen! Also, a huge thank you to all of you (parents, friends and grandparents) who attended; the children were buzzing with the excitement of how many people came. It really is a sign of the strength of our school community that so many of you are able to find time in your busy lives to support the children (apologies to all the farmers in the middle of lambing – now must really be the worst time for 'extra' things!).



The Café offered a huge number of brilliant learning opportunities for the children. They studied the science of micro-organisms when learning about yeast in the bread-making, used geography skills to learn about where ingredients came from, met cooking objectives in the preparation of the food, used ICT to produce the posters and had to think really carefully about the business and commerce side of things. It is in this last area that we saw the greatest challenges for the pupils. Many really didn't know at the start of the project how to make this work (they were proposing £5-10 for a sausage sandwich!). Studying the idea of budgeting, considering supply and demand, estimating quantities of ingredients to buy, thinking through 'marketing' and producing tantalising menus to attract the customers was a key part of the whole process for them.

I'm delighted to tell you that the children have totted up the totals, deducted their debts, and scrutinised their spreadsheets and have found that Castle Hill Farm has indeed, finally made a profit! Once all the costs have been taken account of (vital to preserve the reality of the experience), we were left with £155. The children have decided that they would like to donate this to the charity 'Farm Africa', to help those less fortunate than we are to have such plentiful supplies of delicious food. Many thanks to all of you for your donations.

In Red Class, as well as contributing delicious cakes for our café, the children have enjoyed some marvellous machinery this week! The farming topic has really suited the children of Red Dragons – they revelled in the fantastic ‘vintage’ tractor (courtesy of Mr. Hegarty), and on Thursday were thrilled with the arrival of a huge combine harvester (courtesy of Mr. Metcalfe). The harvester was so big that the plan to bring it into the school playground had to be abandoned in favour of the local field! Many thanks to those who gave up their time (and equipment) to bring exciting experiences to the children.



Clubs – just to say that we’ve had our last Beading Club of this academic year. Stella hopes to return in September. A change to football club next term – this will revert back to Thursdays. Gymnastics club will be coming to an end, but we’re hoping to have some new options to replace it – watch this space!

Start of School Day – following the holidays, we are adopting a slight change to timings and procedures in the morning. The school will remain closed until 8:25am, at which point the main door (at the front) will be opened for children in Green and Blue classes, and the Red class cloakroom door will be opened for Reception / Y1 children. Obviously, any bus / taxi children will be escorted straight into school when they arrive (as is currently the case). The school day officially starts at 8:30, so hopefully this 5 minute slot will give children sufficient time to get their coats etc. sorted and be ready for a prompt start to their learning. As always, parents who wish to catch the teachers are welcome to come in with their children at 8:25.

School Friends Update – thanks to those who attended the AGM this week. At this meeting, our Chair of 3 years, Mrs. Storrow, stepped down from her role. She has worked tirelessly for the Friends and has given huge amounts of time, effort and energy to the events that have taken place. We really thank her for all her hard work – a little present will be winging its way to her on behalf of the school. We have a new Chair, Mrs. Wallis, who will be supported by Mrs. Lawson (Vice Chair), Mr. Wardle (Treasurer), and Mrs. Metcalfe (Secretary), along with the rest of the committee and officers. Thanks to all for your commitment!

Dates for the Diary:

- Wednesday 23rd April – School Re-opens
- Wednesday 23rd April – Y6 cycling proficiency
- Thursday 24th April – Y6 Revision Club (1-4pm)
- Thursday 24th April – Football Club (sorry Y6!)

And Finally...

There are a lot of ‘thank yous’ in this newsletter. What a great school community we have! Have a truly blessed Easter,

Rob Campbell

