

# Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear all,

I can't believe how quickly the weeks are flying by now – it doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing last week's newsletter.

As is always the case, as we near the end of term, there's been no 'let up' in the activities of Ravensworth. In Class 1, the children have continued with their space topic. This week, they have been 'visiting' planets (real and imagined) and creating fantastic paintings of these far-away worlds. They've also been writing descriptions of the planets' features – providing settings for story-writing next week. In Science, the children have been studying seeds and the best conditions for growing them; Arabella told me in detail how "the seeds in the cold weren't very good and didn't grow, the warm ones are tall and grew really well, but the ones on the heater died and aren't going to do anything because they're dead!". Class 2 have continued their DT / Art project with their 3D islands – they have decorated these and begun to add buildings and structures. In English, they've been redrafting their stories in an authorial style, and working with some Y4 children as adverb experts. In Class 3, the children had a morning of puberty discussions on Tuesday (we were really proud of their maturity throughout), and have been working on poetry in English (including figurative language) and long division in Maths. In RE, they were re-enacting the Easter story, questioning each other as Pontius Pilate and exploring the different characters.

Yesterday also saw a wonderful 'Messy Church' all themed around the Easter story. We had a great range of activities – creating an Easter garden, nailing our worries to the cross, and we shared a simple communion together led by Rev. Antony. We also modelled service and Christ's love through a foot washing activity – Sue Young (Governor, and Messy Church Leader) and myself kneeling to wash to dust from the feet of the children – they seemed to enjoy this – some even came back twice!



**Interim Reports** – you'll all be receiving your child's interim report next Monday, a brief overview of their learning dispositions and attitudes over the first part of the year. Feedback from these has been really good in the past – we hope you'll find them a good resource as a springboard for discussions at parents' evening next half term.

**Painting Kit** – an invitation for Class 2 parents to let children bring in an old t-shirt etc. for use as a painting apron. Mrs. Shazell does love her art and craft (and is very good at it!), so if you want your child to protect their uniform, please feel free to send something in.

**Athletics Club** – next half term, we'll be running Athletics club on a Friday evening, 3:15-4:15pm at school. Further information to follow, but get your running shoes on!

**SIAMS Review** – yesterday, we had a visit from the Diocese to review our work as a church school under the SIAMS Framework (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The Inspector was absolutely blown away by the quality of the education and ethos in our school – especially by the way the children live out and articulate our values. He met with a group of pupils and interviewed them at length, observed collective worship, met with governors and had long discussions with myself, and concluded that we really do have an outstanding school which is poised to go from strength to strength.

**Easter Service** – a very warm welcome to all (parents / carers / grandparents / governors / friends in the community etc.) to attend our Easter service next Thursday at 10:30am in Kirby Hill Church. We'll walk up the hill together from around 9:45am (helpers welcome) and share a short service in the church. Rev. Antony and Sue Young are away, so the service will be led by a new friend of the school – Jen Holder, schools worker for New Life Baptist Church, Northallerton. Jen has been coming in to do assemblies this half term with the children, and works across a number of schools in our area – she is, in the words of our children “brilliant – dead bouncy!”. We look forward to seeing you all there, and, hopefully, many of you afterwards back in school for our Easter lunch.

**End of Term** – a reminder that we break up for Easter at 1pm on Thursday. Parents at the Easter lunch will be invited to spend time with the children on the playground etc. afterwards, but please don't take your children away before 1pm, when a final register will be taken and all will be dismissed. Many thanks.

**Cross Country Celebration** – a huge well done to Thomas Smith who represented Ravensworth at the County Trials yesterday. Thomas tackled a really tricky course with a nasty hill in the middle of it (as if running for miles on the flat wasn't enough!) and came in 50<sup>th</sup> across North Yorkshire. A fantastic achievement – thanks for doing Ravensworth proud Thomas!



#### Dates for the Diary:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Reception and Y1 Height and Weight Checks

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – 4-5:30pm, Football Tournament, Richmond School

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – 10:30am, Easter Service; 12pm, lunch; 1pm, School Closes.

Looking Ahead...

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – 8:30am, School Re-opens, Mrs. Graham, Interim Head starts

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> April – Parents' Evenings – letters to follow

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Athletics Club starts (details to follow)



#### And Finally...

When teaching this week, I made a gaff by not carrying the digit within the division sum I was working through (deliberate mistake of course \*cough cough\*). This was instantly picked up by the children and Fraser swept in to correct me. In fact, he took over as teacher – tie and all!

Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

