

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 8th May 2015

Dear all,

Well, it's a momentous day. The manifestos have been written. The hustings have been held. The parties have been considered. The research has been undertaken. The votes will be cast...

I refer, of course, to the work Class 3 are currently undertaking on their own political manifestos! They've created the 'Kids First Party', the 'World Wide Wildlife Party', the 'Green Fingers Party', the 'Kids Trust Party' and the 'ERP - Environment and Recycling Party' – to name just a few! The General Election has been a brilliant opportunity to involve the children in Citizenship topics, and, as well as creating their own 'parties' and manifestos, they have also spent time researching and finding out about the real parties in the UK and the concept and processes of democracy. Of course, the Year 6 children have been doing their final bits of revision before the SATs next week, working hard – in fact, I've just been interrupted by Emily and Lara who have just achieved 98% and 93% respectively in one of their practice tests! We really do wish them all the best next week.

Meanwhile, Class 2 has been busily beavering away on mathematical stories drawing on their work with the book '365 Penguins'. This is all in preparation for this afternoon's problem solving work, in which the whole school will work on maths tasks and games and develop their team skills and resilience! Class 1 have also had a full week, preparing plays (I watched a very interesting version of Rapunzel which featured greedy Minions, and a very wicked witch, directed by Emily and told beautifully by Rose), and learning about letters and addresses. Perhaps you will discover more about these letters yourselves soon! Mrs. Stanwix is also working with a group preparing our (very sorry looking!) raised beds and getting the gardening done – it looks like Ava and Alex are pros and have all the knowledge on weeds and flowers! (I could do with their help in my garden!).



Nepal Cake Sale – huge thanks to all who have donated SO generously to the cake sale for Nepal. I've never seen so many ~~calories~~ delicious cakes around the school, and I'm very much looking forward to sampling them later on! (I'm writing this in the morning, so I've yet to find out how much the sale will raise, watch this space in next week's newsletter!)

Toys in School – please can I remind parents that children should not bring toys into school; this includes for 'show and tell', unless by prior arrangement with the Class Teacher. Toys from home tend to cause some issues in class and between children, and it's just much easier if they stay at home, rather than risking them being damaged or confiscated! Many thanks.

Sainsburys Vouchers – the deadline for the collection was this week, please could we have any last ones in for counting as soon as possible. Many thanks.

SATs – as mentioned above, next week sees the commencement of the Key Stage 2 SATs tests, Monday – Thursday. This always creates some measure of disruption to the school timetable, but we'll try to minimise this as much as possible. Mr. Roycroft and I will be invigilating these; we also have some children attempting the Level 6 tests in afternoons. Please do bear this in mind if trying to reach me next week, I may not be as available as usual if we're in the midst of the tests.

Tent Day – the jewel jar has been filled again (congratulations to all the pupils who helped achieve that), and a treat has been planned. This coincides nicely with the plans for a Y6 treat to celebrate the end of SATs, so we'll be repeating last year's brilliant 'Tent Day'. The Y6 children will spend the morning erecting tents, enjoying some sunshine and having some extended archery training (weather permitting!). Then they'll be joined for more tent building and story-telling in the afternoon by the other children in the school. Pupils from Class 2 and 3 are asked to bring their tents in, which we will pitch on the field throughout the day, and use for story writing and problem solving. As well as their tents, children are welcome to bring blankets, sleeping bags, and other 'tenty things' (!). Children from Red class will join in the afternoon for some special activities, but do not need to bring a tent. If the tents get wet, we'll leave these up over the weekend to dry, and get them down on Monday.

Safety Request, Cars Turning – a request regarding the start (and end) of our school day. A number of parents drop their children off by the road entrance rather than the pedestrian entrance on the green. This is not advised, but, if it's unavoidable, can we please ask that parents then refrain from using the school gates to turn in. Undertaking a 3 point turn here is dangerous to children who may be disembarking and crossing this area. If you have no other option than to drop your children at this entrance, please drive onwards and turn at the end of the road by the farmer's gate, rather than around the pupils. Please also encourage children entering this way to come through the small pedestrian gate, rather than through the wide vehicular gates. Many thanks.

Library thanks – the work on our Library area is all but complete now, with some beautiful decoration by Jane Thompson, and the continued organisational skill of Alison Brooks, our Literacy Link Governor. The children are regularly using the reference library now, employing the colour coding system to select appropriate information and borrow books. Our thanks to all involved, particularly Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Causer who are continually helping the pupils access the library, and to Mrs. M. Thompson who kindly donated our 3D leaf canopies!



Children on School Premises – please could I issue a reminder to parents that children should not be on school grounds out of hours, including on the football pitch, and biking around the car park or yard. We're aware that many of the instances involve ex-pupils, but please mention this to your children just in case!

Dates for the Diary: [Clubs this half term (all run 3:10-4:15pm): Tuesdays: Archery, Y4-6; Wednesdays: Athletics, Y2-5; Thursdays: Football, Y3-6.]

Monday 11th May – SATs week commences
 Tuesday 12th May – 5 year old Dental Checks in school
 Thursday 14th May – No Guitar lessons
 Friday 15th May – Rescheduled Cello lessons
 Tuesday 19th May – Messy Church 3:10-5pm.
 Friday 22nd May – School closes for half term.
 Monday 1st June – School reopens
 Monday 1st June – 1pm, Tempest Photography, group photos



And Finally...

There's been a bit of a flood of childhood photos from the children of Class 3 recently! I've done a deal with the Year 6's about sharing one with you (see above) – they agreed, as long as I also included a photo of myself and Mr. Roycroft when we were young. Enjoy...

Every blessing,

Rob Campbell

