

Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 12th June 2015

Dear all,

Another glorious morning at Ravensworth, and another week has passed. The summer's definitely here, with loads of the children out enjoying lessons in the sunshine. Class 1 have been busy digging in their 'messy kitchen' (à la 'mud pit'!) and caring for the wildlife in the nature area. They have had GREAT excitement this week as they've watched their pet caterpillars exit their pupae and come out as beautiful butterflies. Kimberley and Amy have shown me these literally every time I've been into class! They've also been busy learning about the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar and discussing the life cycle of butterflies. There's also been a construction challenge, making their own caterpillars out of paper chain links and doing some fantastic weaving work on leaves. Never mind all their usual activities of phonics, writing sentences, number work, reading, art in the areas and building some very creative models in the outdoor area!



Class 2 meanwhile have been beavering away on some tricky maths this week. Ellie came to show me some very complex fractions work, and they've been stretching their learning to consider tenths and thirds, as well as the more simple halves and quarters. I also forgot to share some great photos from last week's maths in which they were using smarties to create bar graphs – I wish the graphs I have to produce for Ofsted were more like theirs!



Summer Production - in Class 3, the children have been introduced to their summer production this week. They've got their characters in the story of *The Black Shadow* – featuring the cruel Baron Steinkopf, his less than intelligent sidekicks, some very spooky trees, a band of four grumpy guards, stricken villagers, and, of course, their hero, the Black Shadow. Intrigued? I hope so! The performance will take place on the evening of Monday 13th July, at 5pm, outside on Ravensworth field. Further details for the evening will follow.

School Friends Air Ambulance Collection – just a note to say thank you to all for your help with the GNAA bag collection, both those who donated and those who collected and processed the sacks. This raised an impressive £180 for the school, so many thanks!

Golf – apologies about the cancellation this week. We are intending to run Tri Golf club from Wednesday next week, and places are still available, please just call the office.

Parental Questionnaires – Mrs. Cooke has asked me to say thank you to all who took the time to fill these out; she and the governors will analyse these and share their findings in due course.

Reading Book Bags – Class 1 children are given some fantastic book bags each week to take home and share with you. This is part of the 'ECAT' (Every Child a Talker) project which encourages high level conversation and the development of social skills. We fear that the children might be sending a slightly confused message to some parents about when the bag has to be returned – they are yours for a week, to be returned each Thursday. Some are coming back straight after the weekend, but we want the children to have a good long opportunity to share the stories and let the toys / activities etc. inspire a range of activities throughout the week. Hope this clears things up!

Class 1 Staffing – unfortunately, Mrs. Jackson is unwell and will be off school for the next two weeks. However, we are extremely fortunate to have, among our excellent staff team, another fully qualified teacher in the form of Mrs. Shazell. Mrs. Shazell spent many years teaching EYFS in her last school and has kindly stepped into the breach for the next couple of weeks, working alongside the wonderful Mrs. Stanwix.

Phonics Screening Check – Year 1 pupils will be undertaking the phonics screening check next week. This is a statutory assessment of their phonic reading skills – which sounds much scarier than it is! I will take the children, one by one, to read a short selection of words and 'pseudo-words'; each assessment takes about 10 minutes and is conducted in a very relaxed manner. Should any parents have any questions however, please feel free to drop me an email.

Mowbray Bricks – Mowbray school are hosting this event – featuring Lego displays of all kinds, raffles, stalls, and interactive play for all (!) on 4th and 5th July 10am-4pm. Enjoy!

Swaledale Marathon – just a quick one to say 'good luck!' to all the members of school community who are running in or involved with the upcoming Swaledale Marathon. I know Mrs. S. Stanwix for one is donning her running shoes, along with a number of our parents and governors! Do it for team Ravensworth!

Race for Life – congratulations to Emily Wallis, Emmaly Smith and Morgan Monteith who ran in the Cancer Research 5km 'Race for Life'. Well done to the girls! Mrs. Monteith shared a picture of a very 'fresh' looking Morgan at the end!



Dates for the Diary: [Clubs this half term (all run 3:10-4:15pm): Tuesdays: Archery, Y4-6; Wednesdays: Tri Golf, Y2-4; Thursdays: Football, Y3-6.]
W/C Monday 15th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Friday 26th June – 4pm Y5/6 Football Tournament, Brompton on Swale
Looking ahead... Thursday 9th July – Sports Day / Monday 13th July – 5pm Class 3 Production / Friday 17th July – Leavers' Assembly (time TBC)

And Finally...

Thanks to all who are helping with repainting our pirate ship – especially Mrs. Wallis and Mrs. Dixon for coming in to clean it... even though they did ask me to unscrew a hose filled with pressurised water, resulting in a considerable 'splashing' of yours truly!

Every blessing,



Rob Campbell

