

# Ravensworth CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear all,

Class 1 have been learning lots this week, continuing their work on the Very Hungry Caterpillar. There are some beautiful butterflies being painted as we speak (Caitlin told me how both sides were the same and that we call this symmetry!), and there's been some fantastic writing going on too. Class 2 have been writing the story of Grace Darling and the Longstone Light (a tale close to my heart from my years up on Holy Island) whilst Class 3 have been studying life cycles in Science and composing non-chronological reports about Gorillas in their English lessons!

The Tri-Golf club was a great success this week, and we're looking forward to our next session! Here are a few pics:



**Writing Moderation** – just a note of celebration for the school; each year, we submit 'Teacher Assessed' Writing grades alongside our SATs results for Year 6. 25% of schools are moderated each year by the Local Authority to check that the levelling is accurate and in line with all schools nationally and our 'in school' processes are rigorous. We received such a moderation visit this year, and I'm delighted to tell you that 100% of the marks we awarded were agreed. Whilst the focus was on Year 6 books, exactly the same system is used throughout the school for determining levels so this demonstrates the security of our grades. Particular congratulations to Mr. Roycroft whose marking and levelling was under scrutiny as Year 6 teacher.

**Pirate Painting** – a quick plea for helpers again for painting our pirate ship this weekend. The process has well and truly commenced – our thanks to those who have given time thus far. If there are any volunteers (come on dads!) the work will be continuing from 1pm tomorrow. (I'm sorry I can't be there, I'm at a wedding in Scotland – not just 'shirking'!)

**Y6 Rounders Competition** – just a note to say that our Y6 children will be unable to attend the competition on 23<sup>rd</sup> June due to lack of transport. We tried a number of bus companies who couldn't provide transport at that time (due to secondary school runs), and insufficient volunteers were available to help. Apologies.

**Footwear** – with the summer months, it's very tempting to go for 'style vs. substance' in shoes (or so I'm told by my lovely wife!). However, can we please ask that children come in either proper shoes or strapped on sandals – not flip flops or loose footwear – for the purposes of safety when running on the playground etc. Many thanks.

**Leave of Absence** – I just wanted to clarify the regulations re: absence from school. There is no such thing any longer as a 'Holiday Form' or time off for holidays. The government have tightened regulations which mean that it is expected that all children will be in school during term time except in "exceptional circumstances" – otherwise parents may be fined. The parameters of these circumstances are quite stringent and are detailed on the Leave of Absence form. One exceptional circumstance is worded thus: "Where inflexibility of the parents' leave is part of the organisation or company policy. This would need to be evidenced by the production or confirmation from the organisation/company." I'm aware that the demographics of our community include a lot of farmers who cannot always take leave in school holidays and are self-employed. If you are requesting leave under this category, we would ask that a letter on your farm/company's headed paper is presented as supporting evidence. A note on the form would not be classed as sufficient evidence.

Whilst we will work within the guidance as much as possible, we are bound to refuse authorisation without full evidence. In addition, please may I strongly urge you to not withdraw your children from their learning in school if at all possible. We can only teach children when they are in school, and it's amazing how a short absence can cause a key building block of learning to be missed and create issues down the line. Many thanks.

**Triathletes in Training** – just to say good luck to Benny Cooke and Thomas Smith who will be competing in a Triathlon in Lancaster this week. Great to see such sporty pupils in our school!

#### **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.]

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – 4pm Y5/6 Football Tournament, Brompton on Swale

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Y6 Activity Day, Richmond School

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Y6 Leavers' Service at Ripon Cathedral

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Y6 Induction Days

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – KS1 Fun Run (details to follow)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Messy Church, 3:10-5pm

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day (from 12)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – School Friends Summer BBQ from 5pm (Flyer to follow)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – 5pm Class 3 Production

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers' Assembly (time TBC)

#### **And Finally...**

In Class 1 this week I discovered the joys of cornflour in water. This creates a delightfully gloopy substance perfect for developing fine motor skills, strengthening their fingers as children write and draw in it. What's fascinating is that the mixture slips between being a liquid and a solid (making it a non-Newtonian fluid for those who are interested!). Highly recommended for fun and games at the weekend! Put some on cling film over a bass speaker and watch it dance!

Have a great weekend,



Rob Campbell

