



Friday 8th September 2017

Autumn Term 2017 Issue 1

Dear Parents & Carers

A huge welcome back to school for everyone here at Ravensworth and a very special welcome to our new starters: to Izbel Suleyman who has joined us in Year 5; to our Reception starters: Holly Antoncich, Elizabeth Dixon, Max Edwards, Lorna Hoskyns-Abrahall, Edward Jopling, Louis Morris, Effie Scott-Errington and Mylo Walker and last but certainly not least to Mrs Kirstie Petch our new Class 3 teacher. Welcome to Team Ravensworth – let the adventures begin!

We have had a lovely start to the new school year and it never ceases to amaze me how all of the children (and staff!) settle into their new classes. The learning behaviour in school is calm, busy and productive and the children are enjoying their learning about "Our Beautiful Bodies". We have dived straight into learning here at Ravensworth: Class 3 have already had their first violin and cello lesson, Nathan has taught all three classes PE this week and Mrs Tracey Kirby (an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant from Barton) will be joining our team every Friday afternoon to teach French to Class 2 and Class 3.

Being a full time Executive Headteacher leading both schools means that I am sometimes off site. We have therefore established the role of Lead Teacher, who is an experienced teacher with a thorough insight into the working of each individual school and its pupils and is confident to make decisions about everyday issues, queries and concerns. The Lead Teachers in our schools are: Mr Andrew Weighman at Barton and Miss Amy Crisp at Ravensworth. However, you can always contact me via email or phone whatever school I am in, any day of the week.

School Uniform

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform and new shoes. Just to remind you that our school uniform consists of a light blue polo shirt, grey trousers, skirt or pinafore, maroon sweatshirt or cardigan or a blue and white gingham dress. Dark socks or tights. For PE please provide a *white* T-shirt only, black shorts and black plimssoles and dark tracksuit bottoms and top for outdoor PE. It is essential that all items of clothing and PE kit are named. Many thanks for your support with this – the children do look very smart indeed around school and in PE!

Planners

Your child will be bringing a Home School Communication Diary home this week, known as their planner. This is a vital link between home and school and will be used for recording reading at home and at school, homework in Class 3 and any messages from school or home that you think it is important for your child's class teacher to know.

Barton

Telephone: 01325 377246

Email: admin@barton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Ravensworth

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Email: admin@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk

We expect children in Class 1 and 2 to read every day and children in Class 3 to read at least three times a week. Please sign your child's planner every time they read and feel free to comment when your child has read at home, including reading books, magazines or ebooks!

Correspondance

Plans are underway for the newsletter and other correspondence to be forwarded by email newsletters and information can also be found on the school website. We will advise everyone when the electronic system has been set up. If you have difficulties getting electronic mail, please contact Mrs Richmond, who will be able to provide paper copies. We continually strive to improve home school communication so please could you ensure that school has up-to-date information regarding your contact details.

Collective Worship

This year, parents, carers, friends and family are all welcome to join us for Community Collective Worship on a Friday afternoons from 2.40pm- 3.00pm. Come along and enjoy a song, a prayer and a celebration of the week in school. This will start on Friday 15th September.

School Lunches

We are really fortunate to have an amazing cook, Brenda Slack, who uses fresh local ingredients to provide a healthy school lunch or optional jacket potato. We would always recommend that children have a school lunch (especially as winter approaches) but appreciate that some children prefer packed lunches. We have had requests from parents about what foods to include in packed lunches. As we are a healthy school we would suggest sandwiches, wraps, pasta and rice salads, one small packet of crisps, fruit, vegetable sticks, yoghurt, small cake or biscuit (not chocolate) and water. Nuts, fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed in packed lunches. I would like to remind you that we have no chilling facilities available.

FOMOE

FOMOE is a charity which supports MOET school in Mangochi, Malawi. It provides primary education to the vulnerable. Ailsa Bell, an ex-Ravensworth student is fundraising to maintain the services they can provide and help children into a secondary education. Kate Bernard (another ex-Ravensworth student) came into school to help us learn all about the primary school in Malawi and we are going to develop further links with this school over the coming year. It would be great to support both the school and Ailsa. If you would like to do this please follow the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ailsa-bell>

Holidays in term time

Due to changes in the law, holidays in term time are now only granted in "exceptional circumstances". Please do not book a holiday in term time without consulting the guidance on our website or the Swaledale Alliance website. Application forms are available from the office. A list of term dates is also on the website for your information.

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Start of the day

Just a reminder that if you are dropping children off at school on a morning, staff will be on duty and the front doors will be open from 8.20am.

Extra curricular activities

You will have received a letter about the great range of extra curricular activities that will be starting next week. Don't forget to return the reply slip by Monday 11th September. Activities include:

Tuesday 12.30 - 1.00 **Hockey** – whole school Richmond School Coach

Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 **Dance** – whole school Richmond School Coach

Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15 **Sports** - KS2 Miss Crisp

Thursday 3.15 - 4.15 **Science** - KS2 Mrs Amy Dobinson

Friday 12.30 - 1.00 **Choir** – whole school Mrs S Stanwix

Friday 3.15 - 4.15 **IT** - KS2 Mrs Petch

And finally...

The Newsletter is an excellent way of celebrating achievement in school and we would love to share your child's achievements out of school too. Please drop me an email with a photograph if you would like to share your child's achievements in sporting events, eg swimming, dance, cycling etc, horse riding, music, cubs or any other interests or hobbies they might have.

Please remember that we do have an open door policy. Your first point of contact is either the office or your child's class teacher. Please do use the planner to keep in touch too. I look forward to seeing you in school soon. Have a lovely weekend...

Kindest regards,

Sharon Stevenson

Mrs Sharon Stevenson
Executive Headteacher

Ravensthorpe

Children celebrating achievements this week:

Our stars of the week are:

Class 1: The whole of the class for settling in so well

Class 2: Matthew Cooper

Class 3: Thomas Smith & Evie Walker

News from Class 1

I have heard all about your fun and exciting Summer holiday and I am pleased to see everyone's smiling faces. We have all settled in very well and we are getting used to the busy class timetable. I want to take this opportunity to remind you about the following: PE is on a Monday and Tuesday; homework is given out on Friday and handed in the following Thursday and please could you check your child brings their planner/reading books each day even if you haven't had time to read.



News from Class 2

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and managed to get some quality time with your children – they all seem to have had a lovely time! What a great start to the term. Children have worked hard in class 2 and already are settled in the rhythm of school life. Children should have brought home a time table and their planners; if not, PE is on a Tuesday and Friday and we have the added bonus of a French lesson each Friday. The children were very enthusiastic about this! Our topic is 'Our beautiful bodies' this term so we are looking forward to completing lots of science around this subject.

News from Class 3

We have had a lovely calm and focussed start to life in year 5 and 6 in class 3. The children seem refreshed and ready to work hard and we are all looking forward to a really successful year. Our topic of Our Beautiful Bodies has started this week and we have begun learning about our teeth and working on drawing realistic eyes. Our PE days this term will be Tuesday (Football with Nathan) and Monday (Gymnastics). Homework will be sent home on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday to allow me time to mark it. The children have brought home their new planner this week so feel free to use these for notes to myself and I will do the same. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks; please feel free to get in contact if you have any concerns at all.

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Week commencing 11 th September 2017		Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 11 th September		EH Extra curricular activities start this week Year 6 Bikeability Day 1 Guitar and piano lessons begin
Tuesday 12 th September		Year 6 Bikeability Day 2 PE all classes AM with Nathan PE Kits needed for all pupils Class 3 music with Mrs Evans
Wednesday 13 th September		EH
Thursday 14 th September		
Friday 15 th September		EH French with Mrs Kirby for Class 2 and 3
Week commencing 18 th September 2017		Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 18 th September		
Tuesday 19 th September		EH PE all classes AM with Nathan PE Kits needed for all pupils Class 3 music with Mrs Evans
Wednesday 20 th September		
Thursday 21 st September		EH
Friday 22 nd September		Jeans for Genes fundraising day. Wear your jeans for a donation to charity French with Mrs Kirby for Class 2 and 3
Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	Ravensworth	
Fri 15th September	School Friends Family Camping night in school grounds	
Tue 26th September	Year 6 Open Evening at Richmond School individual letters have been issued to parents.	
Thurs 12th October	Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew RAF Leeming (am) letters to follow	

Jeans for Genes Day – our annual fundraising in aid of Cystic Fibrosis will take place on Friday 22nd September. Pupils are invited to wear their jeans to school (with their usual polo shirts & school jumpers) for a donation to this very worthy charity.

Housekeeping – a big thank you from Mrs Richmond to all parents who have visited Parentpay to credit lunch/milk/juice/residential visit accounts, may we request that all parents regularly check their accounts to ensure that they are up to date. Regular text message reminders are issued to 'jog memories'. As a school invoices are paid by us, sometimes before parents have credited accounts, and as we have a tight budget, late payments can cause difficulties for us. Many thanks for your co-operation.

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Medication & inhalers- as we begin a new school year, may we advise that if your child requires an inhaler or prescribed medication, the laws have changed. Parents must complete a medical consent form and ensure that it is sent to school with the medication clearly marked with your child's name, dosage etc. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept a handwritten note or verbal consent. Children are not permitted to carry medication in their bags, any medication is kept in a locked medicine cabinet in school and a log is kept of all medication administered. For ease of access, inhalers are kept securely in designated cupboards in classrooms.

County Music Lessons – this year guitar and piano lessons will take place on a Monday afternoon. Pupils who have signed up for lessons via the County Music Service will start their lessons with Adam Ridley next Monday 11th September, please ensure that your child has their instrument and music with them each Monday. Thank you

The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy – Mrs Richmond is again celebrating her pupil's success following dance exams taken on 22nd July in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street & Freestyle. Another 100% pass rate with all students achieving high marks is a testament to everyone's hard work and dedication. From next week the Dance Academy expands into Richmond Operatics on a Monday & Tuesday evening and also Hipswell village Hall on a Wednesday evening. There are many lessons on offer :- Infant & Junior Tap & Modern, Infant & Junior Ballet, Adult Tap & Ballet, Infant & Junior Acro. Further details of all lessons are available by contacting Mrs Richmond via the Dance Academy facebook page. Please feel free to visit the page to 'like' & 'share' to spread the word!

Hens- Our lovely hens have been retired from school life as they were growing old it is was all getting a bit much for them! As a result, we now have two hen houses (one small and one large with a laying box) and also a hen run looking for new homes. If anyone is interested in these and is able to remove them from the rear of our school, they are welcome to them in return for a donation to school funds. Please let us know.

Free Flu vaccinations – We have been informed from Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust that the registration for applying for your child to be vaccinated is now on line. The programme is for all children in Reception to Year 4. If you wish your child to be vaccinated please visit <https://www.hdfn.nhs.uk/services/childhood-flu-programme>