



Friday 22nd December 2017

Autumn Term Issue 8

Dear Parents & Carers

What a wonderful countdown to Christmas we have had here at Ravensworth: with our visit to the Georgian Theatre to watch 'The Wizard of Oz' pantomime, Class 1 Nativity, 'Christmas Counts for Everyone', Christmas Jumper Day which raised £46.00 for Save the Children, our delicious Christmas lunch, Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas and Carols on the Green. Here are a few memories from our Christmas lunch:



I am sure you will agree that Christmas Lunch was wonderful; not only because of the efforts of Brenda, who catered for one hundred meals with ease, but it was also due to our amazing children. I would like to say a special thank you to them, they showed good manners, excellent behaviour and confidence welcoming our guests. I am one very proud Headteacher!

It was lovely that parents and carers joined us at playtime too.

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Class 1's Nativity, "Christmas Counts for Everyone" absolutely blew me away. The children performed with enthusiasm and sheer joy! The performance showcased the children's musical talents, reading and speaking ability, dancing, comic timing and their confidence in abundance! Here is a copy of the Nativity photograph as promised.



Staff have enjoyed clubs this term and I am sure you would like to join me in saying a special thank you to Miss Crisp, Mrs Petch, Mrs Dobinson and Mrs S Stanwix for giving up their own time to provide enrichment activities for our children.

The school is still moving forward to bring Holmedale Preschool onto our school site and to be able to offer before school and after school wrap-around care, however, our building work will be a little delayed and will not start during the Christmas break as hoped. I will keep you updated with further news on this exciting project in the new year.

This week staff from both schools have been planning together to provide an exciting creative curriculum for next half term. Our whole school theme is "**Street Detectives**", and we will launch this topic with a CSI activity, where the children will develop their

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close observational skills by taking part in a scavenger hunt around the village and collecting clues using tape lifting, fingerprinting and casting. In geography the children will be comparing our village to towns and cities and learning about the properties of materials in science. Our focus in maths is increasing the children's confidence in reasoning and problem solving. In English, children will be working hard with their reading, spelling and grammar as well as learning how to write to inform, convince and persuade. Our Christian value for next half term is Forgiveness.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody in TEAM Ravensworth: to our amazing children, hardworking staff, supportive parents, committed Governors and willing Friends of the school, who work very hard to make our school the very best that it can be: your continued support means so much to me. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you all back at school on Tuesday 9th January 2018!

Kindest regards,

*Sharon Stevenson*

Mrs Sharon Stevenson  
Executive Headteacher

### **Ravensworth**

Children celebrating achievements this week:

Our stars of the week were:

Class 1: The whole of class one for a fantastic nativity

Class 2: Ruby – (class 1) for a wonderful performance in the nativity

Class 3: Jake C

The Badger has been awarded to: William C

The winner of the Sportsmanship Cup was: Matthew C

Our Carpenters Cup was awarded to: Daniel

#### **News from Class 1**

The children were amazing in the Nativity show 'Christmas Counts' and they were so proud of themselves. Thank you for all of your support as the children really enjoyed performing for you. The Nativity play and Pantomime inspired lots of learning such as lovely prayer artwork, thank you letters and beautiful story booklets. Class 1 are very excited for Christmas and have been super helpful Elves. They have been making great decorations, wrapping presents for Santa, measuring reindeer food and designing placemats for Christmas lunch (which we hope you enjoyed).

We wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and we look forward to learning in 2018!

#### **News from Class 2**

I would like to start by wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and by thanking you as parents for your continued support and our children for working so incredibly hard all term. Over the last 2 weeks so much has happened with the pantomime and all the festive activities. Class 2 have continued to follow our school values and have behaved impeccably throughout the festive fun. As their teacher, I am

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brimming with pride. This is not to say that they have not been working hard, as they really have. As a class, we are feeling the grief of finishing an amazing book. Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo has been our class read; children have been completely absorbed in this story throughout this term. I have told children to look out for Michael Morpurgo texts as his work is always worth a read. Once again – have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2018.

### News from Class 3

What a busy fortnight in class 3. The trip to the theatre in Richmond was enjoyed by all of the children and put us all in the Christmas mood. We have finally made some Christmas decorations to bring home; I'm sure some of the children we so excited that they continued making them at home too. We have christened the new laptops and are beginning to get our heads around how best to use them. It is wonderful to have reliable technology to work with. The children have been using powerpoint to create multi-media presentations using hyperlinks, animations and inserting sounds too. We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to working hard in 2018.



| Week commencing<br>8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018  | Ravensworth<br>EH = Executive Head in school   |
|--|--|
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January                   | School closed for teacher training day <b>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>              |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January                  | PE all classes with Nathan (am). <b>All pupils need a full PE kit in school</b>            |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January               | EH<br>Rev Kirby for Collective Worship 2.40pm  |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January                |  |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January                  | EH   |
| Week commencing<br>15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 | Ravensworth<br>EH = Executive Head in School   |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January                  |  |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January                 | EH<br>PE all classes with Nathan (am)<br>Student Teachers from Durham University in school |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January               |  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January                | EH   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January                  |  |

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|---|--|
| Future Dates<br>More details will usually follow but information for your diary | Ravensworth                            |
| <b>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>   | School closed for Teacher Training Day |
| <b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>  | School re-opens for new term           |

**Christmas jumper day** – Many thanks to everyone who donated to Save The Children for Christmas jumper day, we had a wonderful array of jumpers – some with bells, some with lights etc, etc and to top it all – Brenda, our cook arrived in school dressed as an elf! The amount raised was £46.00 , thanks again for your continued generosity.

**Christmas lunch** – We all had a lovely time at our Christmas lunch on Wednesday, raffles tickets for Brenda's Christmas cake were in hot demand and we can announce that the winner was Ethan Walker from Class 2. The amount raised for school funds was £43.00, thank you everyone, your support is very much appreciated.

**New payment item** – Although we have not yet left the building, preparations are already in full swing in the office for our return in January. As usual, this involves the addition of a new payment item on Parentpay for next half term's milk & juice. The daily charge will increase next year to 23p per day (£1.15 per week) making the amount required for next half term £5.52. This is the first increase that we have had for quite some time, and is still a subsidised amount.

There are a number of parents who have forgotten to credit their children's lunch accounts, recently. We have not sent reminders as it is a particularly busy time of year for everyone. Please could we ask you all to check your children's accounts before they return to school. For audit purposes, we should not be providing lunches without payment and so any lunches taken that have not been paid for in advance have been provided as a goodwill gesture from school, however, as a small school, this procedure has a detrimental effect on our tight budget. There is an option on the Parentpay site to receive text alerts when accounts running low which is very helpful for parents who tend to forget. Thanks to you everyone for your co-operation.

**Parentpay information** – It has come to our attention that some of the visitor meal payments have not reached the correct area of the Parentpay site, we are aware of this issue and it is in hand. We know that everyone paid for their Christmas meals, however, there are some internal transfers required to accounts where the payment has arrived on your children's accounts instead of the visitor area. This data transfer will be attended to in the New Year and will be overseen by North Yorkshire County Council IT department, please bear with us in the meantime. When visiting the Parentpay site if you notice any glitches, please let Mrs Richmond know either via e-mail or phone call. Thank you

**Christmas gifts & cards** – May we express our thanks to everyone for their lovely gifts, cards and goodwill messages that we have received for Christmas. We are so grateful you all for taking the time to think of the staff at school and we are so very lucky to have such generous people around us. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

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