

The Collaboration of Barton and Ravensworth
Church of England VC Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Stevenson



Newsletter
Together, Stronger.



Friday 2nd February 2018

Spring Term Issue 2

Dear Parents & Carers

Just as we have a School Council in our schools so that our children have a voice and an impact on school improvement; Dales Academies Trust now has an amazing Trust Council. Two children from each of the ten primary schools in the Trust (Ainderby Steeple, Barton, Croft, East Cowton, Eppeby Forcett, Kirby Fleetham, Middleton Tyas, Ravensworth, Richmond CE and South Otterington) got together on Tuesday afternoon and worked together with Headteachers and our CEO, Damian Chubb to write a Trust Prayer and unpick what our motto, "Together for Excellence" means to the children. Jenna Rushforth and Zak Penrose from Ravensworth and Katie Mulreany and Ryan Wool from Barton were amazing ambassadors and are looking forward to leading a Collective Worship in both schools to share the work of the 'Young Directors' with all of our children. Thank you Jenna, Katie, Zak and Ryan – you were the very best you could be! Mr Chubb sent them a very special message:

"Please can you pass on to your Young Directors how much I enjoyed their first meeting at East Cowton today. The children were a credit to each of their schools and indeed the Trust and I was very impressed with the manner in which they got involved and undertook the tasks presented by Mrs Dudman. I look forward to seeing the outcome of their suggestions for the Primary Trust prayer; the thoughtfulness with which they completed this task really was quite special."



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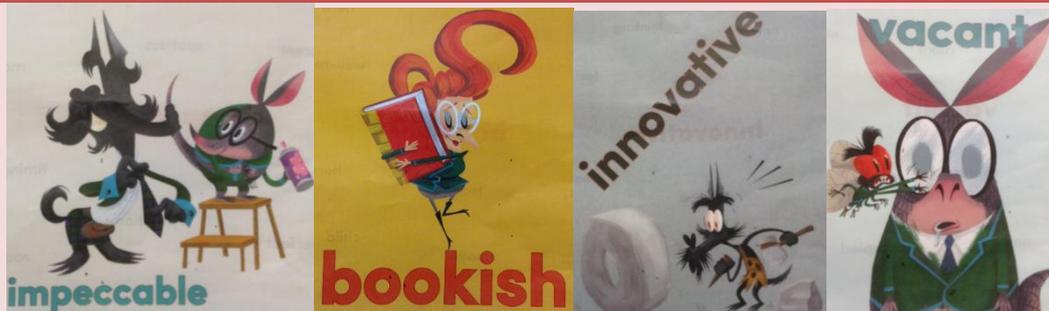
Some children are bringing pots of lip balms to school and sharing them with their friends. We have had some very nasty bugs in school recently, so to avoid spreading germs please can you ensure that children keep lip balms at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Although the minimum age to have an Instagram account is thirteen, I am aware that some of our children in Class 3 have one. It has been brought to my attention that some of our children have had negative experiences on Instagram this week. In school, we will be looking at both the positive and negative impact of social media – Instagram in particular. If your child has an account, please could I ask you to check that it is a private not public account, to check privacy settings, to ensure all location apps are turned off and to unfollow all strangers. Please be aware that during live video chats, all followers can join the chat and that a screen shot can be taken and posted on other social media sites. I have included a link to a parents guide to Instagram below, that I have found useful as a parent of two teenage daughters.

www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/instagram_guide.pdf

We are starting a new programme to increase children's vocabulary using a resource called **Mrs Wordsmith** - this will have a positive impact on children's reading and writing abilities and progress. Every two weeks, four words will be shared in Monday's Collective Worship and on the newsletter and during those next two weeks children will be encouraged to use those words. The words can be used in conversation and in any written work and school staff will be listening and looking out to select their favourite uses to share in Celebration Collective Worship each Friday. This week's words are:

Mrs Wordsmith – Our new Words of the Weeks



Our first four words of the week are: *impeccable*, *bookish*, *innovative* and *vacant*. They fit brilliantly with our school because our children have *impeccable* behaviour and are *bookish* and *innovative* learners although hopefully you won't see a *vacant* expression when you mention the Words of the Weeks! Please keep listening out for children using these both around school and at home.

We hope you will take part at home too!
Kindest regards,

Sharon Stevenson

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Ravensworth

Children celebrating achievements last week were:

Our stars of the week were:

Class 1: Poppy, Edward & all of Year 2

Class 2: Amy & Kimberley

Class 3: Cecelia

The Badger was awarded to: Ethan

The winner of the Sportsmanship Cup was: Robert

Our Carpenters Cup was awarded to: William & Joseph

Pen Licences were awarded to: Caitlin & Alfie Maude

News from Class 1

Class 1 have loved our science topic this term all about materials. We have been exploring different material in and around school. We have been experimenting with the best materials for different purposes and questioning their properties. Why are windows made from glass? Why do we not have cardboard umbrellas? This week I have been amazed with the progress all of the class has made in dance lessons. They are showing resilience, concentration and stamina in balance and movement control!



News from Class 2

Class 2 have been very busy detectives over the last two weeks. We explored Ravensworth village for evidence of the past and special features of our village. Children had excellent observational skills! This week's dance lesson was fantastic. I am so proud of the children. They have created some amazing dance routines and showed excellent team work and dance skills. I struggled to keep up with their warm ups that they made up this week!

News from Class 3

We have been really busy in class 3 over the past two weeks. In maths we have learnt how to use a pair of compasses to draw circles and how to calculate the radius and diameter. Although it was rather frustrating at first, the children tackled the challenge with a positive mindset. We are learning how to write formally in English and when it is appropriate to do so. We hope to showcase our skills in a persuasive letter next week. The rugby tournament at Richmond School last week was a great success; one of our teams came within a whisker of the final. The

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children showed exceptional sportsmanship and a determination to enjoy themselves.



Week commencing Mon 5 th February 2018	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 5 th February	EH *No after school clubs this week*
Tuesday 6 th February	Durham University students in school today Parent's evening 4.30-6.50pm
Wednesday 7 th February	EH PE all classes with Victoria Sellars (am) PE kits needed Rev Kirby for Collective Worship 2.40pm
Thursday 8 th February	Parent's evening 3.30-5.20pm
Friday 9 th February	EH School closes for half term at 3.10pm
Week commencing Mon 12 th February 2018	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 12 th February	Half Term
Tuesday 13 th February	Half Term
Wednesday 14 th February	Half Term
Thursday 15 th February	Half Term
Friday 16 th February	Half Term

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Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	
Tues 20th February	Messy Church 3.15-5.00pm everyone welcome
Wed 21st February	Full Governing Body meeting 6pm
Thurs 22nd February	Year 5 & 6 Science transition at Richmond School – letters to follow
Thurs 8th March	Year 3,4,5 & 6 Cross country event at Richmond school – letters to follow

Letters & communication: We are having a few little issues with the late return of reply slips and consent forms arriving in the office late. This is not because parents are failing to respond but because pupils are not finding them in their bags. Planners are used daily in school and so may we request that if you have anything to return, it is placed inside your child's planner so that it can be easily found and processed. Many thanks for your help.

Parents evenings:- We have now received most of the slips for our forthcoming parents evenings and so staff will be looking at these over the next couple days. The confirmation of your allocated times are being sent home tonight. If you have not yet returned your request slip, and you would like to come along, please let us know your preferred day and time and will endeavour to accommodate your request.

New Dance lessons:- The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy run by Mrs Richmond and her daughters have begun some new lessons 'tiny tutus' ballet classes for children aged 3 –5 years at Richmond Operatics on a Tuesday 4.00-4.45pm and on a Wednesday at Hipswell village hall 4.00-4.45pm. There are many other classes taking place every evening and at weekends, for children and adults – everything from ballet, tap, street to acrobatics & line dancing! The Dance Academy is extremely popular with lots going on, please contact Mrs Richmond or take a look at the facebook page for more information.

Year 6 Health Questionnaires: Reminder letters were issued last week to parents who have not yet returned theirs. The Healthy Child team are asking for them, so please could these be returned urgently. Kirsty Hugill from School Health and Helen McNaughton will be in school on 21st February. Kirsty will be delivering a powerpoint to our Year 6 pupils and Helen will be performing the Reception and Year 6 height and weight checks.

After School Clubs: Just a reminder to everyone that there are no after school clubs next week (week beginning 5th February) as we have parents evenings taking place in school. We will therefore require confirmation from parents of all children who usually travel home by bus or taxi but who would have stayed back for the clubs that it is ok for us to send them home on the bus or taxi each night. This can be done either by sending an e-mail to admin@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk by telephoning the office on 01325 718375 or by sending in a written note. To avoid confusion, may we request that you do not send a message via your child for any end of day arrangements.

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