

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

*Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Stevenson*



**Newsletter**  
*Together, Stronger.*



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Autumn Term Issue 7

**Dear Parents & Carers**

It was lovely to celebrate the start of our journey as part of the Dales Academies Trust with our Barton and Ravensworth school communities and with Bishop Paul and Damian Chubb, CEO. We all enjoyed our buffet lunch and another fabulous celebration cake from Mrs Slack. It was a very special service and I was so proud of all our amazing singing and especially our four year six boy soloists (including Thomas and Robert) and proud of Lucy and Evie Millns, who wrote prayers about joining the academy and who read them aloud so beautifully. Bishop Paul sent an email of thanks and said that he thought we had such 'wonderful young people in our schools'!



The 1<sup>st</sup> December was special for another reason; as the children decorated the Christmas tree that was so kindly donated by Ravensworth Nurseries. It was a very thoughtful time and the children wrote some heartwarming prayers and tied ribbons on the tree to think about and pray for people that are special to them. We tied a special ribbon for Alfie Maude because we are all missing him and hope he gets better very soon. Thank you to the Friends who organised a fantastic Christmas Disco on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – it really was an awesome day!

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The forecast is for wintery weather over the coming days and weeks, so I would just like to reassure you that if it is safe to do so, I will always endeavour to keep the school open. However, if I do need to close the school, I will text parents as close to 7.45am as I can. If you do not receive a text, school will be open. If you need to update your contact details, please do this via the school office.

I am sorry to report that we have had another reported case of headlice in school. Please could you be **extra** vigilant in checking your child's hair and treat accordingly and ensure long hair is tied up as if not, the children will just keep passing these creepy crawlies around each other. Thank you for this.

It was great to see our church so full again at my favourite service in the church's calendar: Christingle. I would like to say a huge thank you to Reverend Antony who led the service and to our Messy Church volunteers who organised the Christingle making and the refreshments. The mulled wine was a real treat on such a cold and windy evening and we managed to raise over seventy nine pounds for the Children's Society. My personal highlight was the children's singing, Lucy, Morgan, Thomas and Robert's solos and the beautiful acapella version of 'Away in a Manger' when the lights were dimmed and the candles were glowing. It was very magical and spiritual.



We are holding a no-questions-asked reading book amnesty! Please could you have a good look at home to see if you have any colour banded reading books, as our shelves are looking a little sparse at the moment. Thank you for your support with this.

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Please could I remind all parents, grandparents and carers to drive carefully when picking children up at the end of the day and **do not** overtake the bus or taxi for any reason. We avoided a 'near miss' on Monday thanks to the vigilance of our staff and our amazing children following instructions quickly and sensibly. Please keep our children safe.

I hope to see you in church or school at one of our Christmas activities: including our Christmas Messy Church at 3.30-5pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, our Class 1 Nativity at 2pm and 6pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December (which promises to be amazing!) or our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12pm, where there will be a Christmas cake raffle. If I don't see you, I would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Kindest regards,

*Sharon Stevenson*

Mrs Sharon Stevenson  
Executive Headteacher

## Ravensworth

**There were no awards this week due to the Academy Celebration Service at Kirby Hill Church last Friday.**

### News from Class 1

We are counting down to Christmas and the nativity play is going well. The children are very excited for the play and Christmas to arrive. We have been writing super adventure stories and comic strips based on superheroes. The children have been exploring and investigating the season changing from Autumn into Winter. They have been asking and researching questions as well as going on a leaf hunt to find out the most common tree in our school grounds. We are looking forward to seeing you at one of the nativity shows either Thursday afternoon or evening.

### News from Class 2

The Christmas fun has begun in class 2 with the advent calendar being opened everyday revealing some lovely artwork and Christmas messages. This has not stopped our hard work though and children have been loving finding out about the history of Ravensworth. It would appear that there is a possibility that Catherine Parr was born in our Castle grounds! We have also been learning legends of the area; the drummer boy legend has caused much excitement. Next week we will be writing our very own legend linked with Ravensworth Castle, so watch this space!

We have also been learning about shapes and the children have made amazing progress developing an understanding of shape properties as well as the new vocabulary. There are some great shape games that children can play on to develop their learning further whilst still having fun. The website is

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<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/shape-position-and-movement>. Please feel free to let your children explore this site.

### News from Class 3

We have been so busy in class three for the last two weeks. The Sports Hall Athletics on Wednesday was great fun. We had practiced some of the more technical events so felt confident that we knew what we were doing. The children represented the school amazingly and I was very proud to be a part of the school. Although we didn't win, we came a very respectable eighth. Our cinema trip yesterday to watch 'Wonder' was a huge success. There wasn't a dry eye in the house (well the staff anyway!). We still haven't quite finished the book so will be working hard to do that over the next two weeks.



Week commencing Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu vaccinations Reception to Year 4 pupils at 1pm for all who registered on line.
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>EH</b> Collaboration visit to The Wizard of Oz panto at The Georgian Theatre 10am performance No PE lessons today
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 1.30pm. Teesdale Mercury photographer will be in attendance. Last Messy Church of the year 3.30pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>EH</b> KS1 Nativity 2pm and again at 6pm all welcome
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear your Christmas jumper in return for a donation to Save the Children
Week commencing Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>EH</b> Class 3 music lessons with Su Evans
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	PE all classes am with Nathan. <b>Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school. Thank you</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>EH</b> No music lessons today Christmas lunch for all parents who have booked & paid via Parentpay.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>EH</b>

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<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Christmas party day, pupils are invited to attend school wearing their party clothes School closes <b>1.30pm</b> for Christmas holidays
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Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	Ravensworth
<b>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Teacher Training Day – school closed
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School re-opens for Spring term 8.30am. PE all classes (am) <b>Full PE kits required</b>

**Christmas event** – there will be a 'welcome to Christmas' event at Barningham on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December in aid of St Michael and All Angels Church from 4 – 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to pop along, there will be carol singing, Christmas tree decoration, mince pies, stalls etc all in aid of St Michael & All Angels Church.

**Christmas lunches** – many thanks to everyone who has booked their Christmas lunches, the deadline for this has now passed and unfortunately, we are unable to accept any more orders. All parents received activation letters for their visitor accounts which gave details of how to merge the accounts with their children's. May we stress that adult meals must be paid on the visitor account and not on the child accounts as adult meals include VAT. All meal orders have been entered onto the Parentpay electronic attendance and accounts will be automatically debited for the meal.

**Pantomime** – all parents were e-mailed a copy of the pantomime letter last week which gave details of the visit which is taking place next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December for the 10.00am performance. We have requested a contribution of £10.50 per child payable via Parentpay to help with the cost of the trip a text message reminder was issued today as we have lots of outstanding replies and payments. We would be grateful if these could be paid by next Monday so that we are sure that we have enough contributions to allow the trip to take place. Pupils will have their lunches when they return to school.

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