

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

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Stevenson



Newsletter
Together, Stronger.



Friday 11th January 2019

Spring Term 1 Issue 1

Dear Parents & Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to school and 'Frozen Lands'. The learning environment is looking fabulous and we are celebrating the launch of our new creative curriculum topic with a competition – who can create the best frozen lands entrance to the classroom...



Class 3



Class 2



Class 1

... and by attempting to walk to the North Pole with our 'Mile a Day' walking challenge! We have walked so far and we'll keep you posted on our progress in the coming weeks!

Don't the decorated doors look fabulous! Well done to everybody, however, Class 2 are the winners as I especially like the snowy lights and information about polar lands – you really have created a magical entrance to your frozen world!!



We have launched 'Class Dojo' this year and you should have already received an invitation to your child's account. Class Dojo allows you to connect directly with your

Barton

Telephone: 01325 377246

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

Ravensworth

Telephone: 01325 718375

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

child's learning and share photos and videos of wonderful moments in the classroom. It creates a positive culture where teachers can encourage positive behaviours, skills and values and share them with you at home. It also gives children a voice where they can showcase and celebrate their learning securely. I hope you enjoy this window into your child's learning journey. Please feel free to comment as the children love to share your positive comments with their friends and teachers.

Last term, school leaders undertook a review of reading that involved pupil and parent questionnaires. Thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire, and as promised, here is an analysis of the results from our Chair of Governors.

Class 2 children (35)

Only 4 children don't enjoy reading, half think they are good readers and the majority are more excited than bored by reading. Books (fiction and non-fiction), and magazines are the most popular with poetry, newspapers and websites a 'no' for over half the children.

Class 3 children (40)

Enjoying reading 'very much' to only 'a bit' had a fairly even spread. The majority think they are 'higher than average' to 'excellent' readers. Half say they are only reading for pleasure 2 or 3 times a month. They say they would read more if they had more time, books were cheaper, had more books and if they were about things they were interested in.

They agree reading is for girls and boys and that reading helps them understand more about themselves, the world, how others live and feel, and that reading is fun, helps them get a job and is a skill for life.

Adults (Approx. 50%)

Approx. half think their children enjoy reading very much with websites, fiction, magazines, comics, factual books, text messaging being the most popular.

Adults favourites are websites, fiction, magazines, newspapers, factual books and of course e mails and text messages. Surprisingly e-books are not a favourite as yet!

The vast majority think the school does enough to encourage children to read for pleasure.

Suggestions/comments

Having discussed these with Mrs Stevenson:-

1) In the next Newsletter each Class will share the Reading routine, including changing books etc.

2) If any adult would like to borrow a book to read to their child at home eg fiction, non fiction please call in at school home time or send a note in their school bag with title/author/subject. Both schools have a wide range of books.

Barton

Telephone: 01325 377246

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

Ravensworth

Telephone: 01325 718375

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

- 3) Children can borrow any book to take home along with their individual reading book. If you would like a book on a particular topic just let staff know via your child's planner.
- 4) Has anyone got any comics/children's magazines to donate to the school.
- 5) Mrs Stevenson will arrange a Reading Information Evening for later this year.
- 6) The schools will purchase new reading material which takes account of children's views.

Barbara Whittle(Chair of Governors)

It's new words of the week time:

Words of the Weeks:



Our first set of words for 2019 are perfect for describing the frozen lands we might find in our new whole-school topic: rugged, steep, the summit and crevasse.

Finally, don't forget to read each class' news section as staff have shared this term's classroom routines.

Please remember, we operate an open-door policy. Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance and for any further support, please do not hesitate to contact me, via the school office on 01325 718375 or email admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org.

Have a lovely weekend!

Sharon Stevenson

Mrs Sharon Stevenson
Executive Headteacher.

News from Class 1:

I would just like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year! It has been a busy start to the new year (already) and I am so impressed with how well Class One have worked. They all have superb attitudes to their learning! Our topic this term is 'Frozen Lands' and we were launched right into the topic with a very exciting letter from a Polar explorer. We were lucky enough to receive a box filled with lots of polar explorers' items which we were able to investigate and explore! It was lovely to see the children so engaged and working alongside one another to explore the contents of the box.

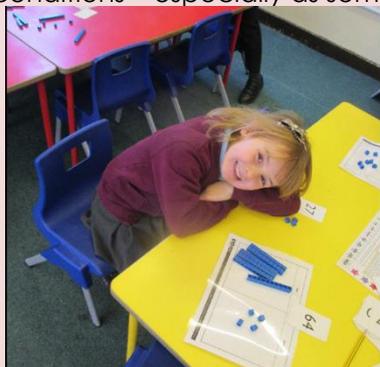
Not only have we started to explore our Frozen Lands topic, but we have also been talking about our New Years' Resolutions and thinking about goals that we might like to set ourselves this year – we have had some wonderful discussions regarding our goals and the children have impressed me with how mature they can be. In Maths, the Year 1s have been doing some wonderful place value work using lots of different resources whilst reception have been exploring numbers from 1-20.

In Class One, we have introduced a new system that gives children the opportunity to choose which story we read on an afternoon – it has proved very popular and our children love having the opportunity to vote for their favourite story! We have also introduced a new reading corner which the children are loving – they are able to choose a reading book and sit on the cushions underneath the snowy roof to read their book.

The children also take part in 3 guided reading sessions per week. Mrs C Stanwix and I each read with a group every morning as this allows us to hear all children read throughout the week. If the children are not reading with an adult, they are encouraged to read independently and/or to complete activities related to the books that they have read. We check children's planners on an afternoon to see that the children are reading regularly at home – once books are complete, the children are given the opportunity to change them. On a Tuesday afternoon, there is also an opportunity for the children to change their school library books when a team of parent helpers are there to assist.

If you haven't already received an invitation to your child's Class Dojo account, please let us know. It is a new system that allows us to connect directly with parents and consequently publish some of the fantastic work that our children are doing in class!

Just a gentle reminder that PE is on a Tuesday this term and that all children will need their PE kits along with a suitable pair of shoes to change into. Can I please remind you to send children in with their coats, hats, gloves etc. so that we are prepared for all weather conditions – especially as some of our learning takes place outdoors.



Barton

Telephone: 01325 377246

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

Ravensworth

Telephone: 01325 718375

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

News from Class 2

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2019 is a good one and full of love, which is our school value this term. Our topic of Frozen Lands is well underway with children building homes to keep their ice pets frozen! We had some amazing little houses which I hope you will be able to see on our class Dojo. We have also started our adventure to see if we can collectively walk to the Arctic Circle and even get to the North Pole. We hope that all children will walk at least half a mile, however some have really risen to the challenge and are completing 2 or even 3 miles a day! This will happen at the start of every day and during playtimes.

Outdoor PE will be on Tuesday and will be Tag Rugby this term. Please remind your children to bring in warm clothes and trainers that can get dirty as we will usually be working on the school field. On a Wednesday, morning children will be doing gymnastics and so will require indoor PE kit for this.

Class 2 children really enjoy reading and I have loved seeing them getting stuck into the reading books that Father Christmas has delivered. In Class 2, children read daily for half an hour during guided read. At this time, they all have opportunity to change reading books. I read with a group each day and over the period of a week manage to get through the whole class. During guided read, I look at planners and check to see that children are reading regularly. Please ensure your child's planner is in school daily for this to happen. On a Tuesday afternoon there is an opportunity for children to change school library books. Please have a check at home for any school library or reading books and send them in if you find any spare.



News from Class 3

What a busy start to the new year in Class 3! We have thrown ourselves into our new 'Frozen Lands' topic and enjoyed maths challenges based on the amazing book '365 penguins'. Our new novel is Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone and it is set in a magical place where the sun shines all day in the summer. The children's English work is based on this and they have kept up the high standard of writing they were producing at the end of last term; I've been really impressed. Our PE this term will be Tag Rugby and Gymnastics which will take place on a Wednesday (Gym) and a Thursday (Rugby). Please make sure the children have warm kit to wear outside on a Thursday. Guided Reading happens daily so the children will read with me once a week and then have some independent work based on the book to follow up the next day. For the other three days, the children read their own reading books. In Class 3 the children are encouraged to choose age appropriate books that will challenge them. Sometimes I guide them with this to make suitable choices. Many of the children had books for Christmas and it is lovely seeing them in school engrossed in their new books. Children change their book when they have finished (this may be less often in Class 3 than in other classes as they are reading much

Barton

Telephone: 01325 377246

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

Ravensworth

Telephone: 01325 718375

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

longer books). Children may choose books from our library on a weekly basis - usually Tuesday PM when a team of parent helpers are available to assist them. We hope you've enjoyed the photos on Classdojo. Thank you to all of the parents who have already signed up; we are loving sharing work with you. If you haven't yet signed up, please do so as you are missing a real treat!

Week commencing 14 th January 2019	EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 14 th January	EH
Tuesday 15 th January	Class 3 Music lessons with Sue Evans 1pm
Wednesday 16 th January	EH Lunchtime Tag Rugby club classes 2 & 3 After school fitness club 3.15-4.15pm all pupils who have returned their consent slips.
Thursday 17 th January	School census day
Friday 18 th January	EH
Week commencing 21 st January 2019	EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 21 st January	
Tuesday 22 nd January	EH Class 3 Music lesson with Sue Evans
Wednesday 23 rd January	Lunchtime Tag Rugby club Classes 2 & 3 After School fitness club 3.15-4.15pm all pupils. Please return consent forms if not already done so. School Friends AGM at Smallways Inn 7pm – everyone welcome.
Thursday 24 th January	EH
Friday 25 th January	

Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	
Tues 12 th Feb	Messy Church 3.15-5.00pm - everyone welcome
Wed 13 th Feb	Skip2 B fit day – details to follow
Tues 19 th Feb	Parent's evening 4.30 - 6.50pm - letters to follow
Thurs 21 st Feb	Parent's evening 3.30-5.20pm - letters to follow

School Census Day – Thursday 17th January is headcount day for all schools. This is a very important day because the data provided to the DFE determines the amount of funding that our school will receive and so it is very important that we provide the correct information. One of the areas that increases our funding per pupil is free school meals and this is where parental assistance would be appreciated. If your family's annual income is under £16,190 per year and you are currently in receipt of Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit), Income Support, Income-based job Seeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment Support and Support Allowance, you should be entitled to free school meals for your child. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and currently receiving Universal free school meals, please could we encourage you to also apply for income related free school meals. Any child whose family is in receipt of income-based free school meals is also then entitled to free milk. We have application forms in the

Barton
Telephone: 01325 377246
Email: admin@barton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Ravensworth
Telephone: 01325 718375
Email: admin@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk

office, please feel free to ask if you require one. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Following on from the above regarding meals, may we encourage all pupils to have a school lunch on Thursday 17th January as this will help us to achieve the maximum funding available. The meal on this day will be chicken Korma curry with rice & veg with a pudding and custard for dessert.

Just before Christmas the Spring 2019 menu was e-mailed to everyone, if your child regularly has a packed lunch and there are meals on the menu that they would enjoy, they are welcome to have a school lunch on their chosen days, this is not a problem. As the weather turns colder, it's good to have a hot meal to keep them going until the end of the school day!

Bus list:- As we begin a new term, if your end of day arrangements have changed and there are days where your child is definitely not on the bus at the end of the school day, please could you let us know so that we can ensure that the lists are up to date. Many thanks.

Contact numbers:- Did santa bring you a new mobile phone and have you changed your number or any other contact details? Mrs Richmond is currently updating our databases so please let her know if you have any amendments to make. Especially mobile phone numbers so that any text messages sent from us are received.

Medication & Inhalers:- If your child regularly requires an inhaler, please ensure that we have a completed authorisation form and an up to date inhaler in school. If any medication is prescribed by your doctor, wherever possible please try to administer this at home. If this is not possible, we are only able to administer it if it is accompanied by a fully completed Parental Consent Form. All forms are available from the school office.

Parentpay:- A text message reminder was issued to all parents asking them to check that their Parentpay accounts are in credit and up to date. Please check **all** payment items that are available – pupil lunches, visitor lunches, milk, juice, breakfast & after school care, trips, etc etc. Thank you all in advance.

After School Club:- We have an after school fitness club beginning next Wednesday 16th January. If your child would like to be included and you have not yet returned the consent form, please could this be returned on Monday so that we can prepare the attendance registers.

Barton
Telephone: 01325 377246
Email: admin@barton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Ravensworth
Telephone: 01325 718375
Email: admin@ravensworth.n-yorks.sch.uk