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Friday 14th September 2018

Autumn Term 1 Issue 1

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Dear Parents & Carers

A huge welcome back to school for everyone here at Ravensworth and a very special welcome to our new starters: Millen, Oliver, Nathan, Sebastian, Kit, Thomas, Dexter and George. We also welcome Ms Nadja Lawrence, working in Class 1 and Mr Ben Connell, a student teacher, who will be with us this year and working primarily in Class 2. 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 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 "Who do you think you are?". We have dived straight into learning here at Ravensworth: Class 3 have already had their first violin and cello lessons and Mrs Tracey Kirby (an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant from Barton) will be joining our team every Friday afternoon to continue teaching French to Class 2 and Class 3. Our school value for this half term is, 'HOPE', we have looked at our Hopes for the new school year and what we are going to do to achieve them. My HOPE for the school year is to be much fitter and healthier and I 'hope' to achieve it by eating healthy and doing lots of swimming. Nathan, from Class 1 is already checking to see if I've been swimming since he last saw me! I wonder what your hope for this year is?

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.

### **Wrap Around Care**

I am delighted to confirm that Ravensworth School can now offer wrap-around care, delivered by our dedicated staff team. Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am - 8.30am with a choice of cereals, toast, fruit, milk and juice. The cost is five pounds per session and is led by Mrs Godfrey.

Mrs Hull leads our After School Club from 3.15pm - 5.30pm at a cost of five pounds per hour or part thereof. Mrs Hull has planned a wide variety of clubs to meet the interests of the children. Children will be required to bring their own healthy snack to after school club. As we are a cashless school, all payments will be required through

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Parentpay. The payment facility for wrap around care has been added to the Parentpay system.

Please contact Mrs Richmond, in the school office to book your child's place.

### **Extra curricular activities**

We are pleased to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities at Ravensworth School. This term our staff-led clubs will take place from 12.30 - 1.00 on a lunch time. Activities include:

Tuesday 12.30 - 1.00 **LEGO Club** - All children **Mrs Petch**

Wednesday 12.30 - 1.00 **Sports Club** - whole school Richmond Sports Club Coach

Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15 **Multiskills - Class 2 and 3** school Richmond Sports Club Coach

Wednesday 12.30 - 1.00 **Homework Club** – all children – **Miss Crisp**

Thursday 12.30 - 1.00 **Science** – All children Mrs Amy Dobinson

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

### **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 plimsoles 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. 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!

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## Correspondance

The newsletter and other correspondence will be forwarded by email and 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. Mrs Richmond's new email address is: [admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org](mailto:admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org) and my new email address is [ehtbar@dalesmat.org](mailto:ehtbar@dalesmat.org)

## Collective Worship

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

## 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.

## 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 has been e-mailed to all parents and is also on the website for your information.

## 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**. If you require an earlier drop off, please book your child into Breakfast Club.

## End of the day

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During the summer break, the Parish council have kindly funded the resurfacing of the track at the bottom of the green. Unfortunately, the road was damaged on our first day back to school, so please could I ask your support to drive with care and keep off the grass verge to maintain the road surface and the green.

## Words of the Week

It's new **'Words of the Week'** time! Every two weeks, four words will be shared in Monday's Collective Worship 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 Worship each Friday. We hope you will take part at home too!

### Words of the Weeks:



**The first Words of the Weeks for our new school year are all about hopeful and happy feelings. They are: *Idealistic, Gleeful, Promising* and *Lighthearted*. All perfect for describing how I felt when I saw all of our amazing children returning to Ravensworth this week.**

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.

Kindest regards,

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Sharon Stevenson

Mrs Sharon Stevenson  
Executive Headteacher

**Children celebrating achievements last week:**

**Our stars of the week were:**

**Class 1: The whole of Class 1**

**Class 2: Elliot & William**

**Class 3: Toby, Mary & Will**

**The Badger was awarded to: Toby Antoncich**

**The winner of the Sportsmanship Cup was:**

**Our Carpenters Cup was awarded to: Emily T**

**News from Class 1**

The year has started beautifully, and we welcome all our new Reception children Millen, Dexter, Nathan, Thomas, Sebastian, Oliver, George and Kit. The children have loved starting our new topic 'Who do you think you are?' with them sharing their understanding of belonging and family portraits. Our PE this term will be on a Tuesday and we are starting with multi-skills. Homework will be sent home on a Friday and needs to be back in school by the following Thursday. This will usually consist of spellings and a Maths or English task based upon their learning that week (sometimes a research task to support the following weeks learning).

**News from Class 2**

What a great start to the year! Class 2 children have really impressed me with their excellent attitude to learning in all areas. Our topic this term is 'Who do you think you are' and will be all about learning about our families and where we live. PE will be on Tuesdays and Fridays and children will need warm outdoor PE kit on these days. We will be learning about netball and football skills. As always, I will give children homework on a Friday and ask that it is handed in on the following Wednesday to give me time to mark it. If children are struggling to complete homework, they are welcome to join me on a Wednesday lunch time where I can support them with this learning.

**News from Class 3**

We have had a wonderfully calm start to the year in class 3; the children are positive and happy to be back. As part of our topic on local history we are focussing on Richmond Castle. We have begun by looking at the Bayeux Tapestry for clues and investigating how castles are defended. Our PE this term will be on a Wednesday and we are starting with football and netball. Homework will be sent home on a Friday and needs to be back in school by Wednesday. This will usually consist of spelling, maths and some English.

<b>Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	<b>EH = Executive Head in school</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>EH</b> Sue Evans- Music lessons for Class 3 (pm)
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Lunchtime sports club 12.30 - 1.00pm open to all pupils

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	Lunch time sports club 12.30 - 1pm all pupils welcome After school club – multi-skills 3.15-4.15pm class 2 & 3 pupils.
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>EH</b> Richmond School Open evening 6.00pm and 7.00pm (2 sessions). Parents of Year 5 & 6 are all invited.
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	Jeans for Genes day. Wear your jeans or own clothes for a donation to charity.
<b>Week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	<b>EH = Executive Head in School</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>EH</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Sue Evans – Music lessons for Class 3 (pm)
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>EH</b> Lunchtime sports club 12.30 - 1.00pm open to all pupils After school club – multi-skills 3.15 - 4.15pm class 2 & 3 pupils
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	St Francis Xavier Open Evening for Year 6 pupils doors open at 6.30pm
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>EH</b>

<b>Future Dates</b> More details will usually follow but information for your diary	
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Messy church 3.15 - 5.00pm. Everyone welcome
<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	St Francis Xavier School Year 6 Open Evening doors open at 6.30pm
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Messy Church 3.15-5.00pm
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b>	Tempest Photography for Individual photographs
<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Flu Vaccinations Reception – Year 5 pupils 1.00pm
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Messy Church 3.15-5.00pm
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas nativity 2pm & 6pm – details to follow
<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Proposed theatre trip to Darlington Hippodrome Panto Aladdin
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas lunch
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Party

**Messy Church:-** Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no Messy Church on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**Contacting Mrs Richmond in the office:-** we now have a new school admin e-mail address which is [admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org](mailto:admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org) for the time being e-mails to the old address are being forwarded, however, moving forward, please could we ask all parents to make a note of our new e-mail for future messages. All e-mails from parents receive an acknowledgement. Admin staff are required to attend training and so if you do not receive a reply to your e-mail, please telephone us, Mrs Richmond is available in the office from 9.00am to 1.30pm every day to answer telephone calls and e-mails. In order to guarantee that messages are received, we would appreciate it if these are received before 1.30pm.

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There is an answerphone available at all other times – messages are checked regularly by staff. Any changes to end of day bus arrangements please telephone these through **before 1.00pm**, it is important not to advise staff verbally when they are on duty in the playground as they go straight into class and may forget to pass on the message. Many thanks.

**Parentpay:-** Thank you to everyone who has visited Parentpay to credit lunch, milk and juice accounts. There are still some accounts which require payments, may we please ask that these are credited this week. All accounts must be kept in credit and this is particularly important for lunch accounts which can quickly run into debt. This causes problems for our small school budget as we are automatically charged for each individual meal. There is an option on Parentpay for parents to tick a box asking for a text message from Parentpay when balances are low, this is an ideal reminder and highly recommended! We are aware that there is a teething issue with Universal Free School meals and so the accounts of pupils in Reception, Year1 and Year 2 may be showing that they owe 60p a day – this will be corrected very soon, please ignore it.

**Buses & Taxi's :-** If your child has a day or days when they will regularly be collected from school rather than going home on the bus or taxi, please advise us and we will amend our bus list so that there is no need to remember to ring us.

**Jeans for Genes Day:-** On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September we would like to invite all pupils to come to school wearing either their jeans or non-uniform for a suggested minimum donation of £1.00 to the jeans for genes charity which is in aid of children and adults who suffer from cystic fibrosis. This is a very worthwhile charity which we support every year, we welcome your donations.

**Medication & Inhalers:-** The season of coughs, colds & sneezes is fast approaching. If your child uses an inhaler or has any prescribed medication which needs to be administered at lunchtime we have consent forms which must be completed and signed by parents in order for the medication to be given. Please try wherever possible to avoid sending any medicines to school by timing the dosage given at home. If medication has to be sent to school, it is kept in our locked medicine cabinet and must never be stored in children's bags in the cloakrooms. Please send all items to the office for safe keeping. Inhalers are kept in safe cupboards in classrooms so that they are easily accessible.

**Flu immunisations:-** Letters to all parents of pupils in Reception to Year 5 have been issued inviting them to apply for the flu immunisation for their child. Following a change in the registration process, there have been some areas of confusion over the past couple of years. If you would like your child/children to be immunised, the procedure is to register on line at [www.hdff.nhs.uk/flu-consent](http://www.hdff.nhs.uk/flu-consent) NHS staff are visiting our school to deliver the immunisations on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm. Only the children who have been registered on line will be immunised, please register early so that NHS staff have enough of the vaccine with them.

**New Data Protection (GDPR) regulations 2018:-** Many of you will by now of heard of the new Data Protection Regulations that came into force in May this year. By law, we have to inform parents of the type of data that we hold as a school relating to your children. We have e-mailed a copy of our new Privacy notice and in the next week or so all parents will receive a printed copy of the information that we currently hold on our database. Once you have

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received the information, please check that all details are correct, sign and date the bottom of the document and return it to us the following day. We will then amend our records. Please pay particular attention to mobile number and e-mail addresses so that we have these correct on our system.

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