



Friday 5th May 2017

Spring Term 2 Issue 1

Dear Parents & Carers,

A warm welcome back to school, especially to Mrs Amy Dobinson, who has had an amazing start to the term and already she feels part of our Ravensworth family. Mrs Dobinson is really looking forward to improving Class 1's outdoor area over the coming weeks. Mrs Dobinson, Mrs Stanwix and I cannot believe how hard the children in class 1 are working and how settled they are.

SATS season is upon us and I would just like to let you know how proud I am on our Year Six children who have worked their socks off and tackled SATS preparation with maturity and a really positive attitude. Thank you to Miss Yarrow, who has ensured that the children are well prepared to do their very very best next week. I am sure you will join me in wishing them good luck as they tackle reading comprehension on Monday 8th, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling on Tuesday, Arithmetic paper 1 and maths paper 2 on Wednesday and Maths Paper 3 on Thursday. Have fun, get lots of sleep and relax this weekend – you are ready for the challenge ahead! Good luck Year 6 – I know you will do your best to make your parents and us very proud.

Our Year 2 children will also be taking their KS1 statutory assessments throughout the month of May and our Year 1's will be taking their phonics screening test during the week beginning 12th June. They will probably not realise they have taken them as they are carried out in a much more relaxed, less formal and low-key way (as it should be!). I am sure they will work hard and impress us all!

Since returning to school after Easter, we have already had three visitors from the Local Authority and they were all very impressed with the children's behaviour and how safe, happy and articulate they were. Amy Calvert impressed one visitor when she told them that now she was seven she could ride her bike without stabilisers. When asked how she did this, she said, "The first time was tricky, but I used my balancing skills and my Growth Mindset and now I can do it!" Bridget Watt, our School Improvement Adviser was also delighted to see the excellent progress that all children had made during the Spring Term. I would like to say well done to our amazing children (who make me proud every day) and to our fabulous staff team.

It was so lovely to see so many parents and friends in school on the run up to Easter and our Easter Praise was exceptional. I was brought to tears by the choirs' beautiful singing and I was blown away with Eve Cooper's piano playing and singing. I have to say thank you to every single one of the choir but especially to Clara and Mrs Stanwix – you kept everyone on track! Reverend Anthony has asked if the choir can attend a Sunday Service to share the awe and wonder! More details to follow...

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Ava was stoic in her role as Jesus and I don't know how she managed to carry the cross up the hill to church. She was amazing! I must say thank you to Mr Dawson for crafting our wonderful Ravensworth cross – we are going to make carrying the cross part of our pilgrimage to church now!



As part of the Olympic legacy, our school receives a Sports Premium Grant and a significant proportion of the funding has been allocated to providing transport and access to sports beyond the school. We have a policy of trying to ensure that all pupils get the chance to partake in competitive sports, rather than just selecting competitive teams. We turn our small cohort numbers into a strength for this, and have attended a number of tournaments taking a whole class and fielding multiple teams, rather than just selecting a 'first XI' etc. Obviously, it is still important to convey that sports are competitive, and therefore we do sometimes select 'A' and 'B' teams etc. according to the event. Grant funding has allowed us to access more events than in the past, combating rural isolation through paying for transportation. The majority of our children love to take part and gain so much from these activities. Children are learning vital life skills and key skills such as teamwork, communication and compromise through their PE. Children are increasingly gaining confidence through participating in sports, and this helps in a classroom environment and in their learning. Teachers draw on children's positive experiences of sport and PE to build on in lessons. Cross curricular links are also made in sport (e.g. Maths – measuring distances / Science – understanding cardio-vascular development / Music – through dance etc.), further raising standards in these subjects.

Recently, however, I have been disappointed at the number of children choosing to opt out of cluster sporting events and I would be really grateful if you could encourage your child to take part. These events are not optional; they are part of the PE curriculum, therefore in the future all children will take part. In line with our Educational

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Visits policy we will still require your consent to transport the children to and from the event.



Skip 2 B Fit, that the children- and some parents - took part in on the last day of term, is one of the activities that is funded through the Sport Premium Grant that the children (and rather competitive staff!!!!) really enjoy!

Easter Messy Church was a great success on Tuesday and very well attended. I for one, thoroughly enjoyed myself. It would be lovely if you could support the Messy Church team on Sunday 25th June, 2pm-3pm at Dalton Village Hall.



And finally... Congratulations to Morgan who took part in her first ever Hunter Trial competition. Conditions were boggy & wet and the competition stiff, but in true Morgan form she gave it her best, and Max and her came 2nd in the 65cm pairs competition... and she looked the part too!



Kindest regards,

Sharon Stevenson

Mrs Sharon Stevenson

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Children celebrating achievements this week:

Our stars of the week are:

Class 1: Poppy and Samuel

Class 2: Alex and Will

Class 3: The whole of class 3 for excellent sportsmanship and behaviour at the cricket tournament.

The Badger has been awarded to: Ruby

The winner of the Sportsmanship Cup is: Seb

Our Carpenters Cup is awarded to: Ralph

News from Class 1

In class 1 we have had a great start to this term full of investigations and exploring. We have been investigating seeds and plants in our new indoor investigation area. In the outdoor area we have been planting in our garden and searching for summer wildlife.

I would like to let parents know that opportunities for their child to share experiences, creations and achievements from home will be held on a Monday. To ensure everyone is given this opportunity, we will choose two children on Friday who will share on the Monday. The WOW moments will continue to be shared as and when they happen.

Class 1 are looking forward to creating their own garden centre this term.

News from Class 2

I must start this term by saying how proud I was (and always am) of class 2 children during the Easter service. They led it brilliantly and were amazing throughout. The last week of term was so incredibly busy; with skip to be fit, the trip to the life centre and the Easter service, yet the children never failed to behave at a high standard and continue to demonstrate our school values at all times. Well done!

This term's topic is the 'Wild, wild west' and children will be learning about America. Over the next 2 weeks they will be learning about recipes and these will be linked to our topic. You might want to look at recipes at home with the children and maybe (if you have time) even do some baking to link with this. We will be learning about fractions over the next few weeks so practising their tables would really assist with this.

Class 2 are very excited about the cricket tournament tomorrow and I am hoping the weather will continue to be kind.

News from Class 3



Two weeks into term already! Class 3 continue to show me what they are capable of: excellent behaviour and attitude during the busy end to last term; sportsmanship and collaboration during last week's cricket tournament at Richmond Cricket club; working hard and striving to do their best in lessons; always coming to school with a positive attitude and a smiling face. I would also like to say a big thanks to all the children who made a supreme effort to complete the Wild Wild West holiday homework. Our classroom is looking fantastic with the all the models, landscapes, dream catchers and totem poles. We nearly had to remove a few ceiling tiles to fit in the Totem Pole made by Thomas! We will use some of the models later in the topic and they really bring the learning to life. In Maths Years 4 and 5 have been working hard on area and perimeter, and in English we are busy writing play scripts.

Of course next week is SATS week, and I know I can speak for Miss Yarrow in saying how proud we are of the efforts currently being made by Year 6. They are working incredibly hard at the moment and I know that next week they will show us just what they are capable of.

Week commencing 8 th May 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 8 th May	Year 6 Sat's week
Tuesday 9 th May	EH
Wednesday 10 th May	No class 3 music lessons or PE as it is Sat's week. Rev Kirby for collective worship 2.40pm
Thursday 11 th May	EH Year 3-6 swimming lessons 1.30-2.30pm
Friday 12 th May	
Week commencing 15 th May 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 15 th May	
Tuesday 16 th May	EH
Wednesday 17 th May	Class 3 music lessons am PE all classes am
Thursday 18 th May	Year 3-6 swimming lessons 1.30-2.30pm
Friday 19 th May	

Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	Ravensworth
Mon 22nd May	Tempest Photography for group class photos 1pm
Tues 23rd May	Dental checks for 5 year olds 10.00am (re-scheduled) Messy Church 3.30 - 5pm everyone welcome
Wed 14th June	Music event at Richmond School – wider opportunities. Individual letters to follow
Sun 25th June	Messy Church Family Service. Dalton Village Hall. Time tbc
Tues 4th July	Year 6 Leaver's Service at Ripon Cathedral 1.30pm - letters to follow

School Friends Band Night: On Saturday 13th May, our School Friends are holding a Band Night at Newsham Village Hall from 7.30pm till late featuring live music, a disco and a bar. There will also be a fish and chip van from 8pm. Tickets are £5 each from either Mrs Metcalfe on 07967655204, Mrs Antoncich on 07837406957, or Mrs Hegarty on 07802782052. This is a popular event and raises much needed funds for all pupils at our school so please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Payments: Thank you to everyone who has recently visited Parentpay to credit their children's accounts. Unfortunately, we still have a few parents who are regularly late with payments which is creating problems for Mrs Richmond having to keep checking accounts and sending repeat reminders. Non-payment affects our school budget as invoices are often paid on your behalf before we have received your payments which creates a deficit in our already tight budget. Many thanks in advance for your assistance.

School uniform and footwear: We have noticed that a number of pupils have begun attending school in trainers and open toe summer sandals. May we request that all pupils wear proper school shoes. Many injuries are caused to children's feet when they are wearing sandals and so for safety reasons, please wear proper school shoes. Thank you

Muddy Monkey's Obstacle Course: School Friends are holding a children's Muddy Monkeys Obstacle course at Duns Bank Farm just off A66 at The Fox Hall Inn on Sunday 21st May. Letters have been issued today, please ensure that your registration form is received at school by next Tuesday 9th May.

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