

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

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Stevenson



Newsletter  
Together, Stronger.



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13th January 2017

Spring Term 2017 Issue 01

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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome back! Happy new year to all; I do hope that you had a great time with the children over Christmas because we are having a great time with them now that we are back to school. We would like to say a huge Ravensworth welcome to Alfie Pinder in Year 2 who joined us just before Christmas and to Fae Knight in Year 5 who joined our team on Monday. I am sure you will all make them feel very welcome in our school and community.

The children have 'jumped' right into their learning all about "Go with the Flow" which was kick-started by a fabulous bridge-building day, organised by Mr Roper, where the children were given a budget for paper and sticky tape and worked in teams to design, build and test the strongest bridge. Jenna Rushforth said that she had, had the best day in school – *EVER!*

As well as our learning in our "Go with the Flow" topic, we are also giving the children opportunities to work with high quality sports teachers this half term: Class 1, 2 and 3 are working with a specialist PE teacher from Richmond School who will be teaching Class 1 Multiskills and Class 2 and 3 Hockey; and an ambassador from Middlesbrough Football Club will be delivering the Sport, Move and Learn project in Class 3 which aims to encourage physical activity, promote nutritional education and build awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and active lifestyle. Over the next six weeks, starting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, Year 4/5/6 children will spend 45 minutes completing a practical session on football, handball and dodgeball (2 weeks per sport). They will then spend 45 minutes in the classroom covering six different topics related to the body, nutrition, the importance of exercise and information about food groups, in line with the recommendations outlined in the Government's eatwell plate.

It is my vision for the school to be able to provide a wider variety of extra curricular clubs and activities based on what our parents and children would like to do. Please could you complete the questionnaire that went home this week and return it to school as soon as possible. Then Mrs Richmond is going to collate all of the responses and we can get activities organised as soon as possible. If you have a little bit of time and a special talent, or you know someone in our community who has, and think you might be able to offer a club for half a term or even longer, please get in touch with Mrs Richmond – we would love to hear all about it.

I will always endeavour to keep the school open in times of inclement weather, including snow. However if I do have to close the school, parents will be notified by

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text message as soon as possible. If we do have a lovely snowy day, we will grab the opportunity to take the children out and play in the fresh snow – so it would be great if you could send your child/children into school with wellies, warm coats, hats and gloves and an extra pair of socks and trousers/skirt and tights to change into just in case they get a little bit wet!

Finally, we love our sport in Ravensworth and it is great to celebrate the sporting achievements of our wonderful children. Thomas Smith achieved a Personal Best in every race in his Richmond Swimming Club Gala. A huge well done for coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in 200 M Freestyle - 3:01.57, 1<sup>st</sup> place in 50M Backstroke - 45.98 and 1st place, in 50M Breaststroke - 53.16 and 1<sup>st</sup> place in 100M Freestyle - 1:25.79 WOW! (it must've been those new racing shorts that he got for Christmas!!!). Congratulations Thomas, we are all very proud of you!

Kindest regards,

*Sharon Stevenson*

Mrs Sharon Stevenson  
Executive Headteacher

## Ravensworth

### Children celebrating achievements this week:

#### Our stars of the week are:

**Class 1: Bertie Morris, Harry Willis and William Cooper**

**Class 2: Zak Penrose, Toby Antoncich and Will Hegarty**

**Class 3: Thomas Smith**

**The Badger has been awarded to: Fraser Proudlock**

**The winner of the Sportsmanship Cup is: Emmaly Smith**

**Our Carpenters Cup is awarded to: Evie Walker**

#### News from Class 1

A very happy new year to you all. I hope you are enjoying 2017 so far. The children came back raring to go and have been very busy already!

Last week we began to look at positional language and had a walk around the school grounds thinking about what we could see on our left and right. The children will be able to show you the trick to remembering their left and right! I was so impressed with the maps the children produced of our walk and the way they all worked so well with their partners. It was lovely to see.

The children had their first taste of yoga to strengthen their bodies and calm their minds and persevered with the positions throwing themselves into the session with enthusiasm and effort. What a super class! The apparatus was also a big hit!

This week we have continued to focus on positional and movement language during maths. The children particularly enjoyed climbing under the chairs and tables and found it hilarious that I let them sit on the tables...just this once!!

In English we have been reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have drawn story maps and written lists of items they might need if they were going on

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a bear hunt. They have loved watching Michael Rosen telling the story and joining in with the actions. (You can find this on YouTube, celebrating 25 years of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.)

Please could you help us replenish our junk modelling supply? The children are extremely creative and love to build using a variety of materials but we are almost out of these! Cereal and toothpaste boxes, yoghurt pots, kitchen roll tubes etc. would be ideal! Many thanks for your continued support.



### News from Class 2

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely holiday. I must admit, Christmas is far more exciting with little people around! Class 2 are already in the thick of learning in all areas. The children really impressed me with their learning about bridges on Monday where they confidently worked alongside Class 3 children to design and build bridges. In English, they are currently writing adventure stories as well as learning about different types of measures in maths. Just a quick reminder; when you read with your child, please can you record it in their planners so I can give them lots of praise.



### News from Class 3

Class 3 have had a great start to 2017 working extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum. They completed a bridge building day where they excelled not only at designing and making bridges, but at working in teams and supporting younger children. Henry, Jenna and Cecelia worked really hard with Rose and Kimberley to win the company of the year award. It was really lovely to see them all getting along.



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Week commencing 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	EH
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pm Class 3 Sport, Move and Learn Project
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	EH Morning PE. Multi-skills for Class 1, Hockey for Classes 2 & 3. Class 3 music lessons with Mrs Sue Evans.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Week commencing 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017	Ravensworth EH = Executive Head in School
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	EH
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pm Class 3 Sport, Move and Learn Project
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning PE. Multi-skills for Class 1, Hockey for Classes 2 & 3. Class 3 music lessons with Mrs Sue Evans.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	EH
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	

Future Dates More details will usually follow but information for your diary	Ravensworth
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Meeting of Ravensworth School Friends Association</b> 7pm at the Rokeby Inn. Everybody is welcome to come along.
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Parents Information Evening about Statutory Assessment in 2017</b> <b>5pm</b> for parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 – parents of children in Reception are welcome to attend. <b>6pm</b> for parents of children in Year 6
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Class 3 visit to High Force</b> Class 3 will join 'forces' with Class 3 from Barton to visit High Force as part of our creative curriculum topic, "Go with the Flow".
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Friends Race Night 7pm</b> Come along and have fun at the Friends Race Night at Newsham village hall and raise valuable funds for the children. Tickets cost £3.50 and include a pie and pea supper.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>School closes for half term – 3.10pm</b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>School re-opens – 8.20am</b>

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### **Parents Information Evening about Statutory Assessment in 2017 – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

If you have a child in Year 1, Year 2 or Year 6 they will be taking part in statutory assessments this year. Please join us to find out further information about this years' statutory assessment, how we will be supporting your child and how you can help. (Year 1 phonics screening, KS1 SATS and KS2 SATS)

### **Class 3 Information**

Staffing issues in schools need to be handled confidentially. You have my commitment that the Governors and I have the children's very best interests at heart and are striving to provide a safe and happy environment, continuity and good teaching for the children in Class 3. I have been involved in the ongoing assessments in Class 3 and Mr Roper has now got to know the children very well. He is enjoying the role, working effectively with the children in and they are enjoying working with him. He will be part of our team for as long as we need him. This half term, both Class 3 teachers from Ravensworth and Barton are planning a collaborative visit to High Force as part of our creative curriculum topic and a Year 6 visit to Teesport as part of our transition programme.

**Wear your Christmas Jumper Day** – It seems so long ago now! We had a wonderful festive display of Christmas jumpers on our last day of term in aid of Save The Children, the total amount raised was £80.40. A big thank you to everyone who took part, it was a lovely end to the Autumn Term.

**School Meals and Census Day Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January** - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January is School Census Day when anonymised information on headcounts is submitted to the DfE. One of the areas that are looked at are the ratio of school meals compared to pupils and in order to preserve our wonderful on-site lunches we need as many people as possible to take a school meal on this day. We have made a slight change to the menu and will be serving the ever popular Chicken Korma followed by Sponge and custard. There are also the alternatives of jacket potatoes or sandwiches with various fillings. Thank you.

**Swimming lessons** – We are currently in negotiations with Richmond Swimming Pool to arrange swimming lessons for pupils in Years 3-6. The guidelines for are that we must offer lessons to any pupil within these year groups who cannot swim 25 metres. Many parents responded to our text message asking you to inform us if your child has not attained 25 metres, however, there are still some who have yet to reply. There are pupils who can swim this length but would like more lessons and so they will also be able to join us at the pool. Once we have finalised arrangements, we will inform everyone of dates, costings etc.

**School lunches, milk & juice** – Just a quick reminder to parents who have not yet visited the Parentpay website to credit their child's accounts. Please may we request that all accounts are kept in credit, this is an audit requirement of North Yorkshire County Council. Accounts must not fall into arrears of over two weeks before recovery action begins, initially via a text message reminder from school. Many thanks in advance.

**Year 6 Transition Days** – We have been advised by Richmond School that these will take place on either 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> July. Each Primary School is allocated a particular date and so once we have been given a definite date, we will inform everyone. For information in advance, Year 6 pupils attend Richmond School exactly as they will in September. They travel directly to Richmond School by their preferred method of transport, enjoy their day and then return home. It is the responsibility of parents to make arrangements for their children. In the past there has been a little confusion, pupils are not expected at our school before going to Richmond School.

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