

# Ravensdale Junior School

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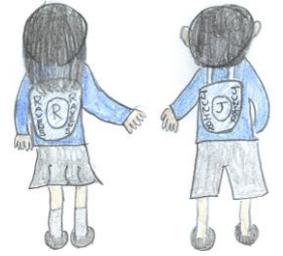
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Newsletter 1 Autumn 2018



## Welcome Back!

We have had a lovely start to the new term. The children all look very smart in their uniform and behaviour has been excellent.

Curriculum letters will shortly be sent out from all year groups to explain what is being covered over the next term and how you can further support your child's learning at home.

We are sending out a printed copy this time, as the dates for the term are attached. In future, a link to the page on the website will be sent to you via text message

## School Dinners

Pupils have very much enjoyed the school dinners so far. On Friday, the choice was sausage, fishwiche or quiche with fried red onions, baked beans, or mushy peas and chips. On the salad bar was lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, beetroot and coleslaw, as well as optional extra bread.

For dessert, the children had the choice of a home-made vanilla cookie or muffin, strawberry yogurt, toffee yogurt or fruit. Water, milk and squash are provided on the tables.

We have a 3-weekly cycle of menus which are on the website and include a wide range of dishes.

## Website

Our website has been revamped over the holidays, thanks to the skills of Miss Florey. There is a wide range of information for parents, including curriculum details, school dinner menus and policies. When we deliver evening meetings for parents, the power points or other information are also uploaded to the website.

We use Twitter to keep you updated about events that have happened in school. Our Twitter feed is positioned on the front page of our website and well worth a look. Skimming back over the last year, it makes you realise just how much goes on in school!

## Halloween Disco

There will be a Halloween disco for all pupils on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 6.30-8.00pm. Pupils are invited to come dressed up. The entrance cost is £2 and there will be a variety of drinks and sweets to buy on the evening. If you are able to help, we would be grateful - please contact school at [admin@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) or call in to the school office.

### **Times Table Check**

The government are introducing an online times tables check that all year 4 pupils will have to complete in the Spring Term. The first one will take place next year for our current year 4 pupils. Please support and help your children in developing this knowledge. Little and often is the best. Once they know them all, continue to ask mixed up questions to ensure they retain their learning.

### **School Texts**

We apologise that the texts all come through as if they are from a different number, but the company we use have said that this is due to the new data legislation and out of our control. If you download our app, you will receive the same messages, but they will all appear under one thread. This can be accessed on the play store or app store or on the Teachers 2 Parents website. I hope this helps!

### **Payments into School**

Where possible, we ask parents if they can pay online, as this reduces the amount of administration in the office. If you do want to send in a cheque or cash, please ensure that it is in an envelope marked with the child's name and class, as well as what the money is for. This will be date stamped and returned to you as a receipt.

We are very grateful to all those parents who pay for school dinners on a weekly or half termly basis, as this again reduces the administration for us in processing the money or texting reminders out to parents.

### **Uniform**

At the end of last year there were over 40 school sweatshirts left in lost property which were unnamed and not collected. Please make sure that all items of PE kit, school uniform and footwear are named so that we can endeavour to return lost items to the correct owners. As a parent, I found that the easiest way was to buy a name stamp, with a removable inepad, as this can be re-used many times if the name fades in the wash and is very quick and easy to do.

### **Prince William Award**

We have been sent corrected certificates for this award. Year 6 pupils from last year are invited to come into school to collect them, as we no longer have contact details for these pupils.

### **Open Morning for Prospective Parents for September 2019**

This infant and junior schools are holding a joint open morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October for parents who have children who will be starting school in September 2019. The schools will be open from 10.00am - 12.30pm, so that parents can see both schools to inform their decision. If you know anyone with a child in this age group, please pass on this information.

## **Landau Forte Open Evening**

Landau Forte have asked us to let Year 6 parents know that they have an Open Evening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30-7.30pm.

During the evening there will be talks and tours of the school.

If you wish to attend, please could you 'phone Miss Samantha Davis on 01332 204040 or register your interest on the website [www.landau-forte.org.uk](http://www.landau-forte.org.uk) to confirm your attendance.

## **Feedback from Parental Questionnaires and our response**

**'More visual and computer activities - keep up with technology'**

### **School response:**

Over the summer, we have doubled the number of laptops we have in school so that every year group has a class set of 16 laptops.

Ten classrooms now have new interactive computer style screens replacing the whiteboards.

We are currently trialling 6 i-pads in school, with a view to purchasing more if they are used well across the curriculum.

**'More Hands-on Experiences'**

### **School response**

Last year we increased the number of visits and visitors so that for most classes it was one per half term. This year, we are continuing to do the same, with 3 of these being free to the children. We also offer a residential visit in every year group, which is quite rare in primary schools. We have already booked 2 whole school performances from visiting theatre companies for December and July, which will be funded by the school, as visits out to the theatre are so expensive. We are limited in how far we can organise these types of experiences due to school and parental budgets.

**'More focused intervention groups'**

### **School response**

We run a wide range of specific intervention groups in all years. Leading up to SATS last year, there were 23 groups running in Year 6 alone, thanks to the willingness of teachers in all year groups to run boosters at lunchtime, assembly time and after school. The impact of interventions is carefully monitored through the use of assessments.

**Parents have also requested more advance notice about events in school. Please see the list below and these details are also all on the website.**

**We have also attached a full list of extra-curricular clubs for this term. Some of these do incur a small charge, but many are free. Those marked with # are by invitation only, as they are being funded specifically for our 'pupil premium' children.**

## Key Dates for the Autumn Term

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm Parent meeting for the Year 5 residential to Shropshire
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Year 5 Residential visit.
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 6,00pm, Parent meeting for the Year 4 Castleton residential visit.
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30 - 10.30am Autism support group for parents and carers
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am - 12.30pm Open morning for new parents in Foundation Stage
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> , Year 4 residential visit to Castleton
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 9.00am Parent Partnership morning with a spelling and grammar focus
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm Repeat of the parent presentation on spelling and grammar
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30-10.30am, Autism Support group for parents and carers
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Evening, 3.40-6.30pm
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30 - 8.00pm, Halloween disco
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October, INSET day and break up for half term
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November, return to school
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, friendship (anti-bullying) week
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm, SATS meeting for Year 6 parents
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 9am, repeat of SATS meeting for Year 6 parents.
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, art enrichment day
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm, parent meeting on practical maths
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 9am, parent partnership morning and presentation on practical maths
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Autism Support group
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas dinner and jumper day
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1,30pm, Year 3 and 4 Christmas Parties
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00- 8.00pm, Christmas film night
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am, Christmas performance from Years 3,4 and 5 for parents
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm, Year 5 and 6 Christmas Parties
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, reports out to parents
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am, Year 3,4 and 5 performance for parents
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm, Year 3,4 and 5 performance for parents
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am, Beauty and the Beast panto for year 3/4  
The pantomime characters have lunch with the pupils over dinner time in role.  
1.30pm, Beauty and the Beast panto for year 5//6
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, am - Carol Service for the School at St John's Church  
Pm, Christingle celebration assembly by candlelight
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, INSET days
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January - return to school

