

Ravensdale Junior School

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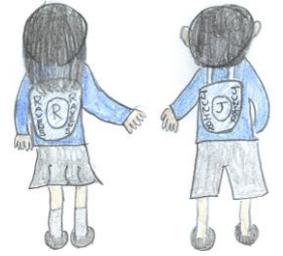
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Newsletter 2 Autumn 2017



Painting and Planting

Thank you very much to the three families who helped out on Friday evening with painting benches and planting bulbs. The children enjoy using the picnic benches for the wide variety of toys that we now have out at lunchtime, such as plastic food, lego and dinosaurs, so it is great that they are now protected from the winter weather. We also planted over 1000 daffodil and crocus bulbs, so hopefully there will be a beautiful display in the spring time.

INSET days for this year: October 20th 2017, December 18th and 19th 2017, 9th April 2018, July 2nd 2018

13th-14th October: Year 4 Residential visit to Castleton

19th October: Halloween disco

20th October INSET day and break up for half term

30th October: Return to School

1st November 6.15pm Friends of Ravensdale Meeting for Parents

7th November: 6pm SATS meeting for Yr 6 parents

26th November: (Sunday) Blood Donors

12th December: 2pm Christmas performance

13th December: 9.30am Christmas performance.

Also Christmas dinner and jumper day.

14th December: 2pm Christmas Performance

A Purple Pinkie for Polio

In assembly last week, Peter Branson from the Rotary Club, explained about their 30-year campaign to eliminate Polio world-wide. It is now only found in two countries and children there are given an oral vaccination. As the healthcare workers return to the same village over a few days, they dye a child's finger purple to show that they have been vaccinated. Hence the purple pinkie for polio. We were gifted 500 purple crocus corms which have been planted in a circle near the school entrance.



Halloween Disco

There will be a Halloween disco for all pupils on Thursday 19th 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 or call in to the school office.

McMillan Fundraising Afternoon

Thank you very much to all parents, relations and friends who donated cakes for this event. It was very well attended and many of you enjoyed a drink and a slice of cake, as well as stocking up on cakes from the cake sale. There were many prizes won on the raffle and the event raised over £400.

Many thanks to our senior cook, Mrs Regan, for organising the occasion.

Thank you for the Donations

We would like say a huge thank you to Mr Bedford for donating a football strip for the team, including the school logo.

Thanks also to Mr Hand, who donated hundreds of bulbs that have now been planted in the grounds.



Triathlon Event

Two weeks ago, over 30 pupils were taken over to Woodlands Community School in Allestree, to take part in a triathlon event, organised by the Brownlee Brothers, who excel in this sport. The pupils had to swim a short distance, ride on bikes provided at the event and then take part in a short run. The Brownlee Brothers were at the event and signing autographs. The pupils very much enjoyed taking part in the first school's triathlon that has been available for primary age children in Derby

Long Hair

If your child has hair that is longer than shoulder length, we would be grateful if you could tie it back for school.

Pupils leaving to attend another school

Occasionally pupils will leave Ravensdale to go to another school. We would be very grateful if parents would let us know in advance, as we do not receive this information from admissions and it is lovely to say a proper 'goodbye'.

Toys on the Playground

Through the funds that have been raised at events, we have bought a wide range of toys for the playground. It is wonderful to see the pupils playing with giant games such as Connect 4, Jenga and dominoes, as well as dressing up, playing with puppets, using giant construction toys, playing with lego and K'Nex, den building and interacting with each other in the Ravensdale Restaurant and Shop. There are still plenty of bats, balls and hoops available and we now have a sports coach on the playground for 4 lunchtimes each week, leading games such as cricket.

Basic Skills!

On the Year 5 Residential it was evident just how many pupils cannot tie shoe laces. Please teach this at home and certainly ensure that your child can do this before going on a residential visit where there is 1 adult for every 10 pupils!

We are having a focus on good manners in the dining hall and this includes using a knife and fork properly. So many pupils stab a large item such as potato with a fork and gnaw round it. They are reminded that it is not a lollipop! Please help us by teaching these skills at home.

Updated Information

We are currently updating all our contact information for the pupils and you will be receiving a copy of the information that we have in school. We would be very grateful if you could return this to school as quickly as possible, even if the information does not need amending, so that we can ensure that our information is correct.

It is essential that we are informed about any food allergies/intolerances, medical conditions or medication that your child is currently taking.

No nuts please!

We have several pupils and staff with nut allergies, so please do not include nuts in snacks or packed lunches. If you are sending in sweets for your child's birthday, please ensure that these also do not contain nuts. Please also remember that Muslim and vegetarian pupils cannot eat gelatine and therefore cannot eat sweets such as Haribo.

Net Aware social media guide for parents

The NSPCC has launched an updated Net Aware site for parents and carers. The site, run in partnership with O2, and informed by 1,696 children and young people and 674 parents and carers includes: tips showing how to help your child block or report someone targeting them; a guide to 39 of the most popular social media sites, apps and games used by children and young people including information about new apps like Pokemon Go, Periscope, IMVU, and Live.ly.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Dinner Money

We would be very grateful if all dinner money could be paid in advance at the beginning of the week and thank all parents that do so. Chasing arrears takes up a great deal of office time. However, we do pursue any debts, even when pupils have left the school. Recently, a bill that was £42.50 became £174.80 when all court and other associated costs had been included.

Friends of Ravensdale

This is the name of our Parent and Teacher fundraising organisation, but for the last couple of years, events have just been led by school staff. We would now like to once again create a parent and teacher organisation and a letter will be coming home, inviting you to a meeting in school on Wednesday 1st of November. There is no commitment through attending the meeting!