

# Ravensdale Junior School

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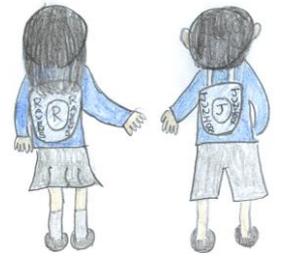
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Newsletter 3 Autumn 2018



## Parents' Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents in school for parent consultation meetings. Your support is extremely valuable to your child's education and is greatly appreciated by staff. If you did not get chance to complete the parental questionnaire, 'Parent View', during this time, you can access it online at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. At the March Parents' meetings, we give out a paper questionnaire so that there is an opportunity to give us your views in more detail. The results of Parent View are shown below and we are extremely pleased that parents are so happy with the school, as staff put in a huge amount of time and effort to give your child a high quality and well rounded education.

## Year 4 Residential Visit

Although we had a very wet weekend, we were extremely lucky and managed to dodge the weather! During the first down pour we were underground in Treak Cliff Cavern, looking at how Blue John has been mined. During the second we were inside, taking part in an archaeological dig in the cellar and making candles. The pupils also had great fun outside, training like Roman soldiers and creating Roman battle formations with shield. They also put together trebuchets (large Roman catapults) to fire at the Celts.

On Saturday afternoon we had a walk around Castleton to see why Peveril Castle is in such a good defensive position and had time for an ice-cream at the visitor's centre afterwards. The children behaved very well and we all had a wonderful time! Have a look at the Twitter Feed for the pictures.

## Year 5 Residential Visit

Recently it was the turn of the year 5s to visit Manor adventure in Shropshire for the weekend. After setting off, and a rather drizzly lunch, the pupils arrived full of excitement ready to start their weekend of fun. Activities ranged from rock climbing and obstacle courses in the rain to very muddy blind trails and slightly drier fencing and shooting. The drying room was well used and I'm sure lots of mud crusted clothing came home.

Meal times were full of conversations and anticipation for the activities ahead. Hot chocolate and story time before bed was well received and the pupils slept soundly after two days of high intensity activities. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and were a credit to themselves and the school. The staff who gave up their weekend to accompany them were very proud and thoroughly enjoyed it, joining in with many of the activities as well. A fantastic weekend all round!

### Gold Award

We are delighted to announce we have achieved the Gold Award for Sports in school. This is a national award with very high standards. Although Mrs Crane only works part-time, she works tirelessly to arrange matches and competitions for the pupils and frequently gives up her own time. Last year, over 60% of our pupils took part in extra-curricular sport, which is a great achievement.

### School Lunches

We respectfully ask that sweets are not included in packed lunches. A small chocolate biscuit such as a KitKat is quite acceptable. Recently Haribo and Maltesers have been swept up after lunch!

Please also remember not to include nuts of any sort in regular packed lunches or when on trips, as we have several pupils with nut allergies.

Thank you for your support.

### Current Parent View Results (69 responses)

Statement	% who agree or strongly agree
My child is happy at this school	96%
My child feels safe at school	97%
My child makes good progress	96%
My child is well looked after	99%
My child is well taught	94%
Homework is appropriate for my child's age	90%
The school ensures good behaviour	94%
The school deals effectively with bullying	58% (36% didn't know)
The school is well led and managed	91% (6% didn't know)
The school responds well to my concerns	87% (12% didn't know)

### Halloween Disco

This was a great success with some fabulous costumes! Most children were unrecognisable (and some of the staff too!). Although we don't have the final figure, we believe we have raised over £500 and the school council will be deciding how to spend this money on either toys for the classroom for wet lunchtimes, or toys and activities for the playground, as both need updating as they are so well used.

### Feedback from the Parental Questionnaire

***'The pupils need to be encouraged to read more.'***

We are confused by this concern as we feel that we do a great deal!

At the juniors, we ask that pupils read 5 times a week at home and we reward them if they have done so. Two years ago, we spent £5000 updating our reading scheme. Every classroom has a reading corner where they can access a variety of books when they have a few spare minutes, or when directed to do so. Guided reading is taught in a group, led by an adult. Pupils use our wonderful school library to bring a book of their choice home each week. As part of 'Talk for Writing', pupils analyse a quality text both as a reader and a writer. All classes are read class stories by the class teacher.

If you have any ideas of how we can do more, do let us know! Reading and being read to at home all the way through junior school makes a very significant difference to a child's progress in all areas.

### **Parking Around School**

We know that so many parents park thoughtfully and we would like to thank you for your consideration. Sadly, there are some who continue to ignore our requests.

Please remember that there should be **no** car parked down the cul-de-sac that leads to school. There are single yellow lines and parking notices on lamp-posts. There was a situation on parent's evening when this became blocked. Not only is this very upsetting for our neighbours, many of whom are elderly, but it also creates a safety issues when large emergency vehicles would be unable to get through.

The yellow cones that are there as a reminder belong to one of our neighbours and 3 have recently been stolen. If you have any information regarding this, please contact school.

### **Consultation on Converting to an Academy with Transform Academy Trust**

Please remember that comments and questions can be sent into school and that we have a meeting for parents with representatives from Transform on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at 6.30pm.

**One parent has commented that he thought that the reasons for becoming an academy were a little vague on the letter sent home, so the following are the key reasons that the school has decided to consider this route:**

- Over the last eight years, services from the authority have reduced markedly and we have to pay for most of the services that we receive.
- The quality of some services from the authority is not acceptable and there can be significant time delays.
- We do not know how much is 'topliced' by the authority from our budget before we receive it, but we believe it to be between 10 and 14%. Transform charges their academies 5%, whilst offering an excellent level of support.
- Transform have a strong record of supporting schools to improve and in 2016 were named as one of the top twenty academy trusts in the country.
- Transform allows a high level of autonomy for its schools. There is no change of name, uniform, curriculum or governing board.
- Transform works in a very transparent and collaborative way with all stakeholders.
- Transform has schools in both Nottingham and Derby. This allows us to share practice with schools in another authority, but geographically near enough to make this possible.
- There is a governor chair forum where all the chairs of governors of the schools meet regularly to decide and debate issues such as Transform policy. There is also a head teacher operational group where the heads meet very regularly to discuss and share best practice.
- Transform has values which are strongly aligned to our Ravens Values. These are: togetherness, respect, ambition and adventure, nurturing, strength, fun, original, resilience and motivation.
- The governors and leadership team have done a great deal of research. Different representatives from Transform have spoken at 3 governor meetings over a period of time since last February. They also spoke to school staff in June. Mrs Cannon has attended two of the head's meetings and has also spoken individually to two other heads of Transform Schools. Miss Roe has attended a meeting for deputy heads. Transform have been extremely open and helpful, inviting us to access any aspect of the trust to ensure that we make the best decision for the school.

