

Ravensdale Junior School

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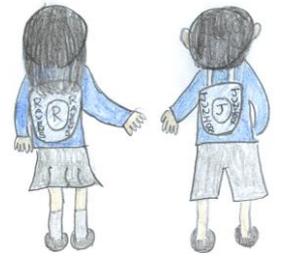
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Newsletter 4 Autumn 2018



Parent Partnership Morning

Thank you very much to all parents who attended our partnership morning with a focus on using images and apparatus in maths. This was well attended and we had very positive feedback from parents about these events. Most parents indicated that they find them very useful and that the format and timing works well. We will continue to aim to run one in most half terms, varying the theme each time.

If you have an area which you would like us to cover on one of these mornings, please let us know.

If you couldn't make the last one, the power point is on the website.

Christmas Dates

Tues 11.12.18 Christmas table decorations into school for competition

Wed 12.12.18 Christmas jumper and dinner day.

Thurs 13.12.18 Year 3 Christmas party

Thurs 13.12.18 Christmas film night 5.30pm

Fri 14.12.18 Christmas performance 9.30am

Fri 14.12.18 Reports home to parents

Fri 14.12.18 Year 5 and 6 Christmas parties

Mon 17.12.18 Christmas performances 9.30am and 2.00pm.

Tues 18.12.18 Pantomime in school for pupils

Tues 18.12.18 Year 4 Christmas Party

Wed 19.12.18 St Johns Carol Service

Wed 19.12.18 Christingle assembly in school
Film night is on a Thursday, as our hall is always booked until 6pm on a Friday and out of consideration for staff work-life balance.

We will have a collection for the school charity this year, 'Young Minds', at the end of each performance.

A Message from our School Council

A big thank you to all the children who ran for school council and well done to all the successful candidates.

At the beginning of the year, the RSPCA came into our assembly in school to receive a cheque for £2063.91.

In the new year the school councillors are hopefully going to visit the RSPCA centre to see how the money is being spent. A big thank you to all the people who took part in events to help raise money for the RSPCA throughout the year!

This year school council have voted for a new charity called Young Minds. This charity supports children and young adults with mental health problems. We look forward to seeing you this year at our fundraising events for the charity Young Minds.

Super Experiences

Several of our year groups have been out on visits this term and have had very interesting experiences:

- Year 6 dressed as evacuees for their World War 2 themed visit to Pickford House
- Year 5 visited the Space Centre
- Year 5 were also went out on a science day which was organised with other schools.
- Year 4 visited Magna where they learned more about the properties of different materials.

Five Star Kitchen

Our kitchen had a mention in The Derby Evening Telegraph recently as one of the establishments in Derby who had retained a 5 star rating over the last 3 years. The meals are truly delicious (as staff can vouch) and the full menus are on the website. Pupils can select which days they have meals, but we do please request that payments are made at the beginning of the week.

Where possible, please make all payments into school online, as this very much helps our office staff.

Anti-social behaviour on the park

We have recently been made aware of some anti-social behaviour on the park by a few Murray Park Students. We have done our best to find out the names and have passed these onto Murray Park who have said that these children will receive a sanction for any poor behaviour. However, as this is not on our school grounds, this is the limit of the action that we can take in these circumstances and if you are concerned that a serious incident has taken place, then it is best to contact the police.

A new family support officer

We are very pleased to announce that we have created a new role in school for a family support officer. This role will support the wonderful work that Mrs Smith carries out in school and will also support families with attendance difficulties. Mrs Merriman will be starting with us after Christmas.

Feedback from the Parental Questionnaire

Looking for more affordable childcare - afterschool club'

We hope that we have addressed this one now by running our own after school provision. Breakfast club is available from 7.45am each morning and After School club runs until 6pm each day. Both are very much enjoyed by children and staff.

Charities - I feel it is important for children to learn about other charities - red nose day, children in need. I think it is a shame Ravensdale won't involve themselves in any other that the school chosen one. What harm can another non-uniform day do!

We try to make sure that we don't ask parents for money on too many occasions. We also feel that these charity events are very well publicised, sometimes at the expense of smaller charities. Our children have a greater understanding of the work of a variety of charities and are very proud to be able to hand over a substantial donation in an assembly to a representative from the charity. When we collected for the Alzheimer's society (chosen by the children) they commented that this was the largest donation that they had ever received from a school. The children were also able to meet and follow the progress of a wonderful black Labrador guide dog who was named 'Raven'.

Fund-raising

Thank you very much for everyone who bought raffle tickets. This raised £348 for the school and we very much hope that those of you who won, enjoyed your prizes.

Mid-day Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a mid-day supervisor to join our friendly team. The hours are daily, 11.45am- 1.20pm. Please contact our school office if you are interested in the position.

Hello to all parents from the Governors!

Firstly, the process for academisation is continuing. Many thanks to those parents who attended the meeting on the 14th November with the Transform Trust. The CEO , the Chief Finance Officer and the Director gave us a comprehensive presentation from Transform Trust which allayed a lot of fears as regards the schools status on joining. A lot of fears about the school losing its character were answered and the parents present were very pleased with the tone of the proposal. Please do look at their website <http://www.transformtrust.co.uk/> if you would like to check them out. The parent consultation has now closed.

Meanwhile, business continues and the governors met recently when we discussed amongst other things Pupil Premium, the school performance data and we had a presentation from Mrs Cannon on Safeguarding. We welcomed three new governors this term, all of whom bring important skills to the governorship.

These are exciting times for the school, the move to academisation continues to be an item of national importance.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Best wishes Mike Jackson and Abigail Howells.

Co-Chairs of Governors