



# Ravensdale Junior School

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Autumn Newsletter 2 28.9.21

Dear parents and carers

46 Year 6 children enjoyed a **wonderful residential visit** over the weekend to Culmington Manor run by Manor Adventure, in Shropshire, near Craven Arms. The children got to try activities such as abseiling, the underground maze and a dark evening walk. They left school on Friday and arrived home around 4pm on Sunday afternoon.

I would like to publicly thank the 6 staff who accompanied them. Staff do not get paid any extra for residential visits and it is completely voluntary. By next Friday, they will have worked for 12 days without a break. We are so lucky at Ravensdale that staff are so keen for pupils to have these experiences, that we always have more staff volunteering than we need. A huge thankyou also to Miss Florey and Mrs Lord, who organise the visits. With risk assessments and pupils' dietary and medical needs, this is no small task!

I was so pleased to hear that the children behaved very well and everyone had a fabulous time!

*Zoe Cannon*

## Monitoring online behaviour of your child

This can often be so difficult to know where to start! Please see the link below for some great advice on how to do this:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/monitoring-apps-%E2%80%93-guide-parents>

## Digital Update!

This year we have invested in 90 I-pads for year 4! The staff and children will have regular training and we are planning for the devices to be used to enhance the curriculum, as well as give children the opportunity to improve their digital skills. We had a fantastic launch day last Monday. Initially, the focus will be in year 4, so that we have a strong start to this new initiative, but after Christmas, other year groups will be able to borrow the I-pads too.

## Congratulations!

Last term, a £200 garden voucher was won for the school by El, now in Year 5. We are going to use this money to continue to develop the lovely area that is Rigley's Retreat and the raised beds.

## Keeping Safe and Well

Individuals will need a test if they have any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

However, the symptoms of the delta variant are more likely to be:

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache

The fastest way to get tested is to go to a testing site. Individuals will need a pre-booked appointment or they will not be given a test. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please inform us of any child going for a test, or a test result by emailing the safeguarding team (Mrs Cannon, Mrs Morris, Mrs Merriman, Mrs Wright (formally Miss Roe) and Miss Hayford) at the following email address.

[safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk)

## Storytime Magazine

We offer this magazine for free to pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding - please contact Mrs Lord in the office if your child would like to take up this offer. An example of the magazine can be found here: <https://www.storytimemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ST84.pdf>

## Communication

**For general enquiries, please email Mrs Lord, our office manager.**

[officemanager@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:officemanager@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - Breakfast and After School Club bookings, all payments, residential visits, attendance and general enquiries.

[head@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:head@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - serious concerns or positive feedback

[senco@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:senco@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - Special Educational Needs

[pastoralsupport@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - emotional and behavioural support, support for parents

[chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - communicate directly with the Chair of Governors, Jill Wilkinson.

[safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - all Covid19 updates and any safeguarding concerns.

[Year3@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:Year3@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk) - to contact year 3 teachers (just change the digit for other year groups)

## Marvellous Me!

This is a new app we will soon be using to keep parents updated more regularly about what is happening in school for their child. Please see the attached letter.

### **Derby Cathedral Junior Choir (see attached information)**

This month we are re-launching the Cathedral's Junior Choir for children aged 5 to 9. This is an opportunity to sing in the Cathedral under the direction of the Cathedral's professional music team on a weekly basis. Please could you send this information out to the parents of any children who may be interested.

Many thanks for your help and assistance.

Best wishes

**Alexander Binns**, *Director of Music at Derby Cathedral*

### **Parent Communication Event**

These will be held in person in school, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of October, between 3.40 and 6.30pm, with strict protocols in place. Please look out for a separate letter explaining the procedure and how to book a slot using our online system.

### **Chair of Governors Update**

#### **Governors - what have we been up to?**

I spent the morning on 14 September getting to know the staff and children better. I met with a range of staff and was able to observe the first meeting of the School Council in which they were electing their Chair, Deputy, Secretary and Treasurer. Congratulations to all those who were elected, your presentations were super! I look forward to getting to know them better over the coming year.

#### **Governors Skills and Experience**

Governors individually completed a skills analysis audit and the Trust has now completed a report on this. This will be shared at our next Governors meeting. It will help us identify any training and development requirements and also help with future recruitment for Governors in securing the right skill set for our Board.

**Annual Health & Safety Report to Governors** - I met with both the Site Manager and the School Business Manager to go through all things Health & Safety, including ensure that the school maintains its statutory checks such as legionella, fire alarm testing.

I was delighted to learn that our Kitchen staff are now **providing a meal service** to another school because of their quality - well done team, a big congratulations from the Governors (the cake I had in school was delicious!)

We have our first full Governors meeting on Tuesday 12 October. If you want to know more about us, please get in touch [chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk)

Jill Wilkinson, Chair of Governors

## Rigley's Retreat

Very sadly, a year ago last April, one of our treasured teaching assistants, Mrs Rigley, passed away suddenly. As a school and for her family, this was made even more difficult because we were in the middle of the first lockdown because of the pandemic.

The staff decided that we would like to create a permanent area in school, in memory off the high level of support that Mrs Rigley gave to both staff and pupils and her dedication to her role. So, the idea of 'Rigley's retreat' was born.

Due to the pandemic, developing this area, just outside the hall, has taken longer than we hoped. However, we have now created a lovely garden area, where pupils can come to work at the picnic tables from adjacent classes, or use the bench with a member of staff if some quiet refecation time is needed.

Last Monday, after school, we held a lovely service of commemoration and dedication, to which Mrs Rigley's family were invited. Thankfully the sun shone, and we were able to do this outside in the garden.

As a school, we are very grateful to Mrs Emery who designed the garden and has spent a great deal of time, clearing and planting the area.



## INSET Days for Ravensdale Junior School 2021-2022

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Wednesday & Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL DERBY CITY HOLIDAY DATES 2021 – 2023

As confirmed by Derby City Council

	<b>School closes</b>	<b>Re-opens on</b>
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
<b>Christmas</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Easter</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
<b>Summer</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
<b>Christmas</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>Easter</b>	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Mid-term</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b>Summer</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023