



Ravensdale Junior School

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Autumn Newsletter 4 17.11.21



Dear parents and carers

Thank you so much for your **ongoing vigilance regarding Covid19 symptoms** and testing. This is making it much easier for us to manage the situation in school and prevent lost days of education for pupils.

I apologise for the need to **close the school** for the morning of Monday 8th of November. Such a decision is never taken lightly and was done in conjunction with the executive team at Transform. Our fire alarm had malfunctioned and we were waiting for an engineer to address the issue. This appears to have been caused by an electrical surge. These are rare events and therefore we do not anticipate any further issues going forward.

We are planning to include our normal range of **Christmas activities** for the children, but with precautions and adaptations in place to minimise the risk for everyone. There will be a performance and this will be livestreamed to parents on Friday 17th of December at 9.30am. As is our usual policy, we request that no recording of the presentation takes place. Only the children who have permission to be recorded in this way will take part in this presentation, but all children will take part in one which is streamed to the other classes only. Teachers will be contacting parents where we do not have permission, to ensure that our records are up to date and that they accurately reflect your wishes. Further details regarding other activities are below.

Zoe Cannon

Charities

We have had a request from several parents that we recognise significant days and fund raise for a wider range of charities, then just the one chosen. We are therefore currently reviewing our practice and hope to put together a calendar of events over the year.



Parking issues

Kelsey Mumford who is our Neighbourhood Partnership Officer and two PCSOs (police community support officers) were out monitoring the parking at the end of the day recently. The most disturbing issue they found were that several families were driving with **children not wearing seatbelts**. This is highly dangerous and the police may refer to social care under 'neglect' if they find evidence of this happening.

Complaints Policy

We strongly encourage parents to get in contact with school if you have any concerns at all and we will do our very best to address these in partnership with you. However, if there is a time when you wish to make a formal complaint, please have a look at the policy on our website first, to ensure that you take the correct course of action.

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

If you have been a **close contact of a positive case**, you will need to arrange a PCR test as well. Pupils who have been close contacts will still be able to attend school, unless they test positive, and any appointment for a PCR test will be authorised.

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

Packed Lunches

Please remember that **no nuts** are permitted in packed lunches due to food allergies in school.

Communication

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

officemanager@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – Breakfast and After School Club bookings, all payments, residential visits, attendance and general enquiries.

head@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – serious concerns or positive feedback

senco@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - Special Educational Needs

pastoralsupport@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – emotional and behavioural support, support for parents

chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – communicate directly with the Chair of Governors, Jill Wilkinson.

safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – all Covid19 updates and any safeguarding concerns.

Year3@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk – to contact year 3 teachers (just change the digit for other year groups)

Christmas

Wed 15th December	9.15am	Production dress rehearsal – one class at a time in the hall
Thurs 16 th December	9.30am	Performance from Yrs 4, 5 and 6 for the school streamed to classrooms.
	11.45am	Christmas dinner and Jumper day. Donations will go to the Padley fund.
	3.00pm	Christingle in hall for year 3 and 4
Friday 17 th December	9.30am	Live streamed performance for parents
Monday 20 th December	10.40am	Carol service – streamed to classrooms
	1.30am	Christmas parties in classrooms

Marvellous Me!

Have you signed up yet? If not, we would be so pleased if you could do this today! 😊

Parent View

Many parents ask how they can support the school. This way is easy and will only take 5 minutes! Please could you complete the online questionnaire on Parent View following this link, or the one that has been text to you. So far, we only have 25 responses from a possible 355 families! We would be very grateful!

😊 <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Pupil independence

This may be as a result of Lockdown, but we have been shocked by the **lack of independence** from many pupils this term. When Year 4 children were taken swimming for the first time, many did not know how to dress and undress themselves – several having no idea how to take a T shirt off. So, a few requests which would really help us in school!

- Children should be able to **dress and undress themselves** independently and quickly from the beginning of year 3.
- If children have **shoes with laces**, they should be able to fasten them efficiently.
- Support your child to **pack their own bag for school** in the morning by having a list of what is needed on each day.
- Encourage your child to **solve problems** for themselves – we have had some children writing up the margin of a page because no-one had told them to turn the page over! Children have sat quietly not doing anything because they hadn't got a pencil, but had not put their hand up to ask for one!
- If your child has a school dinner, teach them how to **use a knife and fork properly** – many children will stab a large item with a fork and chew round it, as they don't know how to cut up their food.
- We still teach children to **tell the time** using an analogue clock (clock with a face) as it is part of our maths curriculum. Have one in the house and refer to it regularly with your child.
- Many children lack **stamina and pace** when it comes to completing a piece of work – it is a great opportunity to work on this during homework tasks and will really support their progress in learning.

Governors

We are currently searching for **2 more governors** and would be so pleased if you would consider the role! We only meet 6 times a year and full training is given to enable you to understand what is expected. The training is mainly recorded so can be accessed at time to suit you. It is a great way to support the school and learn more about the provision at Ravensdale. If you would like an informal chat about the role, please do get in touch with me at head@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk.

PE KIT

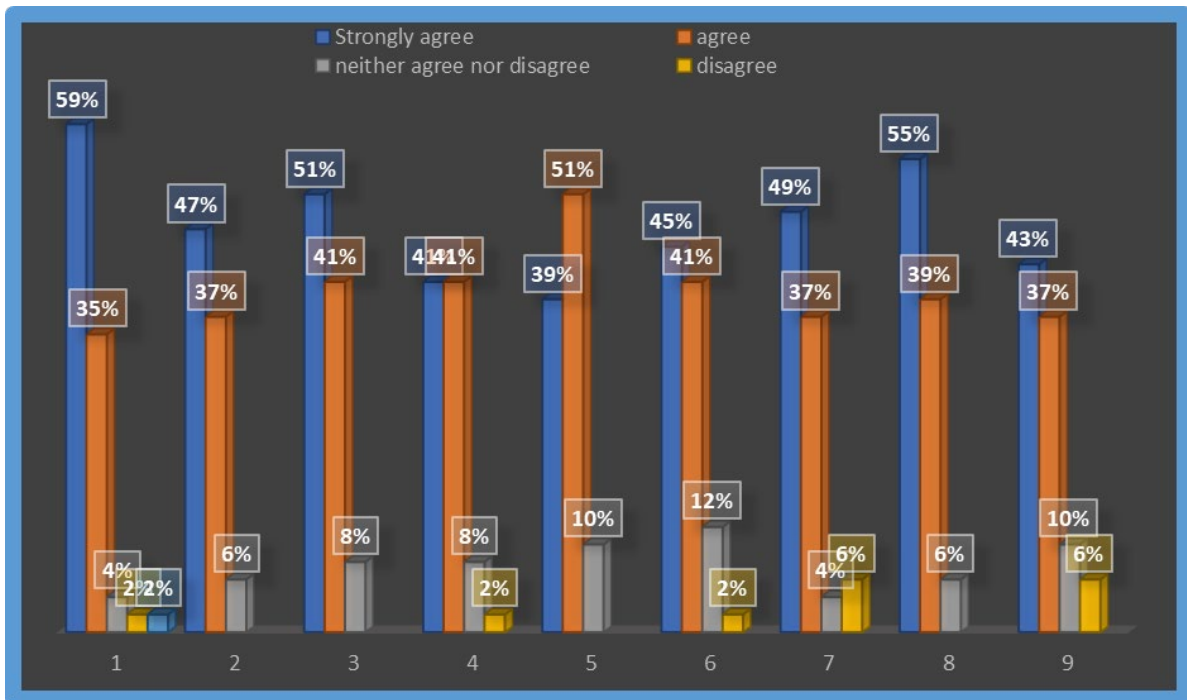
Please remember that there is a **uniform for PE kit**. This should consist of black shorts and a white shirt (blue ones can be used this year if they have already been purchased), plain black or dark blue jogging bottoms and sweatshirt or tracksuit top. **There should be no stripes, logos etc.** This information was sent to parents several times before the summer holidays and we would be very grateful for your support with this matter.

Registration and Absence

As a school, we take your child's safety very seriously and aim to have **text you by 9.30am** if your child is not in school and we have not received a message. Occasionally, a mistake will be made and you will receive a text when your child is in school. We understand the distress that this can cause and have put further measures in place to try to eliminate this problem. However, we would rather have the odd mistake and text all parents early, than leave it until later.

New to Year 3 questionnaire for Parents

Thank you to all parents who responded to this questionnaire – approximately half the year group. The results were very positive and as follows:



1	My child has settled well into year 3
2	My child seems happy in school
3	My child feels safe at school
4	Staff have been available to support my child
5	My child is well taught and has enjoyed learning so far
6	The school ensures my child is well looked after
7	I have been kept well informed
8	The school promotes good behaviour
9	My child and I understand and are able to access Showbie to complete homework.

Key comments from parents were as follows:

Positives / things to be proud of

- 94% of parents asked say their child has settled well. 1 parent said her child hasn't settled but is happy with all that the school has done to support him with this.
 - 94% of parents asked say they think their child seems happy in school.
 - 94 % of parents agree or strongly agree the school promotes good behaviour
 - Comments include
1. The staff at Ravensdale junior School are amazing, my daughter always comes home happy and excited to tell me about her day and what she has learnt. She has took a shine to her teacher, who goes above and beyond to make sure she's happy and informs me weekly via the teacher portal of my daughters good behaviour.
 2. The school have been fantastic in accommodating for my child's addition needs. Taking the time to ensure they know everything about him. I feel safe and reassured he is being given the best care.
 3. Thank you for helping my child to feel so settled so quickly. This has been even more impressive given the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

Suggestions / EBIs

- Introduction of Showbie to year 3 parents
- One parent commented on the spotlight being a good overview but wanted more detail of how to support their child at home
- One parent commented on wanting more information about their child in the first couple of weeks about settling in

Actions from comments

- Parents have opportunity to see their child's Marvellous Me profile where the teacher can add info.
- Parents evening takes place in the first half term to give parents an overview of the first half term. This give staff enough time to assess pupils and have detail to communicate to parents.
- Year 3 team to ensure the spotlight contains enough detailed information and that all parents are confident on Showbie.

Job Vacancies

We are currently looking for both a permanent and relief mid-day supervisor to work 11.45am – 1.20pm daily. If you are interested, please get in contact with Melanie Albutt on 512373 or admin@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk.

We are also advertising for a permanent teaching assistant and that advert is on Indeed.

Music Lessons in School

We can currently offer tuition in piano, violin, woodwind (flute, saxophone, clarinet) and through Rocksteady (electric guitar, drums, key board and singing). Charges apply, but are reduced for children who are eligible for pupil premium funding. Full details are in the attached letter. For enquires, please phone school and ask for Mrs Lord, the office manager or email officemanager@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk

INSET Days for Ravensdale Junior School 2021-2022

Friday 17th September 2021
Tuesday and Wednesday 21st & 22nd December 2021
Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday Thursday 23rd December
Monday 28th February 2022
Friday 24th June 2022

Please note that the above INSET days are not on the calendar below and should be considered separately.

RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL DERBY CITY HOLIDAY DATES 2021 – 2023

As confirmed by Derby City Council

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

Easter	Friday 31 st March 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023
Mid-term	Friday 26 th May 2023	Monday 5 th June 2023
Summer	Friday 21 st July 2023	Monday 4 th September 2023