

Soaring High Newsletter

December 2022

Our School Values are



Love, Honesty, Forgiveness, Respect, Hope



Christmas is Coming

At Ravensfield, Christmas starts with St Mark's Christmas Tree Festival. The choir did us proud on the Saturday afternoon with a medley of favourites. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had all made trees along this year's theme of *Christmas Music*. Year 2 won the Junior section trophy! Well done!



Children from EYFS and KS1 visited on Monday and as well as seeing all the trees in their full glory, children enjoyed Reverend Karl retelling the Christmas story. Thank you to all parents who supported us. It will be the older children's turn on Thursday 15th December when they will be visiting St Mark's for the traditional *Christingle* celebration.

Nativity Performances

For the first time since 2019, parents will be able to watch our nativity performances in person. The stage is up, costumes and props are ready and the lights are twinkling on the tree. The children have been practising very hard – their singing is really lovely - and all four performances promise to be something special. We look forward to seeing you there. See the Diary Dates for more details.

Lunch and Jumpers

Many thanks to the kitchen and dinnertime staff who put on a magnificent spread for our Christmas Dinner. It was a wonderfully festive event with music, crackers, hats and decorations. There were a good array of Christmas jumpers in evidence too from staff and children.



Food and treats

A huge thank you to parents for your feedback and support when it comes to sending in non-food birthday treats with your child. As you know we have some very serious food allergies in school and keeping school nut and dairy free is incredibly important. We are finalising our non-food plans and will share them with children in assemblies and then with you as parents also.

Friday Assemblies

Due to performances, Friday 2nd December will be our last Soaring High Assembly of 2022. Thank you to everyone who has attended to help us celebrate the children and their achievements. The assemblies will recommence on Friday 6th January 2023.

Parking

Thank you to those who are helping keeping everyone safe by not parking on double yellow lines. Not only is this illegal but it restricts everyone's view and puts children and adults in harms way. Remember, the zig zag signs means no stopping.

Attendance

As a school, we are put under huge scrutiny for our attendance figures. We celebrate good attendance and children enjoy this each week. However, if over the holidays you are considering family holidays in 2023, remember we do not authorise term time holidays. Penalty notices will be put in place and may lead to prosecution. No term time holidays!

Ravensfield School Club

Our club offers excellent before and after school care. With a focus on fun and a great deal of care from all members of the team, children really are the centre of this work. Please see the school website for details.

Interfaith Week

Many thanks to Miss Sampson who masterminded this year's Interfaith Week. As well as children learning about different religions and events from Holi to Shabbat, we had visitors from the Hindu, Christian and Jewish faiths. They were all very impressed with the behaviour of the children, their curiosity and questions.



School Council

Mrs Jolley's visit to Parliament last summer gave a real impetus to this year's Parliament Week. While the School Council, under the guidance of Mrs Taylor-Stott, have been representing the school at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day and working on developing school policies to ensure that children's voices are heard.

Online Safety

Technology, as we know, moves very quickly and it can be hard to stay up-to-date. We welcomed Greater Manchester Police into school to talk to Years 5 and 6 about staying safe online as well as off. It was lovely to welcome parents to the event too. You can find out about the latest pitfalls your children could fall prey to by visiting: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> where there are free resources and guides from everything from laptops and games consoles to smart speakers. Look out for their social media guides too. We take online safety very seriously and Thursday 9th December is our Internet Legends Day where we look at teaching pupils how to become safer and more confident explorers of the online world. The event has a wellbeing theme; encouraging young people to find a better balance between their online and offline lives.

Goodbyes and Welcomes

It is with many thanks and a few tears that we say goodbye to Miss Westwood from Class 3 and to our Business Manager, Mrs Loukaides. They will be sorely missed but we wish them well on their new adventures. But we are happy to welcome back Miss Potter who returns to us after the birth of her son.

Fuel4Fun

Tameside Active are offering activities and food hampers for all families on benefit-based free school meals. Applications must be made by 9th December. Food hampers will be delivered during the week beginning 19th December.

Opening times

With the weather getting colder and wetter please remember that we have little in the way of shelter against the elements. School gates (and only Nursery) open at 8.30am with the school doors opening at 8.40am.

Uniform

PE kits will be coming home the last week of term. Please ensure that they come back with the children on 4th January. As we like the children to enjoy the fresh air at break and lunch, please can you ensure they come in with a coat (with a hood) and proper shoes.

Diary Dates

- ❖ Thursday 8th December – pantomime company in school to perform to all children
- ❖ Friday 9th December – Nursery performances 10am and 2pm. While the school choir will be performing at Morrisons at 10am.
- ❖ Wednesday 14th December - Reception performance at 10am, Year 1 perform at 2pm.
- ❖ Tuesday 13th December - the choir will be singing at Albion Church Ashton as part of *Believe and Achieve* concert.
- ❖ Thursday 15th December – Year 2 performance at 10am, Key Stage 2's Christingle service at St Marks in the morning.
- ❖ Friday 16th December – Carols around the Christmas Tree and attendance awards. Christmas party day too – so children can come into school in their own festive clothes.
- ❖ School closes at 2pm on Friday 16th December 2022.
- ❖ School reopens at 8.40am on Wednesday 4th January 2023.