

# Soaring High Newsletter

January 2023

Our School Values are



Love, Honesty, Forgiveness, Respect, Hope

## Happy New Year

Welcome to 2023! Thank you to all the staff who spent a lot of time and effort on making Christmas special - from Christmas dinner, Advent calendar videos, to rooftop glimpses of Santa Claus as well as an array of cards, calendars and treats.



Our Ravens sang their hearts out too at choral performances, at St Mark's Christingle celebration or at the nativities from Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 – it was lovely to see parents in school for the first time since 2019; enjoying the children's performances in person rather than via video screen. Thank you for being a great audience.

## Food and treats

As you know we have some very serious food allergies in school and keeping our school nut-free is incredibly important. We have been helping children to understand what treats and favourites are made from – Nutella being nut-based was quite a shock for some of our children! We will continue to work on teaching children about healthy snacks, dental care and the importance of drinking water.

Thank you to the parents who responded to our survey in November about replacing food-based treats for birthday celebrations. The number of positive helpful suggestions was lovely and we'll start putting these into place over the coming weeks. This week we'll start with a Thursday birthday assembly for children in Reception through to Year 6. We want to make this as fun and inclusive as we can. From now on we also encourage birthday girls and boys to wear a birthday badge. This can be one from home – though we'll get some in school too so no one misses out.



## Making your views known

Many thanks to those of you who kindly responded to our parent survey. It was great to hear your very positive views on your child's experience. We use this to help consider how to make Ravensfield even better. It was lovely to hear that 87% of children like school and that improvements in communication are helping you to know what are your child's next steps in learning. We were all pleased that 88% of children have a positive attitude to reading which is an increase on last year.

## Friday Assemblies

Our first Soaring High Assembly of 2023 will be taking place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating the great work the children are doing.

## 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. Please be aware of our neighbours on Clarendon Street when you park and stop and feel free to use the car park. Access to the front of school is by prior arrangement only.

## 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.

## 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

## Online Safety

The survey showed that 67% of parents feel that school helps their children feel safer online which is an improvement but we still have work to do and we will continue to share ideas and news in this newsletter and on ClassDojo.

If you've purchased any new technology for Christmas whether it be a games console or mobile device, it is always best to familiarise yourself with the ins and outs of what is involved before passing it on to younger age groups.



Here are some top tips:

- Set up age restrictions beforehand or put any filters in place to ensure that appropriate measures are set up from the moment they start.
- Talk about screentime, so everyone in the household is aware of what is an acceptable amount of time and so no surprises are met further down the line. A lot of devices and apps now include screentime limits which can be an option to set up if you are concerned about agreements not being met.
- Show your child what reporting functions are available across their favourite platforms so they know what to do if they see something that upsets them.
- Create discussion about safer internet use while talking about certain scenarios that they may encounter online so they feel prepared around how to appropriately respond. Build their confidence in knowing how to ignore unwanted friend requests, leaving harmful online chats, reporting individuals or refraining from over-sharing personal information.

Online safety doesn't have to be a 'lesson' that needs to be strictly taught, it can be all part of the experience that be shared as a family. Take the time to understand new technology and learn how you can stay safe online together.

## Uniform



PE kits should be back in school – black shorts and a white T-shirt.

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 or hat) and fully black

school shoes. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name. Also, please remember that the only items of jewellery allowed in school are watches and stud earrings. But these must be removed for PE and swimming.

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!

[www.ravensfield.tameside.sch.uk/documents/news/attendance-letter.pdf](http://www.ravensfield.tameside.sch.uk/documents/news/attendance-letter.pdf)

## 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.

## Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Miss Brooks to Year 2. She is joining us as the Class 3 classteacher.

Miss Potter also returns to us after the birth of her son and will be working across the school.

## Diary Dates

- ❖ Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Map Day across the school.
- ❖ February Africa Day in Reception – Date TBC
- ❖ We finish for half-term on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm. School reopens on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.
- ❖ Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day
- ❖ Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Science Day
- ❖ Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day Event(s) details to follow
- ❖ Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – we finish for Easter. School closes at 2pm.