

Risdene Academy Weekly Newsletter

17th November 2017

Children in Need

On Friday 17th November the school took part in Children in the Need. Throughout the day classes took part in a range of activities to explore the work of the charity and society beyond our community. The Pupil Forum helped to arrange a cake sale and the children all came to school in spots for a 'Spotacular' day. The generosity of our community was amazing and we thank you all for your incredible support. As a school we raised a profit of £402, which makes me incredibly proud.

Forest Points

In a Monday assembly we also celebrate our hard work in lessons and the forest points we have been earning for our teams. Forest points are given out for a range of reasons including use of manners, positive behaviour choices and learning behaviour choices. This week's results were:

1st Place — Thetford with 1529, 2nd Place — Sherwood with 1161, 3rd Place — Salcey with 1143 and 4th Place — Rockingham with 1116

Attendance

Our current whole School Attendance is 95.89%. Our target is to be at 96.5% or higher at the end of year. In a Monday assembly, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance. This week's results were:

1st Place — Ants with 98.28%

2nd Place — Owls with 97.86%

3rd Place — Badgers with 97.14%

As the winter weather hits we know children get ill. We have spoken to all of the children about the importance of washing their hands, using a tissue and putting it in a bin, and covering their mouths when they cough to help reduce the spread. Our site team have also increased their cleaning regime and they now come in during the day to clean down door handles and common surfaces to also help prevent spread. This is in addition to their normal routine.

As the cold weather has arrived, it is vitally important that the children wear a coat to school. We still have a number of pupils coming to school without one. Please can you ensure that your child has a coat in school everyday.

Foundation Stage

Foundation have been busy learning about weddings and what happens during this type of celebration amongst different cultures. They have compared what is the same and what is different. The children have been using their phonic skills to write invitations and they have enjoyed writing to their friends! In mathematics we have focussed on number recognition and finding missing numbers!

Year 1/2

This week Ants, Dragonflies and Bees have been busy learning all about Hanukkah - a Jewish celebration.

We have read recipes, watched cooking clips and made our own delicious potato latkes (a traditional dish to celebrate Hanukkah). We are really getting into the festive spirit with our nativity songs and actions; we can't wait to show it to you in December. Please remember that our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday and PE kit needs to be in school on these days.

Year 3/4

Across Year 3/4 this term we have been reading George's Marvellous Medicine. We collected information to chair our own class debates to discuss whether Grandma deserved George's marvellous medicine or not. They were extremely persuasive and shared great arguments mixed with facts and opinions. Their argument was so persuasive that many children changed their viewpoints. We believe that we have future politicians in our classes, watch out!

Year 5/6

Another busy week in Phase 3. Year 5 have been solving problems in relation to factors and prime numbers and Year 6 are using BODMAS during maths. English has been a story in context with our text 'Invasion of the Nazis' and our topic work continues with WWII. Our Anderson shelters are fantastic and we applied our teamwork skills to this project. A polite reminder that children should have PE kit in school everyday.

KS2 Choir Performance at The Castle Theatre

On Monday 20th November our fantastic KS2 choir performed at the Castle Theatre as part of the Rotary Club 's series of concerts. This was the first time that Risdene had ever taken part and they were incredible. Mrs Bates has worked really hard with the pupils and their dedication to their rehearsals has been fantastic and was clear for all to see. Sadly, Mrs Bates was unwell on the evening and Mrs Love stepped in to conduct and organise the whole thing. Despite these last minute changes the children showed no signs of nerves and they were an absolute credit to the school. There was a tear in my eye as they all sang so beautifully,. The confidence of our pupils was clearly on display as they were surrounded by schools that were seasoned performers at this event. The narrator read aloud (the only one to have learnt their words off by heart), the soloists sang with conviction and the rest of the choir sang with huge smiles. I'm sure the choir will join me in saying a huge thank you to Mrs Bates and Mrs Love because these events and opportunities do not happen without the support and dedication of the staff but also you as parents.

Christmas Dinner Day

Christmas Lunch for the children this year will be on **Wednesday 13th December**. Please log into your Parent Pay account to order your child's Christmas Lunch by **Midnight on Tuesday 5th December**. If you do not have an activation code for Parent Pay then please ask at the office.

School Photos

We hope you liked the new school photos. The photographer was brilliant and breezed through the whole school. Just a reminder that money was due back on Monday 27th November otherwise you will be charged postage and packaging. However you can order on line if you wish.

Flu Vaccinations - Foundation - Year 4 only

Please could we have your consent forms handed in as soon as possible,. If you do not give consent or your child has already received the vaccination then please indicate this on the form and return back to school. For more information on the Flu Vaccination please visit: www.nhs.uk/child-flu or call the 0-19 Team on **0300 111 1022**.

Christmas Dates

Tuesday 28th November - KS1 Film Night
Thursday 30th November - KS2 Film Night
Wednesday 29th November - KS1 Choir performing at Barwick House (during school time)
Tuesday 5th December - KS1 Choir performing at 'Sing for Serve' Park Road Baptist Church
Wednesday 6th December - Panto 'Sleeping Beauty'
Thursday 7th December - Christmas Fayre
Monday 11th December - KS2 Choir performing at Asda Rushden (during school time)
Thursday 14th December - KS1 Christmas Performance (details to follow)
Friday 15th December - Foundation Christmas Sing a long (details to follow)
Monday 18th December - Christmas Carol Service in school
Monday 18th December (evening) - Christmas Carol sing a long in school



Christmas Fayre 2017

Risdene Academy would like to invite you to our Christmas Fayre which is being held on Thursday 7th December at 3.10 p.m.

The choir will open the Fayre with Christmas songs

At the Christmas Fayre we will have Santa and you will be able to take your own photos, entrance will be £2.50 per child.

There will be a Chocolate Tombola, a Christmas Café, serving drinks and cakes, Christmas Crafts, Raffle prizes (1st Prize – Amazon Fire 7" Tablet), to name but a few. A full program will follow.

On Tuesday 6th December 2017 the Academy will be having a Christmas Panto Day where the children can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a donation of chocolate for our Chocolate Tombola at the Christmas Fayre.

Each class are creating their own Hamper for the raffle and we would appreciate any donations. The classes have each got their own colour scheme and donations should be in that colour:

Foundation-Gold	Ants -Yellow	Badgers -Blue
Bees-Silver	Owls -Green	Red Kites -Orange
Dragonflies-Red	Wolves -Purple	Hawks - White

Donations of cakes and mince pies can be handed into the office on the morning of the Fayre, 7th December.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre.