

Risdene Academy Weekly Newsletter

October 2017

PRIDE

It has certainly been an awesome start to the school year. So much is going on already here at Risdene; the learning never stops. We want our children to have amazing opportunities all the time and we are very proud of the work that is going on to make this happen. We have welcomed our new reception children and parents to the school. We are delighted that you have chosen us as the school for your child and as a school we will endeavour to make their time here magical. They are an absolute credit to you and they have settled in brilliantly. We have also welcomed lots of new children and families to the Risdene community in other year groups, who have also settled in really well. I am in no doubt that 2017/2018 is going to be the best yet!

Foundation Stage

Rabbits and Hedgehogs classes have had a fantastic first term at school. We are extremely proud of how the children have settled into school routines and would like to thank you for your support with their transition. Our daily RWI phonics lessons have been popular with the children and they look forward to seeing what sound they are going to learn each day! Both classes have shown independence and teamwork when using the continuous provision in the classrooms and outdoor area. It is great to see children helping each other put aprons on and tidy up their areas as a team. We are very much looking forward to next term and seeing what the children will achieve!

Year 1/2

The children in Ants, Bees and Dragonflies have settled in extremely well to their new classes showing a sense of PRIDE in their attitude to learning and the super work they have produced in the first term. The children really enjoyed it when their parents came into school in the second week and helped to build London landmarks, which they can all name and describe in detail. The children have produced some amazing writing linked to our key text 'The Queens Hat' and we are all very proud of the effort put into improving their handwriting and punctuation. The children have really enjoyed learning some new songs and have amazed their teachers with some wonderful singing in our assemblies. They are looking forward to learning some new Christmas songs which you will be able to enjoy in December.

Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have had a great start to the new year and have become really settled with their new classes and the changes in school. They have had an interesting term learning about robots and how they created which has inspired them to design and create their own robots. The children have enjoyed learning about the adventures of the Iron Man and have combined what they have learnt to write an alternative version of the story. We definitely have some future authors in our classes! We are proud of how hard they have worked on their teamwork skills this term and modelled this whilst completing investigations with circuits.

Year 5/6

We are extremely proud of our Year 5 & 6 pupils' who have settled well in to the new school year. They have shown great PRIDE, especially those children who we took on the residential – they were all fantastic ambassadors for our school. We have also been particularly impressed with the Year 6 pupils who have shown great levels of maturity and have been superb role models to the Year 5s.

Within our learning, we have created some stunning art work of the Blitz, imagined what life might have been like for an evacuee and written emotional pieces describing the ordeal that some children endured. Through investigations we have used our scientific skills to learn how light travels to help us to design periscopes which the soldiers could have used during the war. All of the children have shown a keen interest in this topic and have been enthusiastic about their learning.



Writing Success:

We are extremely proud of some of our current Year 6 pupils who entered a 'Write a book in a day' competition last year. Sixteen teams entered from across the country and we are very pleased to announce that one of the teams, who were commended for their work, came from Risdene Academy. They have been awarded a certificate and were praised for their work - a copy of their story can be seen on the school website. The comments from the judges can be seen below,

Commended:

"The Night the Storm Came," started very well and the story and the drama built up as it went on. There was a real sense of jeopardy as the distressed plane approached the lighthouse and, just as you think it's all over, there's an extra twist to keep it going. The illustrations were also bright and bold and made for a good story.

Sporting Success:

As you are aware, we are busy developing our PE provision. We have made a great start and already entered the Year 5 and 6 football competition. We have also entered the year 5 and 6 girls football tournament. We are set to carry on building on this momentum next term with sportshall athletics, KS1 Multi-skills and Project ability Boccia competitions. These opportunities will give the children the chance to apply the teamwork skills they have been learning in lessons. Mr Butler has been impressed with the way the children have been applying themselves to working effectively in a team and developing their communication, leadership and cooperation skills during lessons.

Key Notices and Reminders

PE KITS: Please remember PE Kits should be in school for the whole term!

OUTDOOR COATS: With the unpredictability of the British weather, we politely ask parents to make sure that their child has have a coat in school everyday as we would like the children to be outside at playtime and lunchtime as much as possible. Without the correct clothing this is not always feasible.

SMOKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL: We politely ask parents and carers to refrain from smoking immediately outside all of the school gates. This includes any Vape Pen Kits, or E Cigarettes. Many of our school community have remarked and raised concerns about this and we ask for your support in making the school a welcoming place to enter and leave.

DOG FOULING: The school is just as frustrated as the parents about the amount of dog mess left outside of the school by owners, who do not clean up after their animals. We strongly urge parents to ring and report their concerns to East Northants Council on 01832 742000.

MACMILLANCOFFEE MORNING: Thank you for your fantastic support at our Macmillan Coffee morning. Your donations and generosity helped us raise over £340. It was an absolute pleasure to also have the mayor join us at our event. Thank you so much everyone!

Governors' news

On behalf of the Governing Body I am delighted to inform you of the exciting news that Miss Kerry Mills will be taking a short period of leave to have a baby next year. The school is making progress and moving forward and will be in good hands during this period as The Education Fellowship have already put plans in place to ensure that the academy, pupils and staff are fully supported during this period. Our members have been working with Senior Leaders in the school to work on areas addressed within the Ofsted inspection and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of provision. As Governors we shall continue to monitor the progress and consistency ensuring the best possible outcomes for your children throughout her period of leave. Mrs Goodwin.

Key Dates for Your Diary for Term 2

Monday 30th October -School re-opens	Wednesday 8th November -Poppy Assembly by Royal British Legion
Friday 10th November -Remembrance Day	15th and 16th November -Parents Evening
Friday 17th November -KS1 School Choir performing at Cordwainers	Friday 17th November -Children in Need
Monday 20th November - Individual School Photos AM -KS2 Choir rehearsals at Castle Theatre (School photos for Choir members will be taken around the rehearsal) 7pm -KS2 Choir performance at the Castle Theatre-Wellingborough	Tuesday 28th November -KS1 Film Night Thursday 30th November -KS2 Film Night
Wednesday 29th November -KS1 School Choir performing at Barwick House	Monday 4th December -Winning Forest Assembly for invited parents
Tuesday 5th December -KS1 Choir performing at 'Sing for Serve' Park Road Baptist Church	Wednesday 6th December -Panto 'Sleeping Beauty' in school
Thursday 7th December - Winning Forest receive their prize-AM Christmas Fayre-PM	Monday 11th December -Flu Vaccinations for Foundation-Year 4(Consent letters to be sent out nearer the time)
Thursday 14th December - KS1 Christmas Performance (Details to follow)	Friday 15th December - Foundation Christmas Sing a long (Details to follow)
Monday 18th December -Carol Concert (Details to follow)	Wednesday 20th December -Last day of term
Thursday 4th January 2018 -School re-opens	

TERM DATES 2017/2018

Term 1 Autumn, 2017

Training Day for staff	Friday 1 September 2017
Training Day for staff	Monday 4 September 2017
Re-open to children	Tuesday 5 September 2017
Closes to children at the end of	Friday 20 October 2017

Term 2

Re-open to children	Monday 30 October 2017
Closes to children at the end of	Wednesday 20 December 2017

Term 3 Spring, 2018

Training Day for staff	Wednesday 3 January 2018
Re-open to children	Thursday 4 January 2018
Closes to children at the end of	Friday 9 February 2018

Term 4

Re-open to children	Monday 19 February 2018
Closes to children at the end of	Thursday 29 March 2018

Term 5 Summer, 2018

Re-open to children	Monday 16 April 2018
Bank Holiday – school closed	Monday 7 May 2018
Closes to children at the end of	Friday 25 May 2018

Term 6

Re-open to children	Monday 4 June 2018
Closes to children at the end of	Wednesday 18 July 2018
Training Day for Staff	Thursday 19 July 2018
Training Day for Staff	Friday 20 July 2018