



**ROSSETT ACRE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Corrine Penhale

Deputy Headteacher: Cath Wilson

*Our school:*

*'Excellence and happiness for all'*

Charity No.1048680

**NEWSLETTER FOR ROSSETT ACRE – 6 December 2018**

Forthcoming dates for your diary

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Tues 11 Dec        | EYFS Christmas Production 9.30am.<br><br>KS1 Christmas Production 2.30pm.<br><a href="https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks1-christmas-production-spare-tickets/">https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks1-christmas-production-spare-tickets/</a>         |
| Weds 12 Dec        | KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am and 6pm.<br><a href="https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks1-christmas-production-spare-tickets/">https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks1-christmas-production-spare-tickets/</a><br><br>EYFS Christmas Production 2.30pm. |
| Thurs 13 Dec       | Whole school Christmas dinner.   |
| Mon 17 Dec         | KS2 Christmas Concert – St Mark’s Church – 7pm start. Letter can be found at<br><a href="https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks2-christmas-concert-2/">https://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk/news/ks2-christmas-concert-2/</a>                                    |
| Fri 21 Dec         | Close for Christmas at <b>2.30pm</b>   |
| Mon 7 Jan          | Training Day – Children not in school today.   |
| Tue 8 Jan          | School starts at the usual time: 8.50am  |
| Fri 11 Jan         | Singing Squad - Young Voices, Sheffield Arena.   |
| Fri 8 Feb          | PTA Quiz night.  |
| 22-23 March        | PTA Panto at Harrogate Grammar School  |
| Wed 10-Fri 12 July | Y4 Nell Bank Residential   |

On Monday I led an assembly on Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Light. The children listened extremely well and enjoyed watching a short animation about it.

It was lovely seeing so many of you at the Christmas Fair on Saturday. I hope you enjoyed yourself. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising the event and to Santa, who took time out of his busy schedule to pop in for the afternoon.

The **raffle** was drawn at the end of the fair and we still have some prizes that need to be collected. Are you a lucky winner? Tickets are: **Yellow 584, 616, 653, 672 and Blue 15**



On Tuesday Mrs Riley's class shared a fabulous class assembly with us all about their work on the Tudors. The children have really enjoyed this theme and are looking forward to sharing their work with parents, at the end of term, when they hold their Tudor Museum. A special congratulations to Priya who confidently agreed to take on the role of one of Henry VIII's wives on the morning of the assembly - she did a great job. All the children were amazing; well done to them all and thank you to the parents who joined us too.

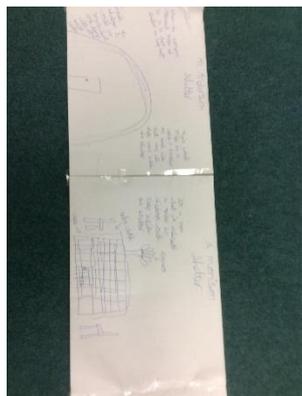
On Wednesday it was Miss Kirkwood's class assembly, unfortunately I was unable to watch it, however Mrs Wilson did and reported the following:

'I had the privilege of watching Miss Kirkwood's class perform their assembly yesterday afternoon. The theme of the assembly was Vikings and it was wonderful to see how much the children have learned about this topic. Their enthusiasm showed that they have really enjoyed their learning and they were able to present information to the audience in lots of different ways, which made it thoroughly enjoyable to watch. We learned a lot about the Vikings, too!

The children showed their hidden talents and it was obvious that we have budding estate agents, writers, musicians, dancers, actors, newsreaders - to name but a few!

Well done, to everyone who worked hard to make this assembly so brilliant. It was definitely worth waiting for - and I now know who to go to if I want to sell a house!'

The children have shown me more fantastic homework projects over the last few weeks: Viking long boats, Roman Temples and huge scrolls about WWII to name a few. Here are a couple of photos:



### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to all the children who received a certificate in last week's celebration assembly: Oscar (AW), Thomas R (EJ/EB), Eli (AI), Sam (CR/JJ), Whole class (AWo), Whole class (MR), Rachel (JM), Finlay (RJ/LS), James A (SC), Suri (CH/TM), Sam T (SK), James J (CD).

HT Awards: David S (Y4, LS/RJ), Harry W (Y5, CH) Dan R (Y4)

### **INCONSIDERATE PARKING**

Can parents please be mindful and respectful to residents when dropping off and picking up their children from school. Yesterday, a nearby neighbour could not gain access to their own property as a parent had parked their car across the front of their drive. (Please bear in mind how you would feel if someone did this outside your house). There were also cars parked on the footpaths which were causing an obstruction to pedestrians. Please can all parents park responsibly. Thank you.

### **NEW MORNING ROUTINE SURVEY**

Thank you to the parents who filled in the survey to give feedback on our new morning routine this term: allowing children to come straight into school from 8.40am in the morning. We had 58 responses and a massive 98.3% of the parents who completed the survey were in favour of this new routine. There was some lovely feedback and many positive reasons for this:

- Less rushed in morning. Children go into school warm and dry. Much calmer, children can get in and complete their morning jobs in their own time – therefore starting the day in the right frame of mind.
- Less traffic congestion, more efficient drop-offs, less waiting in the cold/rain.

- Morning routine more relaxed as have a 10 minute window to arrive at school. Also car park seems a little less crowded as parents have a longer drop off window.
- Being able to drop my children to their classrooms separately.
- Children enter school more calmly. There is more space on the playground and in the cloakrooms. My children no longer get anxious about drop-off, they go in confidently and quietly. I find it easier to speak to the teacher if I need to, as it is less busy. Everyone, children, parents, and staff, seems more relaxed. Parking/traffic/pedestrian safety all seems easier outside school. I can drop both children off one at a time, instead of trying to be in two places. I am able to drop off more quickly, without waiting and therefore able to get to work more easily/on time.

A lot of parents said there were no disadvantages but there were a couple such as:

- I don't see as much of the other parents as we're not standing around chatting.
- The doors closing at exactly 08.50! Teachers are looking at watches to shut the doors and on occasions have shut them before 08.50. If you are 10 seconds over then you have the hassle of going through the office.
- Not been able to speak to the teacher. I am not always around at pick up.

I do appreciate these comments and thank parents for sharing them. In relation to the disadvantages I'd like to offer the following:

- Should you need to speak to a teacher, you can catch them very quickly at the beginning of the day, however please be aware that they are supervising children in the classroom and this is their main priority; teachers are happy to speak to parents and appointments can be made to see them by contacting the school office.
- The majority of the outside doors are now run on a system where we can programme the doors to open and lock at the times we want them to. School starts at 08.50 promptly and parents have a 10 minute window to drop their children into school from 08.40 – 08.50am. Being on time is an important life skill that we are keen to encourage our children to achieve. I appreciate that there are occasional times when children may arrive late due to traffic congestion or other reasons, which is completely understandable, however to safeguard our children effectively and ensure that every child has been marked off on the register correctly, it is important that any latecomers (even those who are a few minutes late) sign in at the office. This may seem an inconvenience at the time but it is important that we know which children are in school so we can follow up any absences that we are unaware of; we thank parents for their support with this.

Once again I thank all the parents who took the time to complete our survey. As the response was so overwhelming positive, we will be keeping the new morning routine in place for the rest of the year.

### **ECO ENERGY EVENT**

On Thursday 29th November, the ECO Committee, some enthusiastic geographers, Mrs Kirkwood and I went to Harlow Carr on an ECO Energy Event. We took part in 3 different workshops throughout the day. Here are some quotes from the children:

"Firstly, Eco enthusiast Power Down Pete showed us his energy bike and we all had a go. We managed to cycle so much we make 150 Watts!" - Sam (Y6)

"Our second workshop was learning about solar energy. We planted crocuses and learned about photosynthesis" - Mae (Y6)

"My favourite part of the trip was the final workshop. We made wind turbines. We all worked really well together and even though some didn't work, we persevered no matter what." - Roma (Y5)

The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a huge amount about different types of ECO energy and how to use energy responsibly. Huge thanks to Mrs Kirkwood who led and organised the visit. I was privileged to attend the event with the children; they were great ambassadors for Rossett Acre.



### **Y3 TEMPLE NEWSAM VISIT**

Year 3 had a fantastic time on our visit to Temple Newsam house. They took part in different activities throughout the day. They were Time Travelling Detectives, working in groups to investigate different Tudor objects. During the tour of the house, the children all were eager and enthusiastic to share their knowledge with the guides. The highlight of the trip for most of the children was having the opportunity to dress up in Tudor outfits and perform a Tudor procession dance. The children have reflected on their trip by writing some excellent recounts to record their memories. We would like to thank the parents again, who came to support us – without this help these trips would not be able to happen.



### **CHRISTMAS JUMPERS**

As it is the Christmas lunch on Thursday 13 December, your children are welcome to wear a festive Christmas jumper if they wish. Please ensure they wear the rest of their usual uniform ie. school trousers, black shoes etc.

### **Y1 & Y5 PLANETARIUM VISIT**

On Thursday 28th November, the Planetarium came to Rossett Acre and its huge size dominated the sports hall! Children in Years 1 and 5 had the pleasure of entering the planetarium to find out about life (or the lack of!) on other planets and the sun, as well as exploring constellations in the night sky. Everyone (staff and children alike!) thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Thank you to Mrs Harris for planning the event and to parents for making the visit possible.

## **Y5 RSPCA VISIT**

On Friday 30th, Year 5 were visited by the RSPCA and completed an informative workshop all about how to care for your pets. This was particularly useful for handy hints for looking after our class hamster, 'Jeff'. Thank you for all your donations - they were gratefully received.

## **CAMPFIRE COMMUNITY!**

This week, Year 5 took part in a wonderful campfire session. We made 'smore' made from marshmallows and biscuits and learnt how to safely make fire using fire steels! Everyone was very sensible and well-behaved - we very much enjoyed the session, despite the mud!

## **CRAFT AID THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who bought a Christmas tree decoration in aid of Craft Aid International. We raised a grand total of £160 - look out for further events throughout the year to raise money for this worthy cause. To find out more, please visit their website - <http://www.craftaidinternational.org/>

## **YEAR 1 AUTHOR VISIT**

On Tuesday Key Stage One were lucky enough to have a children's author visit out classes. Eleanor McKone is a self-published author who is currently writing a series called 'Piper's Passport'. She read the book the children and then they all completed an activity related to the book. The book was all about Australia and the children asked so many questions about the country and animals. If you would like to purchase one of the books we have order forms at the office. Eleanor will return the books to school and sign them for you.

## **DRUMMING SESSION**

Last Friday assembly saw the whole school "rock out" to Mr Radcliffe's amazing drumming. Mr Radcliffe, a teaching assistant in Key Stage 2, is a Grade 8 drummer who inspired the children with his fabulous drumming. He answered questions from the children about learning to play the drums and reinforced the need for perseverance in learning - one of our values here at Rossett Acre!

There is a community flyer attached for people wishing to take drum lessons with Mr Radcliffe.

## **MRS ELCOCK'S MUSIC CLUBS**

Mrs Elcock's music clubs and music lessons will finish for Christmas next Friday 14 December. They will all resume on Friday 18 January 2019.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

As we approach the last few weeks of term please can you check the Lost Property bins if you have lost something. These will be emptied at the end of term and items remaining given to Second Hand Uniform or to a charity shop. We are unable to keep items from term to term.

Please remember to name all your child's belongings, especially jumpers, cardigans, coats and PE kits. Then, if they are found around school they can be returned. Thank you.

## **BIG BATTERY HUNT**



Our school will once again be taking part in the Big Battery Hunt. More information will be given in the new year, but please save your batteries and send into school. The collecting tub is located in the office area.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Adversity United**

A disability football club for children aged 6-12 years old living with physical, behavioural, social and cerebral challenges. Sessions take place at Harrogate Grammar School on Tuesdays 4.30-5.30pm. email [adversityunited@gmail.com](mailto:adversityunited@gmail.com) for more detail.

It's always good to hear from you as parents/carers and members of the local community, about your opinions and suggestions regarding any aspect of school life. Please use the red suggestion box in the main office or e-mail your suggestions to [suggestions@rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:suggestions@rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Have a great weekend everyone.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas performances next week.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Penhale', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Corrine Penhale  
Headteacher