



“Together”

The John Rankin Schools’ Newsletter

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Inspired to learn—challenged to achieve

From the Leadership Team ...

It has been another fantastic term for our wonderful John Rankin children and staff. The children have been privileged enough to experience a variety of extracurricular events; Year 4 went to Chedworth Roman Villa, Year 1 have been to Milestones Museum, Year 5 went on a residential trip to Hooke Court, FS2 and Year 2 have performed their Christmas productions and the Junior school attended the annual Carol concert at St Nicholas’ church. What lucky children indeed!

The classrooms across the whole school have also been buzzing with fun filled learning and of course Christmas activities as we near the end of term and it’s been an absolute pleasure to see and be a part of.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff who work tirelessly for our children to make their education fun and engaging and who encourage our lifelong learners.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the PTFA for all the hard work they have put in to raising funds for our school, particularly the fantastic Christmas Bazaar this month.

Now it is time to relax and enjoy a well-earned rest and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Mr Rayner

Executive Headteacher

Christmas Phonics ...

We welcomed our first ever John Rankin Phonics Advent Calendar this term. The feedback has been astounding! We hope that you found it useful in supporting your children with their reading at home.

Winter warmer ...

It was a perfect way to warm up the school run. Many of you enjoyed a free hot chocolate and muffin to warm you up on a cold foggy morning.



Reminders ...

Unfortunately we have been receiving a lot of complaints about the inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the grass verges and at the junctions of both Garford and Henshaw Crescent.

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of parking safely and respectfully, as it paramount that we keep our children safe and our neighbours happy.

Christmas Bazaar ...

Thank you to all the families who joined us on Saturday 7th December for our annual Christmas Bazaar. It was lovely to see whole families attending the Bazaar together. Congratulations to the PTFA for another successful fundraising event. Weeks of planning, organising, sorting items and making games, etc which ensured everyone had a very enjoyable time! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously of their time and for all the donations you gave us.



Healthy Eating Event ...

On 10th December, we hosted a healthy eating event in the infant hall. There was a fruit and vegetable market stall, a smoothie bike, a juice bar, a soup station and a hydration station all supported by an amazing team of experts from our food suppliers ISS.

News from the 'Children' - Chedworth Roman Villa (Year 4)

Chris took us on a guided tour around the villa. First, she took us to see the heating system. Unluckily the stone pillars had duvets on them because it was winter so they looked like mushrooms. Next, she showed us the baths. There was a changing room, the tepidarium, the hot room, the hot bath and the cold bath. They used olive oil to clean themselves and wore wooden clogs for the Hot Room. There was a tool called a strigil that they used to scrape off the dirt. After that, we saw some mosaics and there were millions of tesserae bricks. Then, we saw the Roman toilets and it was awesome. They would have used one sponge to wipe their bum which they had to rinse off!

We had a break where we could have one snack and some water. We were talking for a long time until we were able to go to the next activity which we had no idea what it was.

Chris took us to a place where there were a lot of artefacts but first she told us a story of how they found the villa. It was really interesting and very long. She took some boxes out and put them on each table then she told us to sort them into groups, no right or wrong answers. Then she asked us questions like what did we think they were used to eat and how did we know that. We learnt a lot from that activity.

Then it was lunchtime and we had a long break. After we finished lunch, Chris took us to be slaves and told us facts about the slaves and what they used to do. They had to do horrible things like cleaning the toilets. We made medicine out of black mustard, lavender, coriander, cumin and bay leaves. We mashed it all up and it smelt absolutely horrible. If you put it in hot water you will basically have a horrible drink. This was most people's favourite activity, even mine.

Then our faces grew sad and we slowly got on the bus and we said goodbye. 1 hour and 30 minutes later we were home. The trip was finished but tomorrow was to come.

by Vinnie B (Year 4 - Sycamore)

The Year 4 teachers would like to thank all the volunteers we had who helped with the smooth running of this trip.

We love our lunches ...

The kitchen at the Infant School has been open for a few weeks now, it is fully equipped and is staffed by a team of ISS caterers. Previously the meals came from the junior school in Henshaw Crescent. Pupils and staff enjoyed their first ever Christmas lunch from the new kitchen. We would like to thank ISS and the school operations team for all their hard work and understanding how important it is for the children to enjoy their school lunches.



Sports news ...

Girls Indoor football Tournament at Trinity

On the 6th of November, 5 teams took part in an indoor tournament at Trinity School. The rules were different from normal football as the ball wasn't allowed to go too high otherwise it would be a penalty or a free kick. The only person that was allowed in the box was the goalie otherwise it could be a penalty or free kick and there was no throw ins or corners.

The 1st game we played was against St Finnians and we won that match 4-0 because they didn't have a dedicated goalkeeper. Izzy M scored a hatrick. The 2nd match we played was against Cold Ash we drew 0-0. The match after against Burghfield was also 0-0. The last match against Burrcroft was 2-1. We came 3rd overall.

Indoor Athletics

On Saturday the 16th November, John Rankin Junior School took part in an indoor athletics competition. They were split into 2 teams: A and B. The B team came 7th and the A team finished 5th. A total of 24 teams and approximately 200 children took part in the event. Ava B, who was in the A team, came 1st out of all of the girls as she won both of her field events!

Other events and results:

Football:

Hermitage 0 – John Rankin Girls 4

Boys outdoor tournament – John Rankin finished runners up

Girls outdoor tournament – John Rankin finished 3rd

Netball:

John Rankin are currently 2nd in their league

Victories against Woolton Hill 9-7, St Nics 6-4 and Kingsclere 8-6

Key Dates 2019/20

Below is a list of the key dates for 2019/20.

(Please be aware these maybe subject to change)

December 2019

19th December—Special Awards Assembly

19th December—End of Term 2

20th December—INSET DAY

January 2020

5th-11th January—Alder and Birch Class to Rhos

6th January—Start of Term 3

12th—18th January—Cedar to Rhos

29th January—Year 6 Class Assembly

February 2020

5th February—Sycamore Class Assembly

14th February—Special Awards Assembly

14th February—End of Term 3

24th February—Start of Term 4

March 2020

2nd-6th March—Book Week

5th March—World Book Day

12th March—Maple Class Assembly

9th-13th March—Sports Relief / Science Week

10th March—Parents' Evenings (3.30pm-5.00pm)

12th March—Parents' Evening (5.30pm-8.00pm)

18th March—Oak Class Assembly

25th March—Magnolia Class Assembly

April 2020

3rd April—Special Awards Assembly

3rd April—End of Term 4

20th April—Start of Term 5

May 2020

1st May—KS1 SATs to begin

6th May—Ash Class Assembly

8th May—Bank Holiday

11th-14th May—KS2 SATs Week

22nd May—Special Awards Assembly

22nd May—End of Term 5

June 2020

1st June—Start of Term 6

1st—5th June—JRS Science Week

10th June—Willow Class Assembly

17th June—Chestnut Class Assembly

24th June—Holly Class Assembly

24th June—Y2-Y3 Guided Tours of the Juniors

29th June—Year 6 Performance to Parents

July 2020

1st July—Year 6 Performance to Parents

1st July—Laurel Class Assembly

3rd July—Sports Day

10th July—Reserve Sports Day

15th July—Reports to Parents

16th July—Special Awards Assembly

17th July—Year 6 Leavers' Assembly to Parents

17th July—Family Picnic

17th July—End of Term 6
