

“Together”

The John Rankin Schools' Newsletter

www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk

Inspired to learn—challenged to achieve



From the Leadership Team ...

Here we are at the end of the spring term with Summer just around the corner. We've had a busy and very exciting term, full of rich learning experiences for all of our children here at John Rankin. I am extremely excited to be able to share the fabulous news about Mrs Rance and her beautiful new arrival below. As always, a big thank you to all our families for your continued support, without which we would not have achieved so much. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and may I wish you all a happy and restful Easter break.

Mr Rayner — Executive Head

Upcoming Events

8th—22nd April—Easter Break

23rd April—INSET DAY

24th April—Start of Summer 1 Term

1st May—Start of Y2 SATs

13th May—Start of Y6 SATs

SATs—Year 2 and Year 6 ...

Our Year 2 and Year 6 teachers are working incredibly hard to prepare your children for their SATs. When your child comes home it is almost inevitable they will be talking about them. At Key Stage 2, your child will be very aware of the preparation they are doing not only in the school day but with their set homework tasks too. As a parent or carer it is good to be able to respond to any concerns or questions your child may have about their SATs, but we must try not to put them under pressure. Instead we wish to reassure them that they do not need to worry about taking the tests.

It is good to talk about the SATs, we also do this in school but it makes a bigger impact if school and parents do this together. Try and keep everything running normally, and stay positive! Many children enjoy taking the tests as they see it as a challenge. The most important thing is to give your child lots of praise as we know they will be doing their very best.

Mrs Rance ...

We are delighted to share with you that Mrs Rance has given birth to a wonderful baby boy called Luca Roger Rance on 2nd March. Despite the fact Luca was born 14 weeks early, we are pleased to announce that mum and baby are doing very well and being cared for on a neonatal ward.

As Mrs Rance is now officially on maternity leave she will not be returning to Birch class and so the arrangement of Mr Percy and Mrs Watkins will continue until further notice.

The children have been told about Mrs Rance and baby Luca this week and have been read a lovely email written by Mrs Rance explaining what has happened and sharing a picture of the new arrival.



'The Make it, Bake it!' Grand opening ...

The acclaimed Woodspeen Chef John Campbell officially opened the 'Make it, Bake it' room on Friday 15th February. It was a fabulous afternoon shared by lots of our children, followed by another generous cake sale. As always, it wouldn't have been possible without all of your support.

This room is now used for the whole school from Foundation Stage to Year 6 and it is a great asset to John Rankin School—with many thanks to everyone who has been involved in making this happen.



The After School Club ...

The After School Club children worked hard again baking and selling yummy cakes. They raised an outstanding £100 all of which goes straight back into the funds for buying new and exciting games and equipment.

JRS website ...

Great News! Our new website is done and we would love for you to take a look. Here's the link: - www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk

Have you visited the John Rankin Schools website before? You might be noticing that it looks different, we have a whole new look this time. We have updated the site with a new design, new features and new content. We hope you like what you see and easily find the information you are looking for.

If you haven't visited the website before, welcome!

Our website is here to help you and it really will be worth your time. If you are looking for something relating to school, it is very likely that you will find it on here. Items such as what your child is learning about, interesting news articles of what's been happening in school, term dates, club information, up and coming events and a vacancies section. We currently have a vacancy for a Nursery Teacher and an Assistant Caretaker.

With thanks ...

PE Kits—We have been overwhelmed with the generous donations that we have received from our parents and carers. Thank you so much for the donations of all the sports wear that we requested in a previous newsletter.

Paint—What a lucky school we are. Look out for a fresh new 'painted' look in the juniors reception area. We couldn't have done it without the generous support from Brewers—thanks BREWERS!

Reminders ...

Please can we remind parents that the school car park is only for staff and parents and carers with a parking permit. This includes when dropping off and collecting from clubs. We have lots of outside clubs where there are children walking and running around the school and it is a danger to them if cars are driving in and out of the car park. Thank you for understanding.

Also please remember to park considerately around the school when doing the school drop off and pickup. We now have regular visits from our friendly local traffic warden who has been doing a great job in trying to keep our children safe.



Parents' Evenings ...

We held two very busy and very successful parents' consultation evenings. We hope you were able to attend one of them. It is so important that you are informed about your child's progress and success as well as their targets and how we can work together to help your child achieve them. If you were not able to attend either of these evenings, please feel free to ask your child's teacher for an appointment as soon as possible.

Nursery ...

Nursery would like to say a huge thank-you to Mr Jones and Miss Sheldon for transforming our garden shed into a beautiful role play house!

The children have loved exploring and using this new learning area and with the weather improving by the day, it is an invaluable asset to the Nursery outdoor space.



Year 6—By Fleur ...

On the 19th of March, Yr6 made a visit to St George the Martyr church, next to Falkland, to explore the Easter story. These activities are run by COINS, an organisation run by Christians from all over Newbury, who don't wish to change our beliefs, but for us to listen to what they have to say.

They have very kindly arranged these sessions for Year Sixes from all over Newbury to learn about what the Christian Faith believe. We are incredibly lucky to be invited to spend a few hours with COINS and finding out what the Easter Story means to them.

When we visited the church, we decorated plant pots, in which we planted cress, we went Easter-Egg hunting and even role-played our very own Last Supper! We re-enacted the betrayal scene and watched several clips from a movie revolving around the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thanks again to Tanya, Coleen and all of the wonderful volunteers at COINS.

World Book Day / Bedtime Books

Bonanza ...

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. The children and staff came to school in their pyjamas and there were book themed activities across the school. Children and staff mixed up across the whole school and thoroughly enjoyed reading, writing and sharing stories, many that were written by themselves. What a great day we all had! The day continued into the evening, where both our English co-ordinators were on hand to answer all your questions, whilst the children enjoyed listening to bedtime stories. The day and evening were a great success and as always, supported in full by our amazing families. Thank you!



Year 4—by Zac and Max ...

Chedworth Roman Villa

On Tuesday 19 March we went on a trip to Chedworth Roman Villa, we travelled there on the Fosse way, an old Roman road. When we arrived we went straight to the medicine room. On the way to the medicine room we saw a few mosaics. When we got to the medicine room we found out about the Roman remedies and doctors' equipment and how to make a Roman medicine bag which smelled of curry or spiced chicken.

Next we had to examine and sort a box full of Roman artefacts. Including bones, pottery, stones, steel, oyster shells and snail shells. We talked about how they transported the fresh oysters from the coast to Chedworth Villa. We found out that the people loved their Fish Sauce.

The Romans invented baths, their baths were a social area; they had changing rooms, a tepidarium - the hot room, a Caldarium - the warm room, the Frigidarium - the cold room and the baptisterium - a freezing pool. They had strigils to scrape the sweat and olive oil off their back and arms. They had special shoes so they wouldn't burn their feet on the floor that they heated up with fires underneath.

They had more than one toilet altogether in a bathroom and used sponges on sticks to clean themselves which they washed in vinegar and water after they used them.

We found out so much and had a really fun day!

Nick Carter ...

Children at John Rankin School were delighted to welcome back adventurer and explorer Nick Carter who returned to inspire them with tales of his latest exploits.

Nick has been working with the school over the last 5 years, visiting them annually to explain about each new challenge he is about to face through the charity he works for Committed Project. This year's theme is titled 'Deep Fear' and is centred around stepping out of our comfort zone and being brave and involves travelling to the bottom of Europe's deepest cave.

Nick is well placed to talk about facing fears having scaled the highest mountains (including Everest), run across the hottest deserts, lived with some of the most remote tribes, and visited some of the coldest places on Earth. Nick says that his passion is helping young people learn through experience and motivating them to get out and get active.

Executive Headteacher Felix Rayner, commented, 'We are extremely proud to be supporting Nick and the work he does and can see the enormous benefit he brings to our school. There is a huge buzz around school prior to Nick's visit and we enjoy following his progress on the videos he sends in.'

Once in school, Nick discusses his challenge with the whole school and sets the pupils and staff their own challenges to complete. This year he is running a Year 6 workshop aimed at equipping the students with the skills needed for their transition to secondary school. 'The children at JRS already learn about and demonstrate key life skills such as resilience, perseverance and challenge so to be able to work in partnership with them on these core skills is really exciting. I've enjoyed seeing how much the children have grown over the years.'

Mr Rayner continued 'This is another aspect of the exciting curriculum that we have been working on at John Rankin Schools and being able to work with such inspiring people like Nick, brings out the best in our children.'

Nick will be returning to John Rankin next term to find out how the children and adults got on with their challenges. The school are hoping to host a Q & A session with Nick too as parental interest has been strong. For now, however, Nick will be focusing on planning a new adventure, this time trekking across the arctic circle. If you would like more information or to find out how you can donate please visit www.committedproject.org.



Key Dates 2019

Below is a list of the key dates for 2019.

Please be aware that it does not contain assemblies or school trips. You will be advised of these dates by email.

April 2019

8th—22nd April—Easter Break

23rd April—INSET DAY

24th April—Start of Summer 1 term

May 2019

1st May—Start of Y2 SATs

13th May—Start of Y6 SATS

24th May—INSET DAY

27th—31st May—Half Term

June 2019

3rd June—Start of Summer 2 term

3rd—7th June—Science Week

28th June—JRS Sports Day

July 2019

8th, 10th, 12th July—Year 6 Play

12th July—Den Day

22nd July—Y2 Branching out Assembly

23rd July—Y2 Branching out Assembly

24th July—JRJ Y6 Leavers Assembly

24th July—Family Picnic and end of Summer 2 Term
