“Together”

The John Rankin Schools’ newsletter

www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk

Inspired to learn—challenged to achieve

From the leadership team

Welcome to the first John Rankin Newsletter of 2019 and its fresh new look. As always keeping you up to date with all the news across the schools. There will be some important information, news and views mixed with lots of fun stuff.

Can I say, I have been extremely impressed with how everyone has come back with such vigour, passion and get up and go. The schools are buzzing with the golden sound of children learning – this is a beautiful sound indeed.

We have much to achieve over the coming terms. And I know I will have your support in our number one task of raising achievement of all our children. Together, I know we can achieve great things.

I would like to this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to you all within the John Rankin family for your continued support. I would also like to thank you all for the support we received on our snow day, as I understand this can be very disruptive. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful half term.

Mr Felix Rayner — Executive Head

Upcoming Events

4th—8th March—Book Week

7th March—World Book Day—Children to come to school wearing pyjamas

15th March—Red Nose Day

18th March—Parents Evening—15:30-18:00

20th March—Parents Evening—17:30-20:00

Year 6 Rhos—By Gwen, Birch class

It’s exciting. It’s fun. It’s Rhos Y Gwaliau. This fun experience was made possible by the JRJ staff. Thank you. Now the favourite activity of the week was gorge walking.

Martha T, Year 6, Birch, said “My favourite activity was gorge walking because I liked getting wet.”

Like Martha, most people loved gorge walking. But it’s not just the kids that had all the fun, the adults loved it too.

Mrs Kirk said, “My favourite activity was the canoeing.” She really liked it because you get to make popcorn. The other activities were; Canoeing; gorge walking; night waking; slate mine; mountain climb; hill trail; rock scrambling; zip wire and night line.

So every thanks to the school staff and for all of your support for making this experience possible. Thank you.

‘The Make it, Bake it!’ Grand opening

The acclaimed Woodspeen Chef John Campbell will be officially opening the ‘Make it, Bake it’ room on Friday 15th February from 3.15. Come and celebrate with us on the Junior School Playground. If you are able to bake something for the sale, please drop it into the school office in the morning. We were able to complete and fully equip the ‘Make it, Bake it’ room thanks to a generous contribution from the Newbury Building Society Community Grants. Thank you for all the efforts time and patients the PTFA have given us over the last few months in aid of this fabulous new room for the John Rankin children to enjoy on a daily basis.

Archery Festival

Congratulation to our amazing Year 5 Archery Team who brought home **GOLD** for JRS the second year running. A testament to the wonderful Mrs Lemoine-Wright for her excellent training and team building skills.

Help / Donations

Phonic Fairies—JRI are in need of a spare pair of hands, if there is a parent or carer who could spare a hour or two each week then please let the school office know.

PE Kits—We are looking for ways to ensure that there are always spare PE kits in each classroom, so children don’t feel they have to miss a lesson if they have forgotten to bring theirs in. With this in mind we are looking for ongoing donations of **boys and girls PE footwear**, **outgrown football boots** or **shin pads.** Please bring any donations into the school office.

Plants! Plants! Plants!—We are trying to get JRI ready for the spring, if you have any spare bulbs or plants that are looking like they need a loving home then please drop them into the office.

Staffing News

We are very excited to inform you that Mrs Watkins has returned to John Rankin Schools, following her maternity leave. We welcome her back two days a week on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. She will return as Head of Schools and will work across both the infants and the junior school.

Reminders

It has been brought to our attention that some children are coming to school with a nut snack in their packed lunch. Please be reminded that JRS is a **NUT FREE** site as there are children with severe allergies. Thank you for understanding.

Please remember that all items of clothing and belongings that come to school should be clearly named as our lost property area is becoming over-crowded and we have no idea who most of it belongs to.

Please could we ask that parents and carers who drop off at Breakfast Club and collect from After School Club do not park in the staff car-park—Thank you.

Snow day

I think we can all agree that when the snow started to fall on the eve of 31st January, we weren't anticipating so much. Anyway, we’ve heard lots of lovely snow stories, and how Northcroft was the New John Rankin playground for the day. And just so we could all come back safely on Monday, the John Rankin staff were out very early to make our pathways clear and safe.

Reception

On Monday 7th January, PCSO Booth and PCSO Wilson visited Fir class. We found out all about what the police do and how they can help us.

He told us all about Stranger Danger, and gave us the advice Yell, Run and Tell if we were ever in trouble. We also got a chance to ask any questions.

PCSO Booth allowed us to try on his Police hat so we could pretend we were police officers too!

PCSO Wilson gave us the opportunity to look at her police van, and hear and see the siren in action. She even locked us in the cage at the back of the van!

We had a fantastic time with PCSO Booth and PCSO Wilson, the one thing they told us to remember is, if we were ever in trouble too: -

YELL - (no or stop)
RUN - (get to safe place quickly)
TELL - (parent or someone you trust)

Our Reception class were also very lucky to have a visit from a fully trained guide dog and his user, three of the trainers also came along to explain to the children all about what guide dogs can do to help blind people, and how they train puppies to be guide dogs. The children were completely amazed at how clever a puppy can be.

Nursery

The children were really excited to recently have had a visit from a Paramedic and PCSOs. They talked to the children about their important jobs and how they help people. The children learnt lots about different occupations and they saw the inside of an ambulance.

Phonics

The children are continuing to enjoy our daily phonics sessions. In Dragonfly class we are learning to rhyme and say rhyming words. We have also begun to talk about the initial sounds in words and playing games like I spy has helped us with this.

In Bumblebee class we have been learning a range of nursery rhymes and songs. This will help us develop our rhyming skills and also develop our vocabulary.

Year 4—By Scarlett

Chestnut class

Year 4 went on a school trip to St Nicholas' Church to sketch stained glass windows. It was a lovely time, filled with fun and friends. Lots of people had a great time and the teachers must have liked it too.

People brought hats and coats, and some even included snacks. The highlight of the journey was obviously the brilliant sketching. People sketched flowers, trees, boats, people and even unicorns. There were amazing plants and animals plus some fabulous clothes!

Some parents kindly came in for the reason of there being more adults needed, just for the day, at the church. Water bottles were taken, so there was a special time for drinks and snacks, including a trip outside.

The children looked at organ pipes and went up onto the stage. They got to choose two glass windows to sketch. The pictures ended up being beautiful!

Year 1 and Year 5

The Year 1 and Year 5 children were lucky enough to be visited by Zoolab earlier on this term. Our focus was 'classification' and we learnt about lots of different animals and what makes them different from each other. We were able to touch the animals and some of us were even brave enough to hold them!

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.

February 2019

18th—22nd February—Half Term

25th February—Start of Spring 2 Term

March 2019

4th—8th March—Book Week

7th March—World Book Day—Children to come to school wearing pyjamas

15th March—Red Nose Day

18th March—Parents Evening—15:30-18:00

20th March—Parents Evening—17:30-20:00

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