



“TOGETHER”

THE JOHN RANKIN SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER

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INSPIRED TO LEARN—CHALLENGED TO ACHIEVE

Issue 22

October 2018

From the leadership team ...

What a fabulous start to the school year it has been. With Anglo Saxon days for the Year 5's, explorer days for the Year 3's and a Mayan workshop for the Year 6's. We have visited the Argyle care home with the Year 2's to sing to the residents and enjoyed walking home safely thanks to our new zebra crossings. Enjoy reading through this issue of our newsletter and have a fantastic half term!

Mr F Rayner – Executive Head

Argyle Care Home Visit ...



We are very proud of our Year 2 children who are bringing smiles to the Argyle care home. They walked there this week and spent some time singing their Harvest songs to some of the older residents. This little act of kindness, which crosses the generations, was enjoyed equally by the children and the residents of the home.

Our children had loads of questions to ask them and really made the residents smile.

We look forward to continuing this every week in the term ahead.

Zebra Crossings ...

We are delighted that the hard working team of parents and school staff that fought hard to get the zebra crossing, finally saw success in the summer holidays. It's so reassuring to know that our pupils have a much safer route to school and as stated in The Newbury Weekly News, "anything that improves children's safety is our priority."

We will now do all we can to make sure the children know to use the crossing EVERY TIME they cross over Valley Road. If parents/carers could instil this too it would be really helpful – let's keep our children safe together.



Sport ...

On Thursday 11th October the Year 5/6 girls football team played Chieveley School in a cup match. Mr Swan commented 'We played excellently considering we only had two Year 6 players and it was our first match. We dominated the game and the only thing that they had that we didn't was their goal kicks.' The overall score was 0-3 to Chieveley.

Sport Cont ...

The Year 5/6 boys football team have been incredibly busy lately. Their most recent match showed skills and determination which paid off after a vigorous 5 a side competition resulted in a total of 16 goals scored. We now have a tough game to contend with, as we are through to the finals... Good luck boys!

Harvest Festival ...



On Monday 15th October, the children did a fabulous job celebrating our Harvest Festival. There were joyful songs, gifts and happiness all around the school.

Parents and carers showed us great generosity as always, and our wider community will reap the benefits of your wonderful contributions. Roger (Trustee of the West Berks Foodbank) was delighted to join us on the day and was overwhelmed by the assembly the children so wonderfully delivered.

The West Berkshire Foodbank also commented giving their thanks to all that provided. They were so overwhelmed and would like to thank everybody for their generosity. Here are the total figures.. **Infant School 117.7kg = 106 meals** **Junior School 134.4kg = 121 meals**

Key Dates 2018 / 2019

Below is a list of the key dates for 2018 / 2019.

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

The dates are a rough guide to help with your planning but maybe subject to timing changes, which you will be made aware of.

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| October 2018 |
| 22nd – 28th October – Half Term |
| 29th October – INSET |
| 30th October – Start of Autumn 2 term |
| 30 th October – 1 st November 2018 – Apple Class to Ufton Court |
| November 2018 |
| 2 nd November – PTFA bonfire night |
| 5 th – 7 th November – Cherry Class to Ufton Court |
| 7 th – 9 th November – Lime Class to Ufton Court |
| 12 th – 16 th November – Anti-bullying week |
| 13 th November – Y6 Vue Cinema trip |
| 13 th November – PTFA Meeting (18:00) JRI |
| 14 th November – Parents Evening (15:30 – 18:00) |
| 14 th November – Nasal Flu Vaccinations |
| 15 th November – Parents Evening (17:30 – 20:00) |
| 16 th November – Children in Need – Children to wear spots for a small donation |
| 19 th – 23 rd November – Maths Week |
| 19 th November – Maths Workshop for Parents |
| 20 th November – PTFA Bags2School |
| 22 nd November – JRS Coffee Shop (8:50 – 9:50) |
| 23 rd November – PTFA JRJ Disco |
| 30 th November – PTFA Non-uniform for PTFA |



The Big Spotacular - Friday 16th November

As part of Children in Need, the children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, wearing something 'Spotacular', for a suggested donation of £1 for Children In Need on Friday 16th November. We look forward to seeing lots of spots and raising money for a great cause.



Swap Shop ...

Library Open Afternoon

When : Tuesday 6th November

Time : 14.30 – 15.30

Where : JRI Library

Panto

As we mentioned in our September Newsletter, there is no external trip to see a pantomime this year. We have decided to build on the success of last years staff panto and will be using their many talents, to perform our own pantomime for your children's pleasure. We wanted to inform you as soon as possible so that you can book your own external pantomime tickets with your family and friends.

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| <u>December 2018</u> |
| 1 st December–PTFA Christmas Bazaar (14:00–16:00) |
| 3 rd December–JRS Choir at St Nics |
| 4 th December–JRS Choir at St Nics |
| 12 th December–FS2 Nativity to parents (9:30) |
| 13 th December–FS2 Nativity to parents (9:30) |
| 18 th December–KS2 Carols at church |
| 19 th December–JRJ and JRI Staff Panto's to children |
| 21 st December–6 th January 2019–Christmas Break |
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| <u>January 2019</u> |
| 6 th –13 th January–Rhos Group 1 |
| 7 th January–Start of Spring 1 term |
| 13 th –20 th January–Rhos Group 2 |
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| <u>February 2019</u> |
| 18 th –22 nd February–Half Term |
| 25 th February–Start of Spring 2 Term |
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| <u>March 2019</u> |
| 4 th –8 th March–Book Week |
| 15 th March–Red Nose Day |
| 27 th March–Parents Evening (15:30-18:00) |
| 28 th March–Parents Evening (17:30-20:00) |
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| <u>April 2019</u> |
| 8 th –22 nd April–Easter Break |
| 23 rd April–INSET DAY |
| 24 th April–Start of Summer 1 term |
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| <u>May 2019</u> |
| 1 st May–Start of Y2 SATs |
| 24 th May–INSET DAY |
| 27 th –31 st May–Half Term |
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| <u>June 2019</u> |
| 3 rd June–Start of Summer 2 term |
| 3 rd –7 th June–Science Week |
| 28 th June–JRS Sports Day |
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July 2019

5th July—Reserve JRS Sports Day

9th July—Year 6 Play (Morning)

10th July—Year 6 Play (Evening)

12th July—Year 6 Play (Evening)

12th July—Den Day

22nd July—Year 2 Leavers Assembly (9:15)

23rd July—Year 2 Leavers Assembly (9:15)

24th July—JRJ Leavers Assembly (9:15)

24th July—Family Picnic

24th July—End of Summer 2 Term

Donations please ...

We are in need of some donations for a few areas of the school. Any spare clothing aged 3-5 years would be greatly appreciated.

As you are aware, John Rankin School is now running the After School Club. We would like the club to be as fun and entertaining for the children as possible and are constantly looking for ways and things that we can use to enrich it. We are looking for good quality toys and games that children aged from 3 to 11 would love to play with, such as Lego, construction toys and arts & crafts. Do you have any unwanted outdoor plants? Year 2 are looking for some donations to add to their planting areas. Any donations gratefully received.



Love is in the air ...

This summer, we were so lucky to have the fantastic John Rankin Infant choir sing at our wedding! The children came to the Sacred Heart church in Lambourn and sang as I walked down the aisle. There was not a dry eye in the house! They then sang the final song at the end of the service as we walked out. All the children then joined in with handbells and confetti and cheers as we left the church. The children made the day so special and so many people have been talking about how beautiful they made the service. We wanted to say a huge thank you to the children and to the parents and carers who brought them along. It meant so much to us.

Love, Mr and Mrs Blake (aka Miss Strickland!)

Year 5 Anglo Saxon Day ...

Year 5 had an Anglo-tastic themed day on Wednesday 17th October to finish off their theme work. Throughout the week children brought in examples of Anglo Saxon baking from their homework, shields, swords and artwork they have been producing at home.



Kings, peasants, thanes and maidens came to school excited to hold a mock courtroom trial with the children portraying the role of an Anglo-Saxon King or Queen. They also produced a dazzling array of shields and weapons and re-enacted the Battle of Hastings. We also held a Feast in the afternoon with Anglo-Saxon stew and fruit and vegetables alongside the baking from home. Year 5 rounded off the afternoon telling tales from their Beowulf inspired stories around the bonfire. We were especially impressed with how the children embraced their learning and threw themselves into role so convincingly. A huge thanks to all the Staff and parents for making this such a great day, especially Mr Jones and the kitchen for helping us prepare the fire and get 90 children served with food!

Parent Helpers ...

At JRS, we are very lucky to have the support of our parent /carers to help the children with hot-seating.

The class teachers will now supply you with a timer as we strive to keep our children safe by keeping John Rankin Schools a mobile phone free site.

Coffee Shop ...

Our coffee shop was well attended last Thursday 11th October, with familiar faces and some new parents joining Michelle Evans, our Family Support Worker, and Tina Kirk, our ELSA Pastoral Worker for a relaxed cuppa and chat. We discussed our favourite 'quick' board games. Our next coffee shop is **Thursday 22nd November from 8.50am–9.50am** in the Community Room at JRJ and so if you fancy a chat, need support, or want a quick game of Dobble, do join in. Under 5's welcome too.