



## Ravensmead Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr D. Bell, B.Ed (Hons), M.A

No.2

# NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we race towards that special event on December 25<sup>th</sup> I thought that it would be helpful if I provided some dates for your diary and shared some other issues with you.

### Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5/6 Visit to Newcastle Borough Council Friends of Ravensmead Film Club & Meeting at 3.30pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Immunisations for Years 1, 2 and 3
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Dementia Friendly Workshops for Year 3/4
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5/6 Visit to Blists Hill Museum
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Reading and Maths Pupil Assessment Week
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	High 5 Netball Competition at Keele Phonics Workshops for Year 1
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Friends of Ravensmead Shopping Evening
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Last day for After School Clubs (apart from Climbing)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Theatre Company Visiting School with Performance of A Christmas Carol Extra Staff Meeting
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Workshop in the Hall Extra Staff Meeting
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Dementia Friendly School Council Fund Raising Day Extra Staff Meeting
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Children to Visit the Chapel KS2 Carol Service at St James' Church Choir to Visit Wilbraham House
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Performance am Dress Rehearsal for Grandparents Evening Performance for Parents
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Service at the Chapel KS2 Christmas Performances am and pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Party Lunches and Discos

Times and details for most of these events will be given closer to the date.

### Dementia Friendly "Approach" Charity

The School Council voted and have decided to support the Approach charity this year. This is a dementia friendly charity and ties in with the parish of Audley, who also aims to become dementia friendly this year.

### Winter Weather

Thank you to the numerous parents who have commented upon the Hi Vis jackets and, once again, thank you to the Parish Council who have provided these. Please visit the website for super pictures and account of our distribution of the jackets to the children. Can I direct you to this website for our Snow Procedures, both overnight and during the school day and remind you that in icy weather we will not be making use of the Football Club Car Park due to the slope. It is also vital that during bad weather everyone avoids driving down Chapel Street/Old Road, more than anything this places the school at risk of closure. If the school was to close overnight we would text, hopefully by 8.30, before putting the information on the Staffordshire County Council website. I do hope this is helpful.

### School Improvement Plan

You may or may not know that schools annually construct a Plan to improve their schools. I can tell you that this year our Plan includes the following actions:

Address any remaining issues from the previous Ofsted Inspection; consider our Nursery Provision; consider again school organisation; the health and wellbeing of everyone in the school; the teaching of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and the way the school records its own self-evaluation. As usual I would welcome any comments on how we can further improve Ravensmead.

### Complaints

Of course it is highly unlikely that everyone will be happy with our work all of the time but, as you know, we do endeavour to listen and, where appropriate, take action. Can I remind you that wherever possible we have an open door policy, as Headteacher I am visible and happy to listen to issues. In addition we have a "surgery" for parents on a Wednesday for a short while immediately after school. If you have concerns about any form of our provision can I direct you via these routes but ultimately, if we fail to resolve them, and I would be disappointed if this was the case, the Complaints Procedure is available on the website. Grievances which will occur naturally from time to time are better addressed directly and I would discourage you from airing these publicly on social media formats.

### School Meal Survey

We forwarded a text earlier this week to inform you that currently Chartwells who provide our school meals are undertaking a survey to gauge your responses about the school meals provided by them at Ravensmead. Could I encourage you to talk to your children and gauge their views about the meals. You may like to know that it is currently impossible to reinstate the very successful meals for parents and grandparents. This is due to the Government's decision to offer Free School Meals to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, thereby increasing the take up of meals at school, and indeed all schools nationally. Without extending the length of the lunchtime unfortunately it is not possible to reinstate these shared meals. If you have any concerns, comments or issues with regard to school meals provision you must in the first instance contact the kitchen on 01782 296642, asking for Mrs Harrison.

### Parking and Dropping Off

Can I remind you that there is no parents parking available on the school car park, indeed we do not have sufficient parking for staff. We would also request that you avoid driving onto the car park to collect your child from Film Clubs, performances etc. Care Club have asked that you do not drive onto the school car park to drop your child off after 8.15 in the morning.

As you know from my recent text, we had a near miss at the front of school as a car was reversing just 2 weeks ago. I am not quite sure how to **appeal, plead or beg** that you do not drop off, turn or reverse anywhere near to the entrance to the school. New visitors or family members picking up for the first time may not be aware of this danger but existing parents certainly do and anyone choosing to turn or reverse has made that decision to place our children and our families at risk. Please don't do it.

I do hope that you have found this newsletter informative. As I have said, more details will be given out closer to the dates with regard to time and tickets etc. We will, as usual, provide a small number of hard copies of this newsletter in the school entrance directly on the left as you enter through the first door.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Bell, Headteacher