

RAVENSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr Rob Matthews
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Friday 29th January 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are beginning 2016 and time flies! We thought it was important to share with you all of the good things that have been going on at the same time as thanking you for your constant support day in, day out.

So... what has been happening!

Ethos

Our ethos remains "Working together to be the best we can be". This underpins what we do in the school to move things forward. A large part of these are two concepts we use:

Growth Mindsets

Simply means having an attitude that you can always learn and always get better by putting effort into your learning. We try to instil this in the children and likewise in all of the adults. Simply put, we try not to limit anyone's learning and show our belief in every single child in the school.

Unconditional Positive Regard...

.... Is a really long phrase that just means "be nice, be warm." All of the time; no matter what. By always looking at the children in a positive way, we can continue to build a school that is a great place to learn and a great place to be – for everyone.

Teaching children with suitable challenge

Back in February 2015, Ofsted commented that our school was a good one, but that we needed to do more to challenge our children and bring them on. We have been working hard on how we can make lessons more challenging.

Some of your children will no doubt come home (like my own two) and tell you that school was "good" and that "nothing happened." In fact, the teachers are focusing on using a system of different challenges within lessons, so the children can stretch themselves that little bit so they are always learning something new.

Coaching systems for improving teaching

We have lots of ways of helping teachers to constantly get better. Two of these focus on 'lesson study' and on coaching. Lesson study is a method for teachers to reflect on their teaching with colleagues, replan and reteach a lesson, so they can analyse where best to improve it. We also have a professional teacher coach that helps teachers to video their lessons and go through them, analysing what works and what does not. These techniques help our teachers get better and better.

SPLD – Speech and Language Development

As last year, we have spent approximately £2000 on addition speech and language development work this year, trying to ensure that all of the children have the help and support they need.



Achievement for All



Synergy
"INSPIRING SUCCESS"

Choir

The Choir go from strength to strength and in 2015, won the BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Choir of the Year competition. The choir sang beautifully at Coventry Cathedral in the BBC Christmas concert – a great achievement.

Curriculum

As you know, the National Curriculum was redrafted by the government recently. Years 1 to 6 are working with the new national curriculum and the challenges that provides. The expectations of what children can achieve has risen, so you can expect your children to be learning slightly harder things in the years to come!

Books

We continue to invest in books, most recently buying Oxford Reading Tree books. We have spent over £1,000 on books since September.

Australian Exchange

Miss Wells exchanged lives, houses and jobs with Mr Geijsman from Australia, as we are sure you know! She returned to her year 3 class in January. This has given us loads of ideas and comparisons and brought lots of new ideas into our school!

SCITT

We have signed up to be part of “Coventry SCITT” which stands for “Coventry School Centred Initial Teacher Training.” Teacher training has under-gone a massive national change. There is a general movement towards training teachers in schools. In the future, we will be taking on trainees – much as we do with students already.

External Funding

We have a dedicated ‘external funding co-ordinator’, Stephanie Whitehead. She is responsible for bidding for grants, finding additional funding and bringing in sponsorship. We are one of the only schools with such a post and others are coming on board. Stephanie moves on shortly, and as we write, we are recruiting a new fundraiser!

Learning Mentor Team – Nurture

Annie Muldoon leads our learning mentor team. The learning mentors help all of the children in school with their emotions, with getting past problems such as bereavement and with making learning even better. The nurture room is a place for children to work in small groups, individually and in many learning ways. We work alongside parents to help families.

Synergy Network

As schools across the city work even more closely, we have continued to be in a local network with Pearl Hyde, Richard Lee, Caludon Castle and Hill Farm. Between our schools we support each other, work together to review learning and provide professional help. It is a really successful network.

School Council

The school council is made up of 1 or 2 children from every class who have been voted for by the children. They represent the children in their class, provide the school with valuable feedback and ideas for moving the school forward. Most recently, they led the “Christmas Post”, organising and delivering all of the cards at Christmas time. They are really helpful!

So, as you can see, there is lots happening that you might not know about and we hope this letter helps you to understand where the school is headed and the improvements we are making.

Kind regards,

Rob Matthews, Jo Stanley and Claire Potts.