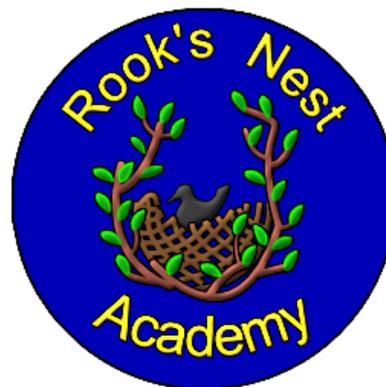


Rook's Nest Academy

NEWSLETTER

Issue 6—19th December 2014



We have finally reached the end of our first term of 2014/15. It has been a very busy period and there have been many changes in the Academy. It has been wonderful to hear all the positive things that have been said about these changes and how much parents feel that the ethos of our school and the welcome they receive has improved greatly. Change is never easy and there will always be things that we can do better. However, I feel that this term we have made a strong start in making positive improvements. Staff, children and parents have helped the new members of staff and I feel part of the Rook's Nest Academy family and we truly appreciate that. May I take the opportunity to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and I look forward to further strengthening these relationships and continuing to deliver our vision in the New Year.

Ms K Dawson



A visit from the Corporate Director

We were pleased to have a visit earlier this half term from John Wilson, Wakefield Council's corporate director of children's services. He met some of the children and had a tour of the academy. He has since contacted the academy to thank us for allowing his visit and stated: "Your ambition for Rook's Nest was inspiring and the way you are shaping both the fabric of the buildings and what happens inside them is really exciting". We agree that there are exciting times to come.



Christmas Productions

Well done to all the children and staff for some truly first rate performances this year.



Dates

Monday 5th Jan 2015

School Opens for Spring Term

Thu 22 Jan 2015

9:10 Mr Milfull Year 6 Class Assembly

Thu 29 Jan 2015

9:10 Year 2 Class Assembly

Thu 5 Feb 2015

9.10 Mrs Stacey Year 5/6 Class Assembly

Thu 12 Feb 2015

9.10 Mrs McNally Year 5 Class Assembly

Fri 13 Feb 2015

Payment Deadline for Year 4 trip to Cober Hill

Mon 16th – Friday 20th Feb 2015

Half-term holiday

Thu 26 Feb 2015

9.10 Mr Hufton Year 3 Class Assembly

Thu 12 Mar 2015

9.10 Mr Robertshaw Year 4 Class Assembly

Wed 18 – Fri 20 Mar 2015

Year 4 Cober Hill Visit

Thu 19 Mar 2015

9.10 Year 1 Assembly

Thu 26 Mar 2015

9.10 Mrs Dove Year 3/4 Class Assembly

Fri 27 Mar 2015

Last day of school (Break up for Easter Holidays)



Homework

We are excited to be announcing some changes to homework for next term. The staff and I have considered how best we can use homework to support children's learning and fulfil our vision of celebration and partnerships with parents. Reading will have a heavy focus next year in our improvement plans and it will become an expectation that children read daily, at home and at school. We have invested money in new resources and will be launching new reading incentives for the children. We hope to set up reading workshops for parents to enable you to see the journey through from phonic knowledge to guided reading to the level of comprehension understanding children need to have developed by the time they reach Year 6.

We will also be giving children topic based projects to complete over a half term rather than weekly activities. By doing so we hope that homework will become more manageable and engaging for the whole family. A special celebration day each half term will allow children to exhibit their homework. Parents will be able to attend part of this day in order to join in with the celebration of this work.

This is not to say that on some occasions, and with some particular classes, there will never be individual weekly work set but this will become more of an exception than the rule.

Creative Book Review Competition

In order to raise the profile of reading and encourage reading for pleasure, we are inviting all children to create an original book review, about their favourite book, as part of a whole school competition.

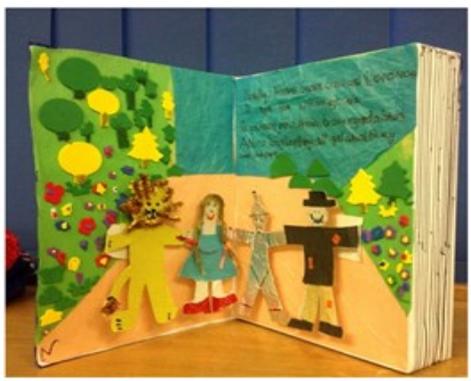
Original ideas for book reviews have been shared and discussed with children in an assembly today. These may take the form of a poem, model, poster, picture, movie trailer, Powerpoint or song. Creativity is key!

Each child's entry will be displayed in school and an overall winner for each year group will receive a fabulous prize!

The deadline for entries is Tuesday 7th January 2015 and winning entries will be announced on Friday 10th January.

Good Luck!

Mrs McNally



A polite reminder

When we return in January there are to be no children sent wearing earrings. Can I also ask for parents to ensure that their children bring the appropriate clothing for physical education sessions. PE is part of the national curriculum and all children, unless they are medically unfit that day, must take part in lessons.

Christmas Fayre

This was a huge success and we were so lucky that Father Christmas was able to visit us and meet the children. The event raised around £2000 for school funds which will be used to develop playground activities and purchase resources to support teaching. A very big thank you to all those who helped, donated or supported in any way to this enjoyable afternoon.



Local education is top class!

Four schools have been named among the best performing in the country, according to The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

Rooks Nest Academy and Lofthouse Gate Primary School came second and third, respectively, in the top 10 state primary schools in the north.



Rook's Nest Academy's Kim Dawson with school council. (w241a448)

Kim Dawson, principal at Rook's Nest Academy, said the staff, governors, children and parents were all very proud of the excellent results achieved by the school again this year.

She said: "As Headteacher I am passionate about fulfilling our aim to educate children to their highest level of potential."

Excerpt from Wakefield express Friday Dec 5th 2014