

THE FOREST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER-December 2016



PLANNED APPOINTMENTS

If your child has a planned appointment and will not be in school for registration, please let us know beforehand. You can do this either by advising us in your child's planner, or telephoning the school office. It would also be helpful if you could indicate whether your child will be back in time for lunch and requires a school dinner. Thank you.

ILLNESS

Please call the school office if your child is unwell and will not be coming in to school. As we have many vulnerable children in school we kindly ask that your child stays away until completely well. Please also note that if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, your child should stay away from school for 48 hours from the last episode of sickness/diarrhoea.

LABELLING CLOTHES

Please make sure all uniform or other clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. Please do not send your child into school with expensive clothing or other precious items.

SWIMMING MONEY

Once again I have to report that some swimming money is overdue. Parents who have not paid have been sent reminders. Swimming lessons and transport to and from the pool costs the school over £15,000 each year. Please contribute to these costs if you have not done so.

SCHOOL DINNER MENU

In an effort to reduce costs and waste, NYCC Caterers will no longer produce a menu for every child.

Here at The Forest School, we will ensure the Spring 2017 Menu is available on our website. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the school office.



HORSE RIDING AT RDA

Congratulations to Sophie, Owen and Adam for achieving great results at RDA. All three students gained Level 1 in Horse Care, and Level 1 in Riding during their assessment on 25 November. Each received a certificate and a rosette for their hard work.

BAG2SCHOOL

We are having a Bags 2 school collection in the new year, dates and bags to follow after Christmas.

INTO FILM FESTIVAL

Each year our school is offered the opportunity to take part in the Into Film Festival. The Into Film Festival is a free, annual, nationwide celebration of film and education for 5-19 year olds. It is the world's largest free film and education event for young people. The Festival offers more than 3,000 cinema screenings of 165+ films, all selected with educators in mind. It is completely free of charge thanks to the generosity of the partners and the cinemas who donate their venues and staff time in-kind. This year pupils from our school have been to see Finding Dory, Maya the Bee and Zootropolis. It is a great opportunity to support the curriculum, particularly with PSHE by practising their social skills.

PARENT GOVERNOR

A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor. Meetings are held termly and you must be able to attend most meetings. If you would like more information about this important role, please telephone Mr Hewitt.

PE NEWS

Well done to class PO and CM for completing their 6 week climbing block of work as part of their PE lessons. The progress of all of the pupils was incredible. It was a pleasure to witness such fantastic team work as pupils climbed and belayed each other and to see the confidence of every individual grow shows just what a success all pupils made of the experience and opportunity.



Congratulations also to the Primary Panathlon team for finishing second in their recent competition at The Galtres Centre in Easingwold. All pupils were absolutely fantastic, taking part in lots of different sporting events with children from other schools and doing so with great enthusiasm and commitment. Well done to the team.





RDA CHRISTMAS PARTY

A small group of pupils regularly attend riding lessons organised by Riding for the Disabled. They had their annual Christmas party and barbeque last week.



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP 25 NOVEMBER

A very enjoyable evening was had by all, at this festive fundraiser! All materials were provided, which included gorgeous evergreen foliage, dried oranges, apples and cinnamon, pine cones and ribbons galore! The school hall was filled with the scent of Christmas. We had an excellent turnout with 15 people attending on the night and everyone went away feeling a little more festive with a stunning Christmas door wreath. We raised £302 for school funds.

TREE FESTIVAL



The Forest School entry in the church Christmas Tree Festival -'Gearing up for Christmas'. Our tree, made from bicycle wheels and gear cogs, received many votes but sadly not enough to win!

SINGING AT CHRISTMAS

A group of pupils from KS2 and KS3 entertained a fifty plus audience at the St. John Parish Church Christmas Tree festival. Our pupils performed three Christmas songs using singing and signing. We then taught the audience how to sing and sign, using Makaton signs. The audience did very well with their enthusiastic attempts at signing! Lots of the audience told us what a lovely time they'd had. Our picture appeared in the Knaresborough Post.



The same group of singers also took their skills up to The Manor House, Care Home, where we entertained the residents. We also invited them to 'sing-a-long' which everyone enjoyed. We shared our box of chocolates with residents and they gave us a Fruit Shoot drink which we were grateful of because it was very hot in the Care Home!

Our final Christmas singing event was our Carol Service. Children, invited guests, staff and parents all joined in song to celebrate Christmas in a traditional Carol Service. The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Reverend James Bell spoke to us and even taught us a special song..... in Latin! The Knaresborough Silver Band entertained everyone as well as accompanying some of our singing. It was a lovely event and everyone had a happy morning.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY



Please note school closes to pupils at 2pm on Friday 16 December. Children are expected back in school on Wednesday 4 January 2017.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas, and a happy new year.

Peter N Hewitt

Your support for your son/daughter's education is crucial to their progress and wellbeing. Please tell us if there are any adjustments we need to help you support them, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages, wheelchair access, to explain things over the phone or a discussion with a colleague of the same gender.