



THE RALPH SADLEIR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2013

Dear Parents

My Grandmother, who was also a Headteacher, used to say to me that time would seem to fly when I was old. On that basis I must be ancient! We hardly seem to have blinked and the term has come to an end. I would like to think that it isn't because of my age that it has flown by, but because of the vast number of activities that have been taking place throughout the term.

It has been a really good term with all pupils participating in activities that take them beyond the class based curriculum into realms of learning that are aimed to motivate and inspire them to try new experiences, think in different ways and work independently and with each other. Judging by the positive response to all we have provided this term, I think we have just about got it right this term.

This term has also seen the school move into a new phase, now as an Academy and able to be more responsive to the ever changing needs of its pupils, families and the wider community. Whilst many of the changes occurring are quite subtle I am confident that over time the differences in how we are now able to work will really make a difference and further enhance what we can offer as we help shape the futures of our young people.

One note of sadness as we approach the end of term is that we are saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Parperis who is retiring after over 19 years working at Ralph Sadleir. Mrs Parperis is known to all pupils and parents through her outstanding working in the school's office. To many of you she will have been the voice at the end of the phone first thing in a morning or the source of that key piece of information you needed, and she supplied. For pupils Mrs Parperis has been the comforting adult when distressed, injured or just not sure what to do. For staff in the school Linda has been the font of knowledge, knowing what has been done before and how things have changed. She has worked miracles on work given to her at the last minute, produced wonderful certificates and other artwork like rabbits out of a hat and generally been the support we have all needed.

On behalf of everyone who has benefitted from her amazing approach to, and love of, Ralph Sadleir, I wish her well in her retirement and hope she enjoys the extra time it will give her to spend with her grandchildren and also on her holidays abroad that she enjoys so much. Thank you from all of us Mrs Parperis, Linda.

Staff and pupils alike have given everything this term and just about have enough energy left to see them through until 2.30pm on Friday! I really hope that everyone can enjoy Christmas and the New Year without succumbing to illness or exhaustion. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2014, a year that will see Ralph Sadleir continue to build on its successes of this year.

Liz Hinton

Dates for your Diaries

Spring Term 2014

1 st Half Term	Mon 6 th Jan - Fri 14 th Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 17 th Feb - Fri 21 st Feb
2 nd Half Term	Mon 24 th Feb - Fri 4 th April
Easter Break	Mon 7 th April - Mon 21 st April
Term Ends	Friday 4 th April at 2.30pm

Summer Term 2014

1 st Half Term	Tues 22 nd April - Fri 23 rd May
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term Break	Mon 26 th May - Fri 30 th May
2 nd Half Term	Mon 2 nd June - Fri 18 th July
School Year Ends	Friday 18 th July at 2.30pm

Autumn Term 2014 - NO INSET DAYS HAVE BEEN

SET

1 st Half Term	Mon 1 st Sept - Fri 24 th Oct
Half Term Break	Mon 27 th Oct - Fri 31 st Nov
2 nd Half Term	Mon 3 rd Nov - Fri 19 th Dec
Christmas Break	Mon 22 nd Dec - Fri 2 nd Jan 2015

FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATIONS

Herts County Council is working to promote free school meals and educational benefits to make

sure that as many eligible children and families as possible get the support they are entitled to.

Families are able to apply in any of the following ways:

Online: at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals.

Smartphone: using the LookingLocal app available from app stores.

Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button

Wii/Xbox/PS3: at www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect

Phone: 0300 123 4084

We can help you if you do not have access to the internet.

DINNER MONEY

Spring Term 2014

Per Day - £2.15

Per Week - £10.75

1st Half Term - £64.50

2nd Half Term - £64.50

Whole Term - £129.00

If your child is going on one of the various school trips please deduct the appropriate amount

Cheques payable to Ralph Sadleir School

Please put the child's name and 'dinner money' on the back of cheques.

Please note that meals should be paid for in advance and that any family debt over £30.00 can be referred to County for retrieval by their legal team.

Changes to meal patterns

A meal pattern has been set for your child.

Any changes to the pre defined patterns must be notified to the school office **before registration** otherwise you will be charged for the school meal.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you telephone the school before 8.45am.

If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

Primary Maths Challenge

Pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge; a national competition organised by the Maths Association. Certificates were awarded to the following pupils:

Year 5

Gold

Florence S

Silver

Mia P

Bronze

Rachael B

Charlie G

Lily G

Emilia H

Alfie L

Gurleen P

Year 6

Gold

Gracie A

Heidi E

Silver

Sophie H

Alex G

Bronze

Chloe E

Sam W

Numeracy Challenge

Pupils and staff have been mathematically challenged this term following the launch of a weekly competition. Both pupils and staff have the opportunity to win house points for correct answers. There are additional house points awarded for the 'best communicated' answer. Below is a selection of the questions from this term:

A collection of sheep and turkeys have a total of 99 heads and legs between them. There are twice as many turkeys as there are sheep. How many of each are there?

When one particular number, written in figures, is turned upside down it increases in value by 21. Which number is that?

Find four consecutive **odd** numbers which add up to a total of 80.

If 6 cats can catch 6 rats in 6 minutes, how many cats are needed to catch 10 rats in 10 minutes?

A man and his wife each weigh 50kg. They have two children each weighing 25kg. The whole family wish to cross a river in a rowing-boat which can only carry a maximum of 50kg. Every member of the family can row. How can they manage it?

A number is halved and the result is squared. This gives an answer which is twice the size of the original number. What was the original number?

How would you arrange 4 points so that each one was exactly the same distance from the other 3?

Using five 1's it is possible to make them equal 100 by arranging them as:

$$111 - 11 = 100$$

Use five 5's to make a 100.

Fantasy Football

Enthusiastic teacher, Mr Nicol runs the Fantasy Football, with over one fifth of the school taking part.

The race is on to collect the most points. Tom C (top of the league) is leading the boys and Sophie T is leading the girls. Mr Morgan is top of the list out of the members of staff.

Ralph Sadleir School



Introducing our new PE/Games kit which will be compulsory for all new admissions from September 2013



Boys:

Navy/sky rugby shirt
Navy/sky polo shirt
Navy shorts
Sky/navy socks

PRICE LIST

Rugby Shirt
£15.99 - £18.99

Polo Shirt
£9.99

Sweatshirt
£9.99 - £10.99

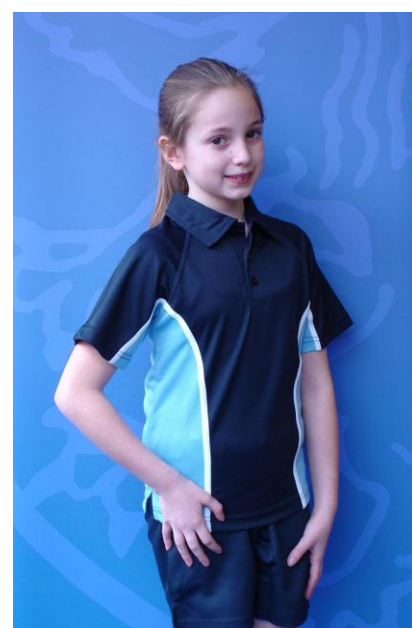
Shorts
£6.99 - £8.99

Socks
£4.40—£5.99

All items will be available from
Kids Connection
Hertford
(date to be confirmed)
www.kidsconnection.co.uk

Girls:

Navy/sky polo shirt
Navy Shorts
Sky/navy socks
Navy sweatshirt with logo (optional)



Ralph Sadleir's new school website

You have hopefully by now noticed our new school website and we hope you are finding it very useful and easy to navigate around. We will be using the site to publish more general information, news and events that happen in the school, so please add the site to your favourites and check it regularly for updates.

Please also take a couple of minutes to click on the Website Feedback button that appears on every page, and send us your thoughts and/or suggestions for improvement. We would be very interested to hear what you think. Thank you.

Uniform

We are having a purge on uniform, particularly the length of skirts for girls. Some skirts are so short that it is impossible for the girls to sit in school and not display what they are wearing underneath. Wearing PE shorts under skirts is not an option. Skirts should be no more than 3 inches (7 cm) above the knee; in some cases they are substantially shorter than this. I am asking that parents either buy their daughter a skirt of the correct length, send them in in navy (non-fashion) trousers or contact the school to arrange for a suitable skirt to be loaned until one can be purchased.

Similarly many of the shoes being worn are unsuitable and do not give the feet sufficient support or protection. Irreparable damage is being done to the developing bone structure which will result in many of our pupils having problems with their feet in later life, possibly having to have painful operations. Likewise, trainers should not be worn for school. They are designed in a different way to shoes and for a different purpose and are not meant for all day wear. As with other items of uniform we are happy to provide pupils with suitable footwear until more appropriate shoes can be purchased by parents.

Pupils leaving school for appointments

Please be aware that the school will not release pupils from school during school hours unless collected by named Parent/Guardian. If you wish to collect your child from school during these hours please telephone the office or send an email. Thank you.

H.A.N.D. News is Hertfordshire County Council's free online newsletter with information about benefits, entertainment, activities, support groups, courses and much more for children and young people with additional needs. This newsletter is also for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs. Feedback from parents', carers and other professionals is that they find this newsletter invaluable. Please read the newsletter at

<http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk>

Thank you.

Helping vulnerable residents to stay warm in their homes this winter

Do you know someone - maybe a parent or grandparent - who might struggle to stay warm in their home this winter?

Or perhaps you have very young children and are struggling to keep your home warm enough?

Keep Warm, Stay Well is a scheme that offers support to vulnerable residents who are struggling with the cold or with paying their fuel bills. Last year more than 10,000 were helped by the scheme.

Hertfordshire County Council is working with all 10 District Councils, the NHS and key voluntary organisations to help those at risk from cold-related illness, such as young children, older people and those with long term conditions.

A warm home in the colder months is crucial and can help prevent illnesses. Those with long term health conditions, such as severe asthma or a chest or heart complaint, face the additional risk of having a stroke or heart attack in the cold conditions.

To address this, at risk residents could be offered a range of free support that includes insulation and draught-proofing, emergency heaters and advice on making their home more energy efficient. There's also advice on paying bills, including entitlement to grants and benefits that could help.

If you know a friend, neighbour or family member who is at risk and may benefit from this scheme, please contact HertsHelp for information and advice on 0300 123 4044 or email: info@hertshelp.net

Dinner Money - Important notice

As from January 2014 we will be able to accept payments on +pay for termly and half termly dinner monies. Other payments can be sent to the school but we will no longer be able to accept cheques for less than £10.75.

Fundraising

The staff and students have been busy fundraising this term.

Ralphies raised £70 for Children in Need by selling cakes and biscuits at break time. Our very own Mrs Butler also made cakes and raised a total of £70 which she split equally between Children in Need and aid to help victims of the Phillipines Typhoon.

Our Christmas Bazaar raised a record £2,582.70. Well done everyone.

An update from Year 5

Year 5 have just completed their busiest half term ever!

We started by putting on a terrific performance of Fantastic Mr Fox. Each class was responsible for three scenes; words had to be learnt over half term and then when we returned we had a week and a half to pull it all together. Mr Mikelsons helped us with our staging and was also responsible for the fabulous masks (see the pictures on the gallery page of our school website).

We performed the play twice - once in the morning for Year 4 pupils from Roger de Clare and Jenyns: then again, after school, for our families and friends. Every child in Year 5 had a part in the play and such was the commitment that only two children were unable to stay for the after school performance. The Year 5 team were very proud of their students and the students also enjoyed themselves. This is the report of the play C5 presented to the rest of the school in their assembly.

Fantastic Mr Fox

On Wednesday 13th November, Year 5 put on a play called Fantastic Mr Fox for parents and children from our first schools. We did the play because we thought people would enjoy it and because we are reading the book in English.

First of all, B5 did three scenes. Some of the best parts were: the farmers and children at the beginning and when Mr Fox got his tail shot off.



Secondly, M5 did the next three scenes of the play. These are some of our favourite parts: when the farmers had the mechanical shovels and the foxes were digging; the people who were playing Mrs Fox and when small badger high fived the small foxes.

Last but not least, C5 finished the play. We are particularly proud of the following things: we all spoke really loudly; Mr Fox's belch was very funny; Rat was good at acting being drunk and Mr Fox acted the lines very well.

Even though we thought the play went really well, there were some things that we could improve: some people could learn their lines better; we could speak more clearly and add more humour.

We would give our play 10/10 and we look forward to doing another play in future.

Year 5 update contd...

Since the excitement at the start of November we have also had two cross curricular days as well as normal lessons. The first one saw Year 5 learning a bit more about the world and thinking about the environment from both an individual and a more long term point of view. Some wonderful work was completed including this poem about mountains.

Mountains

I'm on top of the world.
I can see icy lands.
Snow has fallen over the mountains,
Like icing on a cake.
I hear a snow leopard
Prowling around the ragged rocks.
An eagle soars over me,
Looking so beautiful.
I am finally home.

Menna C, C5

Our second Cross curricular day saw us spending the morning at Roger De Clare attending their Christmas Performances. The Year 5's enjoyed the concerts and were a credit to the school. In the afternoon we spent time thinking about different cultures that are found in the world and followed up with some work based on Australian Aboriginal Art, Maori War Cries and Chinese Folk Tales. A good time was had by all.

After a lot of talented Year 5 participation in the music concert we are now getting ready for our carol service next week and hope that we all come back refreshed for a slightly calmer term next year.

Year 5



Ofsted Parent View

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about our school at any time of year.

It is also a great tool to help us know which areas are working well and which can be developed further.

Parent Views asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. They use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when.

By sharing your views, you'll be helping our school improve. You will also be able to see what other parents have said about the school. Or, if you want to, view the results for any school in England.

Science Club

What we do at science club?

We meet every week at lunchtime usually on a Wednesday.

We carry out projects which sometimes involve using dangerous chemicals: this is a club where we do experiments that we don't do during normal class time and we have time to follow our own interests. Some of the projects we do are: making snowflakes using saturated solutions; creating bath bombs using citric acid as one of our chemicals which we then sold at the Christmas Bazaar (Mrs Bingham called us Santa's little helpers!); we used different metal salts and burnt them in a bunsen burner to see how firework colours are made: Mrs Bingham with her helpers risked burning her £5 note!! These are just some of the projects we did this term.

"I look forward to Science Club"

"Its fun; You meet friends with the same interests"

"Brilliant"

"Amazing"

"Fantastic experiments are different and brilliant"

You will have so much fun so what will you discover at Science Club?

Merry Christmas to you all and a very Happy New Year.

See you in 2014 !

