



THE RALPH SADLEIR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



July 2013

Dear Parents,

Phew, what a few weeks! We seem to have been so busy since half term and, with the fantastic weather, it has made it feel like a real summer term. As a former PE teacher I love all the inter house, inter school and district events that occur at this time of year. Not having to cancel any due to rain has been a real bonus! My sporting highlight was having the privilege of accompanying our year 5 and 6 girls Kwik Cricket team when they competed, as Hertfordshire champions, at Edgbaston cricket ground in the National Midlands Finals where they finished joint 5th. How many people will be able to say they have played on a test match ground or even hit the ball into the stands! Very well done girls!

The opportunities for pupils to put their skills to good use and to extend their range of skills have been endless; many of the activities mentioned in this newsletter or featured on our website. As always when we take pupils out of school or visitors come into school the compliments we receive about the pupils make all involved feel very proud. One that stands out was from a Parent Governor of a school sharing the accommodation in Devon when Year 8 were staying. He was so impressed with the care and consideration our year 8 showed towards his school's year 4 pupils; checking they were alright, letting them through doors first etc. Well done year 8!

This time of year is always tinged with sadness as we say farewell to pupils and to staff. Year 8 are moving on to Freman College where I know they will continue to achieve well and develop into young people to be proud of - good luck to them all. Five members of staff are leaving, four to extend their careers with new challenges. Each has given wonderful commitment to Ralph Sadleir in the time they have been here and I thank them and wish them all well on your behalf.

Miss Flynn is moving to a middle school in Bedfordshire where she will gain further experience as a deputy head teacher before, I have no doubt, achieving her goal of becoming a head teacher in the not too distant future. I will miss her, not least because she sees things in a different way to me and that is always good for the development of a school.

Mr Bunce is not moving to a school as we know it but is going to work for the local authority's 'virtual school' set up to oversee pupils who, for various reasons, are in foster homes etc. They are in different schools in Hertfordshire and surrounding areas and Mr Bunce's role will be to ensure they are well provided for and make the academic progress they should. A very different role to Ralph Sadleir but one I have no doubt he will excel at. We will miss his 'joie de vivre'!

Miss Brown has been appointed as leader of KS2 in a primary school, a role that will extend the skills and knowledge she has acquired during her four years at Ralph Sadleir. As with everything Miss Brown does, I know she will take on the challenge and not rest until what she is doing matches her own exacting high standards.

Mrs Bunce joined Ralph Sadleir last September with the intention of learning about key stage 2 teaching (previously having taught 11-18). Through working as part of the Year 5 team Mrs Bunce has gained the necessary experience and from September will have a year 4 class in a primary school.

The final member of staff to be leaving Ralph Sadleir is **Mr McCloskey** who is retiring after a good many years at the school. Latterly he has been Leader of Technology but is also known to many of you as a maths teacher, science teacher, badminton coach, garden club organiser, form tutor and leader of the year 8 Devon trip. Many pupils, past and present, will have their own fond memories of Mr McCloskey and wish him well in his retirement from teaching.

Please encourage your children to keep the learning ticking over; read books, visit museums and places of interest, keep a diary of a holiday abroad... All these mean that in September it is much easier to re-engage with learning, reset the high expectations and ensure that the best possible standards are achieved.

Finally it leaves me to wish you all a good summer, hopefully with the sun continuing to shine.

Liz Hinton

Dates for your Diaries

Autumn Term 2013

Inset Day	Monday 2 nd September
1 st Half Term	Tues 3 rd Sept - Fri 25 th Oct
Inset Day	Tues 1st October 2013
Half Term Break	Mon 28 th Oct - Fri 1 st Nov
Inset Day	Monday 4 th November
2 nd Half Term	Tues 5 th Nov - Fri 20 th Dec
Occasional Day	Friday 6 th December
Christmas Break	Mon 23 rd Dec - Fri 3 rd Jan
Term Ends	Fri 20 th Dec at 2.30pm

***Please note new Inset Day on 1st October 2013.**

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

Read a Great Book during the

 **Summer** Holidays!

Scroll to the bottom of this page on the school website for inspiration.

<http://www.ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/english/reading-and-the-library/>



DINNER MONEY

Autumn Term 2013

Per Day - £2.15
Per Week - £10.75

We are currently updating our dinner money system and would request that you pay for September 2013 until further notice.

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

Cheques to Hertfordshire Catering Ltd at the start of term

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.

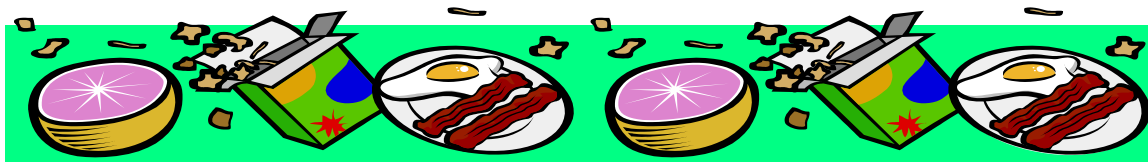
If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

Great Things About Breakfast Club

- B**reakfasts are healthy
- R**eally rocking time
- E**veryone is happy and gets their breakfast quickly
- A**delicious super fun tasting breakfast
- K**ick start to your day
- F**unny discussions
- A**mazing choice of food
- S**uper tasting toast or cereal
- T**asty themed breakfasts
- C**ool, brilliant and excellent fun
- L**ovely breakfast cooked for you everyday
- U**nbelievable price to pay every day
- B**rilliant teachers to run it



So Come To Breakfast Club



Written by Oliver Chivers M5

Please contact the school office if you would like your child to take part in our Breakfast Club.

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

01992 587466

Girls:

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



Ralph Sadleir Website

Our school website is updated daily and holds a wealth of information for new and current parents and pupils. You can view all essential information about the school as well as see photographs from trips and events that your child may have taken part in.

Please take a few minutes to look at our site. We welcome feedback from you, so feel free to email website@ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk with your thoughts. 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.

Challenge Yourself by Mrs J Emery (School Technician)

"You can do it Mrs Emery!" The encouraging shouts from a group of Year 8 students gave me the nerve to jump off a small platform 37 feet high on to one of the longest zip wires in Britain, and I loved it!

This will be one of the many great memories that will stay with me for a long time. I had the privilege to join the PGL Devon trip at Beam House, an outdoor activity centre near Westward Ho. The students tried fencing, archery, rifle shooting, street surfing, abseiling, a zip wire, high ropes, surfing and body boarding; many of them doing these activities for the first time.

They overcame real fears and found they could excel at something very physical or non-academic. Staff from another school, and the PGL 'Groupies' commented on the exemplary behaviour of our students. This made our accompanying staff, led by Mr McCloskey, very proud.

At the time of going to print, this will be the last Year 8 trip to Devon. I do hope it will be reinstated in the future. Although we were only away for six days, the change in most students' confidence and maturity was amazing, and this in itself was so valuable.

Thank you to the Year 8's, Mrs Butler, Miss Dobson, Mrs Davy, Mr Palmen and Mr McCloskey.

Devon Trip 2013 by Mrs Davey (nee Miss Gregory)

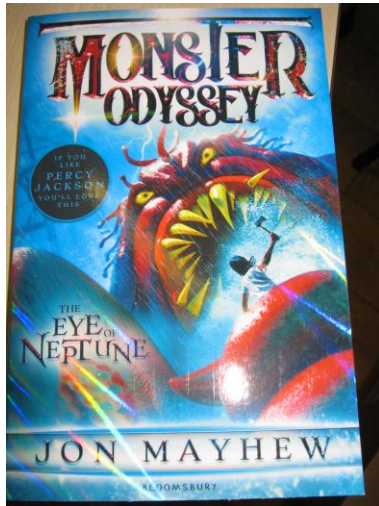
In this final term at Ralph Sadleir, Year 8 students participated in a 6 day residential trip to Devon, giving them far more than academic achievement by which to measure themselves. The multi-activity trip encouraged our young people to take on new challenges which extended them physically, mentally, personally and socially. All pupils exceeded their limitations, found new levels of confidence, learnt to appreciate team spirit and, by the end of the week, felt an overwhelming sense of achievement.

Well done Year 8s! Thank you for showing such support for each other on some tough challenges and for making this last trip to Devon such a pleasure for the teachers who accompanied you.

Miss Gregory.



Visit from children's author, Jon Mayhew - 20th June 2013



On Thursday 20th June we were delighted to welcome Jon Mayhew to Ralph Sadleir to talk about his latest book 'Monster Odyssey'. A hilarious presentation ensued in which Jon discussed the best thing about being an author and the monsters which have inspired his writing. The children even designed and named their own monsters, including one with the tail of a scorpion, the body of a gorilla and the head of a Chihuahua! The talk ended with a questions and answers session, in which Jon gave us his top tip for being an author. You have to sit down and do it, like the way in which you have to sit down and do your homework, rather than sitting in front of the TV! Many thanks to Jon Mayhew for such an interesting talk and to the children for their attentive, polite behaviour.

CONGRATULATIONS !

On Wednesday the 10th July 2013 the Ralph Sadleir Science club took part in the Big Bang Eastern Region event at the Imperial Museum, Duxford. This is a National Science and Engineering competition recognising and rewarding young people's achievements in all areas of Science, Engineering Maths and Technology. There were 72 different project entries from about 35 schools covering an age range from 11-18 years. The event was sponsored by a number of organisations. Students displayed their work in "poster" form and were interviewed by three sets of judges from companies like Roche, Johnston Matthey, RES.

We had 3 displays and I am delighted that they all received prizes.

Bronze Crest Award runners up were Sam T and Archie B who then went on to win the Sustainability prize sponsored by RES. The judges were looking for a well communicated project with the best potential to deliver a cost effective impact in the pursuit of a more sustainable world. The project was investigating ways to preserve paper, particularly valuable historical documents.

The other two displays won the best showcase award for teamwork, communication and good science investigations. This contained evidence of work carried out during the year in Science club which meets on a Wednesday during lunchtime. Students involved were: Harvey B, Joshua W, Natasha P, Jessica G, Daniel S, Courtney F, Emma F, Georgia C and Ellie F.

The students had the opportunity to hear presentations and take part in activities during the day. Everyone had a very exciting, busy and interesting day, seeing the work of other scientists and engineers. A big thank you to Mrs Charlton and Mrs Emery who helped to support the students during the day and to the students for their hard work and dedication!

A very proud Mrs Bingham!!

Recognition of Achievement Assembly 18th July 2013

Subject	Excellent Achievement	Excellent Effort and Progress
Art	Teagan W	Helen F
English	Kelsey H	Lewis N
French	Saphron B	Matthew Y
Geography	Rebecca L	Lewis E
German	Tosan O	Charlotte C
History	Liberty D	Tom T
ICT	Trinity K	Kieron P
Mathematics	Owen G	Angus B
Music	Archie B	Ellie M
PSHE	Stanley R	Eden J
Physical Education	Charlie H	Jordan B.H
Religious Education	Ellie M	Harry D
Science	Natalie H	Asta W
Technology	Trinity K	Harry W

Tutor group	Excellent Achievement	Excellent Effort and Progress
B5	Heidi E	Luke C
C5	William E	Gracie A
M5	Chloe E	Sophie C
A6	Mayomikun E	Charlotte G
B6	Jessica G	Katie E
M6	Remi P	Ben L
	Y7 Excellent Achievement	Y8 Excellent Achievement
SLB	Francesca N	Alex G
HIB	Eden R	Charlie F
JEB	Tom W	Olamide A
CHD	Grace M	Conor O'H
SRG	Molly A	Isaac P
MSN	Robert S	Victoria P
JTM	Alex A	Rebecca L

The David Jones prizes were awarded to Archie B and Trinity K. This award is voted for by the whole school community and is awarded in recognition of commitment and service to the community and spirit of Ralph Sadleir School. Well done Archie and Trinity.

<u>Inter House trophies 2012-13</u>	<u>Winning House</u>
Swimming	Salisbury
Finlay Cup (Inter House sports)	Wellington
Prince Cup (inter house cultural events)	Wellington
Alexander cup (sports day)	Wellington
Ralph Sadleir Achievement Trophy (merits)	Sadleir