



Newsletter July 2015

Dear Parents

Well that is it, 190 days or 1,140 hours of education done – gone in the blink of an eye!!

This term has seen the biggest change in the school's recent history (Me) and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed it and thank all the staff and you the parents for the support and feedback. Change is inevitable and there will be some more coming in the next few terms. Several staff members are moving on to take up new opportunities in schools – Mrs Knapman, Miss Lumsden, Mrs Newbrook and Mrs Brady; whilst Mr Persico is also moving on and I hope you will all join me in thanking them for all their efforts and wishing them all the best for the future. Adults aren't the only people moving on as we also say goodbye to our latest group of Year 8s as well as some children continuing their learning journey elsewhere. I wish them all well and hope that they continue to build on the knowledge and skills gained during their time as Ralphies! As well as leavers we also welcomed our 'enthusiastic' new Year 5s and several other children throughout the school on Transition Day; Mr Fuller, the new Deputy Head, also came and spent a day with us to acclimatise ready for the new challenges they face from September.

The term itself has been particularly busy – Sports Days, drama showcases, science workshops, school trips and author visits to name but a few of the things that have been going on, culminating in the achievement and celebration assemblies this week. Congratulations to Wellington for winning both the Ralph Sadleir Achievement trophy for the total number of Merits gained and the Findlay Cup for points earned during House Sporting Competitions. Salisbury won the Prince Cup for points earned for all other competitions throughout the year. Emma L and Harvey B were announced as winners of the David Jones' Prize as voted for by the whole school community.

Sport wise, our Key Stage 2 girls continued their success in football into cricket where they were crowned both District and County champions. We had several Year 8 champions at the District Athletics and our Year 7 boys won another football trophy – this time it was the District Plate final.

Our outgoing – in more ways than one – Year 8s brought the academic year to its customary close with their entertaining leavers' performance; which included the appearance of two new Year 8 girls, a showcase of some of their individual and collective talents; and a very interesting selection of teacher quizzes – I'm sure you have seen the photos!

Finally all that is left for me to do is to wish you all a wonderful summer - I have reminded the children of their obligations to not annoy their parents too much – and enjoy some fun-filled family time.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr D Spong

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2015

Inset Day	Weds 2 nd Sept 2015
1 st Half Term, <u>Yr5 only</u>	Thurs 3 rd Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct
1 st Half Term, <u>All School</u>	Fri 4 th Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct
Half Term Break	Mon 26 th Oct – Fri 30 th Oct
Inset Day	Mon 2 nd Nov 2015
2 nd Half Term	Tues 3 rd Nov – Fri 18 th Dec
Occasional Day	Fri 4 th Dec 2015
Term ends	Fri 18 th Dec at 2.30pm

Spring Term 2016

Inset Day	Mon 4 th January 2016
1 st Half Term	Tues 5 th Jan – Fri 12 th Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 15 th Feb – Fri 19 th Feb
2 nd Half Term	Mon 22 nd Feb – Fri 1 st April
Good Friday	Fri 25 th March 2016
Easter Monday	Mon 28 th March 2016
Term ends	Fri 1 st April at 2.30pm
Easter Holidays	4 th April 2016 – 15 th April 2016

Further term dates can be found at:

<http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/calendar/>

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.

Dinner Money

Autumn Term 2015

Per Day - £2.40

Per Week - £12.00

1st Half Term Year 5's - £88.80

1st Half Term Year 6,7 & 8 - £86.40

2nd Half Term - £79.20

Whole Term Year 5's - £168.00

Whole Term Year 6,7 & 8 - £165.60

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 refer to our website to read our policy on School Dinners Bad Debt

<http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/school-dinners/>

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.

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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.



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. This is a short questionnaire and will only take a few minutes of your time but provides Ofsted with valuable information about our school.

Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. Ofsted 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. Access via the school website or

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Thoughts from our Year 5's at the end of their first year as Ralphies!

“Since being at Ralph Sadleir I have learnt so much and have had one of the best times of my life.....I can't wait to move on to Year 6.”

“This year has probably been the best year in my LIFE!”

“One of the best things about this year has been how much sport we do.”

“Bikeability was great! It was a really great experience.”

“I have learnt loads and have also had a brilliant time, meeting new people and making new friends.”

“I have really enjoyed my first year at Ralph Sadleir and it's an experience I will never forget.”

Music Tuition at Ralph Sadleir

Every child at Ralph Sadleir has a one hour lesson of music per week. In addition to these lessons, every child has the option to enrol with Hertfordshire Music Service via the school to participate in extra music tuition.

Lessons available are: Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone, Drums, Viola, Cello, Piano/Keyboard, Guitar (electric and acoustic), Brass (Trumpet and Trombone). Singing lessons are also available.

Hertfordshire Music Service will guarantee to provide 33 lessons per year which is an average of 11 lessons per term on the required instrument. (subject to availability).

The 2015/2016 fees are £133 per term for 20 minute lessons, and £198 per term for 30 minute lessons.

The fees are payable within 30 days on receipt of a notification which the school will forward to you in the term prior to music tuition commencing. When making a new application you are requested to attach a cheque for the cost per term.

To cancel music tuition, a **full half term** written notice must be given or payment of a half terms fees in lieu of such notice must be made. Please email cancellation instructions to: admin@ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk An email from the school will be sent to you confirming cancellation of lessons.

Term Lesson to be Cancelled	The final date for lessons to take place	Deadline for school to receive cancellation letter
Autumn Term 2015	23rd October 2015 18th December 2015	Fri 4th September 2015 Fri 23rd October 2015
Spring Term 2016	12th February 2016 1st April 2016	Fri 18th December 2015 Fri 12th February 2016
Summer Term 2016	26th May 2016 22nd July 2016	Fri 1st April 2016 Thurs 26th May 2016

Further details can be found on our website - <http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/music-tuition/>

Author Visit – Dave Cousins

On Tuesday 16th June we were delighted to welcome the author and illustrator, Dave Cousins, to speak to KS2. Dave was very entertaining as he spoke to pupils about his journey to becoming an author via a spell as Batman, an astronaut and a rock star! He then spoke about his Charlie Merrick's Misfits series of books, which combined his love of football with his fondness for comic strip. We discovered how he developed his characters using both words and illustrations and that, although being an author was very rewarding, it took immense energy and dedication.



We Built a Computer! By Harvey B.

At computing club, Mr Palmen asked if we wanted to build a computer. We didn't know if he was joking – it seemed such an impossible task. When we realised he was serious, we all got to work sourcing the components that we would need.

We found a great website (Eclipse Computers), and started designing the computer we wanted. We had a budget of £200. We all shared our ideas and voted for which computer we wanted. (For anyone technical, the specifications were - 4.2 GHz quad core AMD 10, 16 GB RAM, 1tb hard drive, DVD player & writer). Our chosen computer was then ordered.

I was called into the ICT suite a few days later by another member of Computing Club, and I saw a huge box – our parts had arrived, but we had to wait the rest of the week before opening it.

During the next Computing Club, we got to work building it. We saw the individual parts of the computer and began to assemble everything together. We began by placing the processor on the motherboard - I never knew how small the processor would be (half the size of a credit card). The fan then had to be clipped on top of the processor with heat transferring compound in between the fan and processor. Weeks went by, connecting cables up, and screwing components together. The last Computing Club came, and we only had one more lot of cables to connect – however these were very important cables – they were for the 'on' button. We were struggling to find where they go. With Mr Palmen's help, we found the correct page in the instruction manual and connected them up. We were sure we had done everything correctly. We plugged it into the wall, and pressed the power button...

...nothing happened! We tested the power cable, and checked all the electrics. We getting slightly frustrated, but Mr Palmen checked all the wiring and he found a cable that was not plugged in properly. We still weren't sure if it would work, but as we pressed the power button again, success - the red lights inside the PC turned on! The starting script (bootstrap code) appeared on the monitor.

We were all so happy. We had built a computer that worked! We all helped and contributed – we were a great team. We now need to install an operating system.

I would like to say a big thank you, on behalf of the Computing Club, and to Mr Palmen for allowing us to attempt such a challenging and expensive task. Also a big thank you to the school for allowing us to buy the computer components.

We have learnt so much in Computing Club, and the Year 8s will miss it as we move up to Freman College. Building the computer has been a positive and fantastic way to end such a great year.



Humanities News Page

Is your child interested in the news but not sure where to start? Would they like to follow up on topics raised in the classroom about current affairs? Would you like to broaden their topics of conversation!?

Having an interest and awareness of current affairs gives students an enormous advantage both in their academic performance in the Humanities subjects as well as creating well rounded citizens of the future!

Our 'Humanities News Page' will detail links to current news stories relevant to the subjects of History, Geography and RE. They may be linked to topics which have arisen in class discussion or just be a way to keep up to date with current affairs.

Please take a look - encourage your child to have a look and stay informed!

Year 6 – Duxford Trip

M6 and F6 went to Duxford Imperial War Museum on Monday 8th June, 2015. We went there to learn about life for children during World War II- which we have been studying in History. During the day we did many activities and looked at lots of modes of transport; soldiers' equipment; weapons and much more!

Firstly, my class went to a workshop to learn about how young people could help with Civil Defence and what to do if bombs struck. If an HE (High Explosive) bomb hits we go into our Anderson Shelter. If a gas bomb drops, we put on our gas masks.

After that we went around the museum to see the aeroplanes and other types of transport. Overall our trip to Duxford was a great success: everyone enjoyed it and we had a good day to remember.

Rachel B, F6



Follow Ralph Sadleir School on Twitter !

We now have a Twitter account for the school and for the PE department. This is a great way to keep informed of all goings on at the school and our PE successes at various sporting events.

We would like to encourage parents to register on Twitter and follow:

@RalphSadleir

@RalphSadleirPE

Science Success at Ralph Sadleir!

Harvey hit the big time when his project 'Is it Safe to Re-use Non-reusable Bottles' was nominated from 50 other school projects presented at the East of England Big Bang Fair to go through to the National Finals in Birmingham NEC. This is the largest science fair for students in the UK, and has £50,000 up for grabs.

Harvey's project is looking into extracting BPA from Non-Reusable water bottles, and if re-using them could be a health risk. BPA is a harmful substance that enters the body mimicking a hormone, and can cause many health problems including cancer.

He has been working on this project from October 2014 with technical support from scientists at GlaxoSmithKline in Ware.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed this whole experience, and have learnt so much from how to work in a lab to facts about BPA.'



Events in our local community

We have a page on our website where we advertise events and clubs that are happening in our local community.

Please have a look at this page and support local groups where you can. It is especially busy at this time of year as there are a lot of summer clubs happening.

<http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/events-in-the-local-community/>