



Ravensdale Junior School

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby. DE3 9EY

Telephone number: 01332 512373

Email: admin@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter @ravensdalejr

Website: www.ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk



Autumn Newsletter 4 27.11.23



Reflect



Aim High



Value Others



Explore



Now It's Me

Dear parents and carers

Christmas can be a very exciting time for children and many adults welcome the decorations, music and festivities at a time of year when the weather is poor, and the days are short. However, children with Autism, ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity) or other vulnerabilities can find all the changes at this time of year very difficult.

With that in mind, I am letting you know that we are putting up our wonderful 12-foot Christmas tree, as well as the stage on the evening of Friday 1st of December, to be ready for the Monday. The other key dates are below so that you can prepare children in advance if needs be.

Kind regards

Zoe Cannon

Key Dates for your diary

Monday 11th December

Monday 11th December

Wednesday 13th December 1.45pm

Thursday 14th December 9.15am

Thursday 14th December

Friday 15th December 9.15am

Friday 15th December 6.30pm

Monday 18th December 1.30pm

Tuesday 19th December

Tuesday 19th December

Tuesday 19th December 1.30pm

Wednesday 20th December am

Wednesday 20th December 1.30pm

Thursday 21st December 1.30pm

Friday 22nd December

Woodwind performance for invited parents

Pupils flu vaccinations

Year 3,4 and 5 Christmas performance

Year 3,4 and 5 Christmas performance

Non uniform day - choc donations for bingo

Year 3,4 and 5 Christmas performance

PTFA Chocolate bingo - tickets only.

Year 3 Christmas party

Christmas Jumper Day - just for fun

Christmas dinner

Year 5 Christmas party

Carol service at St Johns Church

Year 6 Christmas Party

Year 4 Christmas Party

Pantomime for whole school

Staffing

We are currently advertising for a position in our After School Club, 3.00- 6.00pm daily. We understand that this can be a difficult time of day if you need child-care and therefore any children of the successful candidate who attend Ravensdale, would be given a free place at the club. Details are on the Transform Website and on Indeed.

Christmas Table Decorations

The PTFA are organising a competition for the best Christmas Table decoration. The decoration should be no longer than 20 cm and brought into school on Tuesday 19 December. There will be a prize for the best one in each year group, as chosen by the catering staff. The decorations must be named on the base (not visible). They will be on the tables for our Christmas dinner and will be returned for you to enjoy at home.

Staff Leaving

Miss Akhtar is leaving to take maternity leave on Wednesday 29th November. Mr Mills has been appointed as class teacher for Eagles from after Christmas and Miss Lofthouse will be teaching the class for the rest of this term.

Very sadly, Miss Hammond and Mrs Wyke (class teachers) are leaving at Christmas. We would like to thank them sincerely for their wonderful contribution to Ravensdale. We have recently appointed a lovely new teacher to replace Miss Hammond and are just waiting for the final appointment checks before announcing her name. Miss Lofthouse has been appointed to replace Mrs Wyke.

Message from Chair of Governors, Jill Wilkinson

We are now well into the autumn term and already there is much to celebrate, notably the successful Ofsted inspection which confirmed that as Governors we understand our roles and offer support and challenge to school leaders to improve the school. Pupil numbers are healthy, as is our current financial situation at this point in time and we are making further investments into our digital strategy through the purchase of additional iPads. We would also like to thank the members of our PTA who we know have been fundraising - thank you so much!

We welcomed Ifrah Akhtar as Staff Governor at the end of June 2023 and I am delighted to say she has settled well into the governance role.

Sadly, of course, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Cannon who has been at the school for over 7 years and we wish her all the very best for her next endeavours. Mrs Cannon has been at the heart of Ravensdale Junior School and has seen us through many difficult and challenging times. She supported school through the devastating fire at the Infants School which had an impact on the whole community, and more recently through a successful inspection the second week back after the summer holidays! I am sure you will all join us in sharing our very best wishes to Mrs Cannon - she will be sorely missed. We are working with Transform Trust on a replacement Headteacher and hopefully we will be able to communicate something soon.

Jill

Talking to pupils about War

Please see below for information from The Safeguarding Group on how to talk about the very difficult topic of war with your children.

Contacting Staff at School

For general enquiries, please email the office. Please raise all other concerns with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

admin@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk Breakfast and After School Club bookings, all payments, residential visits, attendance and general enquiries.

head@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - serious concerns or positive feedback

senco@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - Special Educational Needs

pastoralsupport@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - emotional and behavioural support, support for parents

chairofgovernors@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - communicate directly with the Chair of Governors, Jill Wilkinson.

safeguarding@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - safeguarding concerns.

Year3@ravensdalej.derby.sch.uk - to contact Year 3 teachers (just change the digit for other year groups)

DIGITAL SAFEGUARDING DAILY

Are your Safe Search Filters Active?

Visit our Online Safety Centre and help protect the children and young people in your care from stumbling across harmful content online.



Talking to your Child about War and Conflict

Helping Children and Young People Make Sense of Distressing News

We live in a time of constant news streams and updates. It's hard not to be filled with uncertainty and heartache every time you switch on the television or look at your phone. It can be difficult to process news about wars or conflict in the world. However, it is especially concerning for children and young people.

To help you guide those in your care through this uncertain time, our online safety experts have created this support for parents, carers, teachers, and safeguarding professionals.



Why is it important to talk about what's happening?

Children and young people are naturally curious. They want to know about what is going on in the world as much as they want to know the latest TikTok trend. Even if you try to limit the content they consume, they will inevitably hear about big world events from various outlets, such as television, social media, friends, family,

and school environments. They might even overhear something from one of your conversations! If it's what everyone is talking about, their interest in the topic increases.

It's difficult to know what content the young person in your care is viewing. If you don't acknowledge

questions or concerns they may have, they could 'fill in the gaps' with the wrong information. This might cause further anxiety, ignorance, or worrisome behaviour. Educating those in your care yourself assures they know how to process news reports on their own with critical thinking and media literacy skills.

How children react to distressing world events

While news can be upsetting and worrying for everyone, it is not the first disruptive event to affect the children and young people in your care. In their lifetime, they have already spent over two years adapting to a pandemic, endured lockdowns and being isolated from their friends and family. They may even have lost loved ones during this time. If someone in your care is struggling, they might be:

- **Fixated**, spending more time on phones or tablets to stay 'up to date'.
- **Anxious**, especially about future plans or dreams.
- **Irritable**, over-reacting to minor inconveniences or issues.
- **Withdrawn**, not engaging with their friends, school, or extracurriculars.
- **Distracted**, with disruptions to regular eating, sleeping, or personal hygiene habits.
- **Obsessive**, thinking over every circumstance and talking about possible outcomes.

Top Tips for how to talk to children and young people about war and conflict

Acknowledgement - Don't deny what is happening or negate their worries by telling them it will 'all blow over soon'. Instead, tell them their concern is completely understandable and that you want to discuss it with them.

Honesty - It's important that you refrain from lying in your responses or ignoring any questions or thoughts your child has. It's okay if you don't know the answer. This allows you to open up a discussion with your child. You could even suggest seeking the answer together!

Sources - Discuss trustworthy news sources and how difficult it is to confirm things during times of conflict.

Validation - It is likely these emotions are complex and confusing for them. Remind them that, in this situation, feelings like this are normal.

Listen - No matter how worried or anxious you are, they will look to you for reassurance.

Set your feelings aside and give the young person in your care the attention and space they need to feel heard.

Limits - If they feel they are unable to look away from the news, suggest they switch it off.

If this isn't realistic, advise them to only check news sources 1-2 times per day.

Gratitude - Discuss gratitude around the dinner table or during morning drives to school. If a young person in your care seems to struggle with guilt, remind them that they have nothing to feel guilty about - just things to be thankful for! Suggest researching places that are taking in donations to bring to refugees or other ways to help the crisis in a local capacity.

Support - Your reactions to their reactions are key to helping those in your care feel protected and loved.

Tell your child you love them. Give them hugs or hold their hand. Allow them space when they need it, but remind them that you are here for them.



Every child is different.

Their ability to process information will depend on their age, character, and resilience. As their guardian, you will know them best, but assessing their abilities can help you choose the level of information you share with them.

INEQE
SAFEGUARDING GROUP
ineqe.com/signup

INSET days for next year 2023-24
22nd and 23rd July 2024

Please note that the above INSET days are not on the calendar below and should be considered separately.

RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL
DERBY CITY HOLIDAY DATES
2023- 2025

As confirmed by Derby City Council

	School Closes	Re-opens on
Summer		Monday 4 th September 2023
Mid- term	Friday 27 th October 2023	Monday 6 th November 2023
Christmas	Friday 22 nd December 2023	Monday 8 th January 2024
Mid-term	Friday 16 th February 2024	Monday 26 th February 2024
Easter	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 15 th April 2024
Mid -term	Friday 24 th May 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Summer	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	Wednesday 4 th September 2024
Mid- term	Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024
Christmas	Friday 20 th December 2024	Monday 6 th January 2025
Mid-term	Friday 14 th February 2025	Monday 24 th February 2025
Easter	Friday 4 th April 2025	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
Mid-term	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer	Thursday 24 th July 2025	

