



School Newsletter

Friday 11th October 2019

Newsletter 3

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday, our Reception children had the opportunity to explore the world of magnificent mini-beasts. They came face to face with a range of creatures when a Zoo Lab ranger brought a selection of her favourites to school. The visitors included Snoopy, the American corn snake; Nelly, the giant African land snail; Steve, the Madagascan hissing cockroach; Yoshi, the Leopard gecko and Beatrice and Daisy, the rescue rats.



The show was titled 'All About Me', and it was specifically targeted at the youngest pupils in school for them to explore not only why they are unique and special but how animals are too. They learnt all about the animal's similarities and differences to humans. They also found out about the creatures' habitat, their favourite foods, and their special features. The children had the chance to get up close and personal, and were able to feel and stroke all of their visitors.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our children as they learned a range of key facts about the creatures and learned how they differ to humans. Since starting school in September, the children have been celebrating themselves, as well as recognising the similarities and differences between one another, so it was great for them to see what makes the animals unique too. They found out lots of interesting facts, which they have begun linking back to themselves.

These educational workshops and trips are valuable for our children as they really do bring to life what we are teaching. We try very hard to keep the costs down, but for us to continue to offer these experiences, we need parents to help with the requested contributions. Last year, the trips that we offered ran at a loss of £792.10!

Dates for your diary:

**Saturday 12th October –
'Super Saturday' – Football
Competition**

**Tuesday 15th October –
Parents' Evening**

**Wednesday 16th October –
Parents' Evening**

**Friday 18th October – The
Big Draw from 3.15**

**Monday 21st October –
Friday 25th October**

– Half Term

**Monday 28th October –
INSET Day**

**Tuesday 29th October –
Children back to school**

Wednesday 30th October –

**Parent Council coffee
morning 8.30**

Year 4 Turner Prize Tours

**Thursday 31st October - Yr 4
Turner Prize Tours**

**Wednesday 6th November –
KS2 to see Michael Rosen@
Theatre Royal Margate**

**Friday 8th November –
Badge Day**

The Big Draw

On the 18th of October (the last day of term), we will be hosting our first ever 'Big Draw Festival' at RAPS. This is part of the largest drawing festival in the world, with events taking place in many different communities worldwide. Here at RAPS, we believe that drawing has the power to change lives, bring ideas to life and communicate beyond language barriers. Research has shown that engagement with the arts can help with our well-being too!

We want you to join us with your children in celebrating the transformative effect that drawing has on our heads and hearts. We will be meeting in the main hall with our art teachers, Ms Vost and Mr Brown, straight after school at 3.15pm. Please feel free to bring friends and family to have some fun too.

This event is free!



RAPS Family Cookbook

This is a request for all your favourite family recipes!

We would like you to share the recipes that your children ask for time and time again, as we are hoping to publish your tried-and-tested, much-loved meals in a **RAPS family cookbook**, which will be illustrated by the children and sold to raise funds for the school. **The money raised will go towards a Kitchen Garden!**

We are sure that the book, a celebration of the food RAPS families love to cook at home, will make a perfect gift and will be packed full of inspiration for when you get stuck in a rut, thinking 'what shall we cook for dinner?'

Covering everything from breakfast and lunch to snacks and dinner, we'd love you to send in your recipe contributions. Perhaps it's the recipe for a dish you often make with your child, your legendary bolognese, go-to curry, stir-fry or ultimate roast chicken? We are also looking for quick meal ideas, simple breads or homemade ice cream, perfectly sinful chocolate brownies or failsafe crumble, or it could be your family's take on eggy bread... anything goes. If it's a winner, we want to try it, and it'll go in the book!

Please send your recipes (including ingredients, quantities and method) to lauranickoll@yahoo.com by Friday 18th October, including a picture of the dish (if you have one) and if there's a story behind the recipe that you'd like to share, please do include it.

There may even be a teacher/parent 'Cook-Off', judged by the kids (brace yourself, they won't hold back...) Teachers, we need your recipes, too!



Parent Council

Halloween Disco

I am pleased to announce that the Parent Council are organising a Halloween Disco for the whole school on Friday 1st November! EYFS and KS1's disco will be 3:00-4:00, KS2's will be 4:15-5:30. Tickets are £4 per child and £3 for each attending sibling. Children are welcome to dress up if they wish, ticket prices include a snack and unlimited drinks – snack will consist of a packet of crisps, a small bag of sweets (possibly Haribo) and raisins or a piece of fruit. Please let us know if there are any allergies we should be aware of, crisps will be gluten and dairy free.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 14th October at school pick up (3:00 and 4:15), reminders will be sent out too. For parents/carers who use the After School Club and won't be around at the usual pick up times, please contact us via email (raps.ptfa@gmail.com) and we will arrange to take payment by another means.

Parent Council AGM

The Parent Council will be holding their first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 12th November at 3:15pm, all parents and carers are welcome to attend to find out what we've achieved so far and what our plans are for the next coming school year.

A number of committee members will be standing down before the AGM, so we have summarised the key responsibilities for all named roles as a guide for parents/carers who may be interested. The descriptions below are intended to be informative, please don't be put off if it all seems a bit too formal, the Parent Council should be fun for all and will (hopefully) help us improve the school community that has already been established. If there is anything you would like to know, please ask any of the current committee members or drop us an email.

New committee members will be announced at the AGM, if you wish to nominate yourself for a position, please let us know via email by Thursday 31st October. An online ballot style system will be put in place to vote for the new members which will take place week commencing 4th November.

Chair

The Chair should work closely with the Co / and or Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to ensure that the PTA is run effectively. The main role of the Chair(s) is to lead meetings and oversee the running of any fundraising events.

Key responsibilities:

Provide leadership.

- Set the Agenda for Meetings and run the meetings.
- Welcome and involve new Members.
- Write regular updates for the newsletter in cooperation with the Secretary.
- Sign cheques for the PTA with one other Committee Member.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair supports the Chair in providing leadership for the Committee, helps set the agenda for the meetings and helps manage meetings in line with the agenda. The Vice Chair deputises for the Chair when necessary and assists in the organisation and operation of the PTA.

Vice-Chair Key responsibilities:

- Support the Chair in providing leadership.
- Chair any meetings that the Chair is unable to attend.
- Liaise with the Committee and Sub-Committees organising events.
- Prepare meeting agendas in consultation with the Chair.
- Welcome and involve other parents into the PTA.
- Prepare, with the Chair, the Annual Report for the AGM.

Secretary

Secretary is a key committee member as they are responsible for ensuring effective communication links between the committee and the school. The Secretary helps the Chair ensure that committee meetings run smoothly. The Secretary can arrange to leave PTA notices with the office for distribution with school mailings/texts to parents. The Secretary will make arrangements for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and help the Chair prepare the annual report. The Secretary may also be involved in co-signing cheques on behalf of the PTA.

Key responsibilities:

- Deal with correspondence.
- Prepare agendas along with the Chair.
- Write up the minutes of meetings.
- Distribute minutes to all the Committee.
- Co-sign cheques as required.
- Write the annual report with the Chair.
- Prepare and distribute communications to parents.
- Prepare flyers, posters, tickets, etc. for events and distribute as necessary.

Treasurer

The role of the treasurer is to manage and control the funds the PTA raises.

The Treasurer should record all income and expenditure, details of the amounts received and spent, and have the information available for every committee meeting plus:

- The balance of funds.
- Committed expenditure.
- Income, expenditure and profit from each event held.

The report should include an update on funds received and spent since the last report. If the Treasurer is unable to attend a committee meeting, a written report should be sent to the Chair, at least one or two days before the meeting. All financial decisions taken should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The Treasurer also:

- Liaises with the bank.
- Pays money into the bank account and reconciles bank statements.
- Advises the bank of agreed changes to the bank mandate, i.e. those authorised to sign cheques.
- Raises and signs cheques with a second committee member co-signing. The person co-signing must see what is being paid for before signing. The Treasurer should sign last and keep all original invoices.
- Withdraws money to provide a cash float for events.
- Monitors funds held on account.
- Ensure regular payments, for example, NCPTA membership, are made on time to guarantee benefits and take advantage of any discounts.
- Arrange appropriate licenses for events.

Key responsibilities:

- Maintain the financial records.
- Prepare and co-sign cheques as required.
- Report income and expenditure at meetings.
- Count and bank monies.
- Liaise with the bank.
- Charity registration and Gift Aid.
- Regular and other payments.
- Draw up the annual accounts.

Many thanks

Emma Jackson

Current Chair of Parent Council



Christmas Lantern Workshop

Thank you to all those parents who signed up for the Christmas Lantern workshop session, which will take part on Monday 14th October from 9.30-11.00. The response was overwhelming; sadly we only have a limited number of places so if you and your children have been selected for the workshop then your child should have come home with a slip by today. Those children not taking part will continue with normal learning. **I apologise to working parents about the limited notice given about this workshop** but we only received the information at short notice ourselves and really wanted to be involved and support this community event.

I thank AIR (Arts in Ramsgate) for providing these Lantern-making workshops and can't wait to see the lanterns being used for the Annual Christmas Lights Parade in Ramsgate town on the 1st of December 2019.



And finally

A Quick word about Lunch-Time Club

Lunch-time 'Quiet Club' is a resource for those children who for a variety of reasons, are finding lunch-time a bit of a struggle and it offers some calm and peaceful activities inside.

Access to this Quiet Club is at the discretion of Mr Budge, Mrs Beech and Miss Elliott, who assess the needs of the children daily. Because of this, not everyone can access this resource every day.

Year 6 Playground Mentors are at hand in the playground to help resolve problems, as are the mid-day meals supervisors.

As the weather is changing and getting colder, we will also be reminding the children to take their coats and jumpers out with them at lunchtime, as they will not be able to access Quiet Club just because they are chilly.

Please ensure that the children have the correct clothing in school so that they are warm enough in case of inclement weather. **Coats should therefore be brought into school now that the weather is changing.**