# Soaring High Newsletter

January 2025

Our School Values are

Love, Honesty, Forgiveness, Respect, Hope

## Happy New Year




Welcome to 2025! Thank you to all the staff who spent a lot of time and effort on making Christmas special - from Christmas dinner to an array of cards, calendars and treats. Our Ravens sang their hearts out at St Mark's Christingle celebration and at the nativities from Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 – it was great to see so many of you in the audience.

It is always lovely to see parents at our Friday Soaring High assemblies which take place at 2:30 each Friday - the perfect way to end a school week.

## Online Safety




Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Having this conversation helps to prepare your child from an early age, so they can safely explore the internet and know who to speak to if things go wrong. It's also important to listen to your child and give them a chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to. You could try making it part of a daily conversation, like you would about school. This can help your child feel relaxed, and means that if they do have any worries about online safety, they're more likely to talk to you about it. The NSPCC have created a pack to guide parents through these conversations whatever the age of your child. To find our more visit: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/

## Making your views known

We love to hear from you about how we are doing as a school and more importantly, what we could do better. We have opened an online survey - just click on this link and fill out the form. The survey will close on February 1st: https://forms.gle/L4pBZwcpwvVULjTW8

One of the things you asked for in our last survey was more out of school clubs – and we have responded with football, running and rugby and this half-term sees our very first volleyball club.

## Keeping Safe

Remember to take extra care when driving along Clarendon Street. Children need to be supervised carefully as they do not have the road and traffic awareness that adults do.

It is lovely to see children riding bikes into school but please dismount when you enter the school gates and push your bike along the school path or down the drive – the same for scooters too please.

## Class Dojo



We use ClassDojo as our main communication tool for key messages and class information as well as a way of celebrating achievements specific to a child or class. It is a great way of sending messages to staff too. Please note that staff will only access these messages between 8am and 4pm. Therefore, if your child is not going to be in school please ring the school office on 0161 344 2905 or send an email to: admin@ravensfield.tameside.sch.uk

## Phones

While Year 5 and 6 are allowed to bring phones into school if they are walking home alone, these MUST be turned off as children enter school grounds and handed to their classteacher for safekeeping.

## Bikeability




Congratulations to our Year 5 cohort who took part in Bikeability training in December. Despite some terrible wet weather, children learnt to keep themselves safe, learnt to ride on and off the road and how to respect other road users. Well done everyone.

## Library users

Working with the team at Dukinfield Library, last term saw Years 5 and 6 make weekly visits to the local community library. Lots of children became members and revelled in the books they could choose and enjoy. Now armed with their own library tickets, they can continue to read and visit on their own. This term sees Years 3 and 4 visiting the library and learning how to use this amazing free resource on our doorstep.

## Parents' Evenings

We look forward to seeing you all on either Tuesday 11th or Thursday 13th of February in the main hall. This is an opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about their progress and how we can work together to ensure that they make the best progress. As usual our amazing catering team will have samples of school dinners for you to enjoy.

## Attendance and Punctuality

School opens at 8.40am (8.30am for Nursery) and gates close at 8.55am. Thank you to those of you who arrive before 8.55am ensuring your child is not late for school. Lessons finish at 3.25pm (and 3.30pm for Nursery). We expect that children are collected at this time. When parents are late to collect their children, this can cause worry and anxiety , as children are often having to wait in the school office to be collected. This also has an impact on teaching staff who have to remain with the children. If you are going to be late please contact the main office in plenty of time so that a communication can be sent to the class teachers.

The peak of the cold and flu season is upon us. To decide whether or not to send your child to school, please consider the guidelines given to us by the NHS, see the following link:
www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/#maincontent
Mental health can also be a concern during the cold, dark winter months. Usually when a child or young person feels sad, stressed, frightened, or worried, these feelings will pass with time and with help from family, friends, teachers or other health care professionals. If you require any help or support please contact Mrs Evans or Mrs Chalmers at the school office.

**Dogs**

Just a reminder, dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

**Jewellery and make-up**

The only jewellery allowed in school is a watch (non-recording) and stud earrings if children have pierced ears. All jewellery must be removed for PE and swimming. For younger children we recommend that parents remove earrings before school. Make up, nail varnish, acrylic nails etc are not permitted. Children may bring lip balm to provide protection from dry lips.

**The Year of the Snake**

Wednesday 29th January marks the start of Chinese New Year and our Reception and Nursery classes will be entering in the spirit of the event with dragon dancing and drums and much much more. Watch this space and ClassDojo for updates.

**New stops and starts**

We welcome back Ms Firth who has re-joined Year 1's Class 1 as she has returned from maternity leave, as Mrs Begum leaves us to begin her maternity leave.

**Ravensfield School Club**

Our club offers excellent before and after school care. With a focus on fun and a great deal of care from all members of the team, children really are the centre of this work. Please see the school website for details.

**Diary Dates**

- Tuesday 4th February – Nursery Stay-n-Play from 9 to 10am.
- Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February – Parents' Evening from 4pm.
- Friday 14th February – school closes for half-term.