



December 2017 Issue 84



Dates for Term 2:

Friday 1st December

Banksy Class assembly (9:30)
Xmas morning non-uniform day

Weds 6th December

Friends Xmas Disco

Friday 8th December

Friends Xmas morning

Tuesday 12th and Weds 13th December

Xmas production (18:00)

Weds 13th December

Xmas lunch (years 3 and 4)

Thursday 14th December

Xmas lunch (years 5 and 6)

Friday 15th December

Sir Isaac Newton Class
assembly (9:30)

Friday 15th December

Last day of term: finish at 1:30

Wednesday 3rd January

Children return to school
(Tuesday 2nd is a TD Day)

Ruskin Junior School

Wordsworth Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 7NG

ruskinjuniorschool.com T: 01793 332107

Dear Parent/Carer,

Schools are always great places to be at this time of the year. The children's enthusiasm is infectious and the genuine excitement they experience when the Christmas trees and decorations go up is wonderful to see. But before we think about what lies ahead, it's time to reflect upon what's happened here at Ruskin over the past month. And what a month it's been! So get yourself a cup of tea, grab a mince pie (I recommend Tesco Finest: more on Tesco later!) and read on.

Best wishes,

Mr Beadnell

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."

Winston Churchill

Children in Need 2017

As ever, it was fantastic to see our children turn out so spectacularly for this year's Children in Need campaign. Naturally, cakes were involved and we'd like to say a massive thanks to Mrs Agambar and Mrs Wollen for their help in enabling the children to create a giant

This Term's Value:

Perseverance



'Blush' (Pudsey's sister apparently) face out of cakes decorated by the children in different colour icing. In total the school raised £446.54. A magnificent achievement.



A Drum, a Drum, Macbeth doth come...

It seems that every newsletter I write at the moment has an article about the Great Bard and this is no exception. Following on from the huge success of last year's Shakespeare in Schools performance, we made the decision to participate once again this year. Several of our Year Sixes, under the direction of Miss Sanderson took to the stage to perform Macbeth at the Wyvern. It truly was a special evening. The children performed brilliantly and we were so proud of every one of them: they told this brutal tale wonderfully and were also fantastic ambassadors for the school. Nice severed head at the end too: Shakespeare would have loved it!



Thanks to Sharon Downes and Samantha Thompson for the fab photos!

Fireworks Night

This year's Fireworks event proved to be more popular than ever with over 700 tickets being sold. The feedback was excellent and there were 'oohs' and 'aahs' aplenty. The burgers were especially good as well. Thanks to all the Friends and staff who helped to make the event such a special one, especially Mr Priday who oversaw proceedings and managed to organise such a spectacular event.

Class Assemblies

Since last month's newsletter, we have had two class assemblies: Sir Ranulph Fiennes who treated us to an astute and intelligent historical account of the Gunpowder plot and C.S Lewis class, who provided us with a funny, thought-provoking and clever way of explaining how food gets from farms to our plates. Both were brilliant and we'd like to extend a huge thanks to our parents and relatives who came along to support their children.

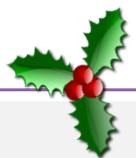


Every Little Helps

And staying with Year 3's Big Idea on farming, the teachers and children had a wonderful time visiting Tesco on a school outing. They sampled fresh fruit and veg such as strawberries and carrots, spent some time in a giant freezer and also found out about a range of different types of cheeses. They even visited the warehouse behind the store. Glad to hear they all enjoyed it and also to hear about how the children were such wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Kingsdown Literature Festival

Year 4 had an extra special treat in November as they made the short trip across the road to Kingsdown to celebrate the secondary school's Literature Festival. They were invited to an audience with author Stan Cullimore who has published over 120 books over the course of his career. Promoting the joy of reading is one of our core beliefs here at Ruskin so it's great to see this continued after our children make the big step up after leaving us. A massive thanks to our colleagues over at Kingsdown for inviting us and making this such a special day.



Mack the Dog

We all know that dogs are not allowed on the school site so it came as a bit of a shock to our children when they turned up to assembly and there was a giant hairy hound sat on the stage! This was no ordinary dog however, this was Mack, a six year old Bouvier Des Flandres who happens to be a world tricks champion. Mack then proceeded to demonstrate a range of tricks such as retrieving mobile phones and getting washing out of the washing machine. What a great assembly! [Click here to see a full report at thisswiltshire.co.uk](http://thisswiltshire.co.uk)



Sports Round-up

Miss Sanderson's netball team kicked off (threw off?) the new season with a home game against Gorse Hill. Despite going 1-0 down, Ruskin showed real perseverance and ultimately scored twice in quick succession to take the lead. Although victory was snatched away following a late equaliser from Gorse Hill, it was still a fantastic result and the enjoyment and sense of sportsmanship demonstrated by the team was a fine example of what we're all about here at Ruskin.

The Boys football season continued with an emphatic victory over Westrop Primary School. The 6-1 win secures them a place in the next round of the Swindon Primary School's Cup competition where they have been drawn away against Even Swindon Primary.

Healthy Eaters

We are noticing lots of healthy snacks at breaktimes at the moment which is great to see. Many thanks with your support on this.



And Finally, a big Thank You to our Festive Friends...

A massive thank you to the Friends of Ruskin who provided the school with the funds to purchase this year's Christmas tree. It now stands resplendent in the school hall after being decorated by some of our young carers. If this picture doesn't get you in the mood for Christmas, I don't know what will!

That's all for now except: MERRY CHRISTMAS from RUSKIN JUNIOR SCHOOL!