



April 2018 Issue 88

Ruskin Junior School

Wordsworth Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 7NG

ruskinjuniorschool.com T: 01793 332107

Dear Parent/Carer,

I think I can honestly say, that in the time I've been here at Ruskin, there hasn't been a busier month than the one we've just had! You'll get the gist of this as soon as you start reading this newsletter and I haven't even mentioned parents' evenings, snow disruption and mock SATs. So, at the end of an exhilarating month here at Ruskin, get yourself a cup of tea and put that hot-crossed bun in the toaster - this is going to be EPIC!

Happy Easter!

Mr Beadnell

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss: *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

Sports Relief

This year's Sports Relief event did feel like an extra special one as primary schools across Swindon teamed up to celebrate the event together: your generosity raised a total of £139.75. Some of our children went to the County Ground running track where they participated in a mile run with lots of other children from all over Swindon. Others joined teachers and took part in a relay where the baton was passed on to us from Grange Infant School. Our children

ruskinjuniorschool.com

Dates for Term 5:

Monday 16th April

Return to school for start of Term 5

Thursday 26th April

Year 6 Transition Meeting for Parents of children going to Kingsdown

Monday 7th May

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Week Beginning Monday 14th May

SATs week

Monday 21st May

Whole class photos

Friday 25th May

William Morris Class Assembly (9:30)

Last day of term: finish at 3:30

Monday 4th June

TD Day

Tuesday 5th June

Children return to school: first day of term 6

Term 5s Value:

Independence



then ran to St Catherine's where they passed on the baton to the next school in the chain. The final event of the week was on Friday with Mr Robertson coordinating a football tournament and tag rugby competition. The children put together and named the teams themselves and progress could be followed via a live feed. Winning teams played the teachers in four highly charged finals played out on the astroturf. They were all held in great spirit although referee Mr Burgess saw fit to award Mrs Buckby a red card for arguing with the referee. Something tells me that it will be a while until that dispute is resolved...



Science Fest

Following on from the success of last year's Science Week, Ruskin embraced this year's opportunity to show off their investigative skills by getting involved in a range of activities from designing marble runs to building structures out of sweets and cocktail sticks. The week's work culminated with a science fair where parents were able to share in the fruits of the children's findings. Throughout the week, some of the children from Banksy Class ran a science shop at break times where they sold items like 'stickable Bubbles' and 'Crystal Trees'. It proved to be an extremely successful venture and enabled some children to truly demonstrate their talent as entrepreneurs. All profits will be reinvested into the school's science department with plenty of input coming from the children.



Art Attack

Four of our budding young artists made the trip across Swindon to Abbeymeads Primary School in order to participate in a Blue Kite Academy Trust art event. Children from across the different schools in the Trust were invited to take part in a series of art based activities based upon the famous Victorian artist William Morris. They returned with their own artwork painted on canvas and the next step is to complete a larger piece that will form part of a larger image created by children from across the trust. A huge well done to the children who contributed and also to Mrs Tarrant who accompanied them on their art adventure.

Tree Planting

The Friends of Ruskin have been busy again, this time organising a tree planting event at the weekend in the school's soon-to-be-newly-renovated forest area. Around 40 children, mums, dads, grandparents, brothers, sisters and teachers turned up for the event, some pushing wheelbarrows, others carrying spades. There was a very real sense of community as we went about our task to plant sixteen fruit trees and create our very own orchard. It was like being on an episode of Ground Force: except without Charlie Dimmock of course. A massive thank you to all of those who came

along and an extra-special thanks to the Friends of Ruskin for organising the event: your bacon and egg baps were lush! Another 'Big Dig' is planned for the near future so watch this space.



Money Matters

Asking children how much something costs, even a pint of milk, can often throw up some interesting answers. In order to help children gain a greater understanding of the true value of money, Miss Burrell organised a maths morning where money really mattered. A representative from Nationwide Bank kicked off the morning with an assembly on the importance of saving and the children then went back to their classes where the focus was on needs and wants for Year 3, credit and debit for Year 4 and budgeting in Years 5 and 6. It was a great morning of learning and I am sure will provide the children with some valuable life lessons and skills.

A Night at the Wyvern

Special nights at the Wyvern Theatre are becoming something of a feature at Ruskin Junior School and March was no exception as our choir joined a number of other Swindon schools in the Swindon Junior School Choir Festival. The theme was traditional songs of the British Isles and we were treated to some wonderful renditions of (amongst others) 'All Around my Hat', 'Danny Boy' and 'Over the Hills and far Away'. Our children did us all proud and we'd like to extend a special thanks to Mrs Musty for masterminding the whole operation and also to Mrs Buckby and Mr Edmondson for stepping in at the last moment to assist in what was another memorable night at the Wyvern.

Sports Round-up

It's been a month of mixed emotions for the boys' football team with an emphatic league victory over Eldene followed up with a defeat in the quarter finals of the cup at the hands of Wanborough Primary School. Gaffer Mr Edmondson was obviously disappointed with the cup result (I think he used the word 'robbed') but as always, applauded the boys' sense of sportsmanship and fair-play. The girls' football team extended their winning streak with a 4-0 victory over Covingham and are looking to build on this as they negotiate a flurry of forthcoming fixtures. Preparations on the training ground paid off for Miss Sanderson's netball team as they continued their great run of form with a quarter final victory over Robert Le Kyng Primary School. Next up is a semi-final showdown with either Abbeymeads or St Sampson's. An all Blue Kite semi-final might be on the cards...

Animal Roadshow

Years 3 and 4 had some very unusual visitors in March, in particular a snail called Turbo, Jeremy the Frog and a tarantula with pink hair. All were part of the Zoolab roadshow, a peripatetic education service that offers children the opportunity for close encounters with exotic beasts. It was a fantastic chance to dispel some myths such as 'snakes are slimy' and a huge deal of background information was provided on the creatures' habitats and diets. What a great day!



Check out these hot-cross buns made by our year 4s. Not only did they look amazing but the smell was incredible! Unfortunately they all made it home for Easter so I am unable to verify if they tasted just as good too!



Paulashmancycling.com



Easter Cycling Day Camp

Monday 9th April - 9:00am to 3.30pm

Drove Primary School, Swindon

Join Paul and Jennifer for the day for a fun filled day of bike skills, cycling games, competitions, basic bike maintenance, MTB skills, interactive video and much more!

For part of the day we will take the students to either Lawn or Coate Water (TBC) to experience some trails as well as teaching them cycle path/ basic road skills on the way. **PLACES ARE LIMITED!!!**

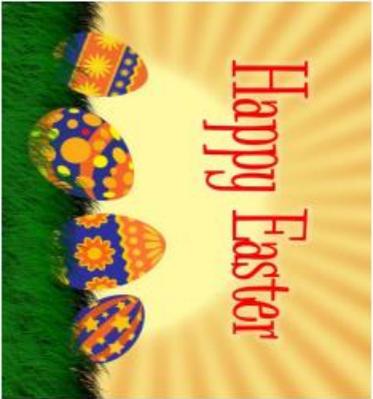


All students who can ride with no stabilisers are welcome. £30 for the day to include snacks and drinks.

All you need is a packed lunch, bike (no stabilisers), helmet and a smile on your face!

TO BOOK A PLACE: or email
 Call Paul on 07590 688808 paul@paulashmancycling.com

FILLING THE HOLIDAY HUNGER GAP!



FRIDAY 13th APRIL 11.15 - 1.15
UPPER STRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH, GREEN ROAD

Makelunch: Upper Stratton is part of a national initiative responding to parents on tight budgets and aims to fill the holiday hunger gap. Volunteers offer a free, healthy lunch with some great activities and a place to relax during the school holidays.

We are open to families with primary aged children and their siblings from Upper Stratton. All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

For more information or to book in please phone or email.

Phone: 01793831535
 Email: makelunch@usb.c.org.uk

Upper Stratton Baptist Church Minister Simon Gover UK Registered charity: 1133910