



July 2018 Issue 91



Ruskin Junior School

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 @Ruskin_Juniors

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the end of the school year on the horizon, this will be the last newsletter of the school year, and for some of you, the last one ever! However, the real emotions are yet to come as we wave on our year sixes to pastures anew: with Leavers' assembly and the Year 6 Production on the horizon there will be plenty of time for laughter and tears. So, here's to another wonderful year at Ruskin Junior School. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you for your ongoing support and I hope you have a wonderful summer break!

All the best and see you in September!

Mr Beadnell

This Term's Value: Humility

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."
(John Dewey)

Dates for Term 6:

Friday 6th July

Sports Day Years 3 and 4

Monday 9th July

Sports Day Years 5 and 6

Thursday 12th July

Year 5 Play in a Day at Kingsdown

Friday 13th July

Bastille Day

Reports to parents released

Tuesday 17th July

Rocksteady Assembly 14:30

Wednesday 18th July and

Thursday 19th July

18:00 Year 6 Production

Friday 20th July

Summer Fair

Tuesday 24th July

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 13:30

Wednesday 25th July

Last day of term, fin at 13:30

Thursday 26th July

TD Day

Monday 3rd September

TD Day

Tuesday 4th September

TD Day

Wednesday 5th September

First day back at school

Value for Term 6:

Humility



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Magnificent Morfa

One of Ruskin's most established traditions is its yearly residential to Morfa Bay near Tenby in South Wales. It's certainly one of the highlights of Year 6 and one that both children and staff look forward to immensely. A couple of years ago I was fortunate enough to accompany the children and although it was a fantastic event, the weather wasn't - basically it rained for five days. This year however, the weather couldn't have been more different – it was glorious. And so were the children! Anyone who follows us on Twitter will have seen what a fantastic time the children had. Mr Robertson was our designated 'Twitterer' and he didn't diasappoint, providing us with plenty of updates and photos on how well the children were doing and even giving us pics of the early morning hairdressing salon! We'd like to say a massive thank you to our dedicated team of staff who provided 24hr care for the children and were instrumental in ensuring they had the best experience possible. We would also like to say a massive thank you to Mr Hicks and his team of staff who remained back at Ruskin with the 'staycationers' who also had a fantastic time. A week of fun activities culminated with full-scale water-fight that was a well-deserved and refreshing end to the week. A brilliant and well-deserved week for all our Year 6s.



Kingsdown Coding

Years 3 and 4 got their first experience of secondary school as they headed off to Kingsdown earlier in the month to participate in their coding mornings. The children used Kingsdown's IT suite and learnt some simple coding techniques such as entering a range of commands and learning how to ask the computer questions. We received lots of really positive feedback about how much they enjoyed the whole experience: especially the chairs which apparently went up and down and spun round! A huge thanks to the staff at Kingsdown for providing the children with such a fantastic learning opportunity, we are sure that there will be plenty more to come.

All set for September

In our ongoing efforts to create the most effective learning environment for our children, the school has recently undergone some changes in its structure. These include ensuring that each class has a full-time (or equivalent to) teaching assistant. Although we have all of our teachers in place for the start of the new school year, we are in the final stages of covering all the positions for our teaching assistants. The leadership and teaching structure for September will be as follows:

Headteacher: Mr Beadnell			
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Buckby			
SENDco: Mrs Mitchell			
SRP Lead: Miss Delicata			
Year 3 Teachers	Mrs Jupp (Y3 Lead)	Miss Wakefield	Mrs Vareth/Mrs Mitchell
Year 4 Teachers	Mrs Buckby (Y4 Lead) Mrs Hanlon	Mrs Musty-Jackson	Mrs Butcher
Year 5 Teachers	Miss Burrell (Y5 Lead)	Mr Burgess	Mrs Powderhill/Mrs Goodman
Year 6 Teachers	Mr Edmondson (Y6 Lead)	Miss Stevenson	Miss Sanderson

School Improvement

We have some exciting news regarding the studio that will be happening over the summer holiday period. When the children return in September, they will have access to a fully refurbished and redecorated dance studio complete with mirrors and ballet barres. The area behind the studio where the decking was removed will be retarmaced and the finishing touches will be applied to our forest school area. We have also recently replaced the pirate ship (arr!!) on the equipment area with a brand new one so our would-be pirates can once more take to the high seas. What's more, one of the mobile classrooms will be converted into an art room where whole classes can

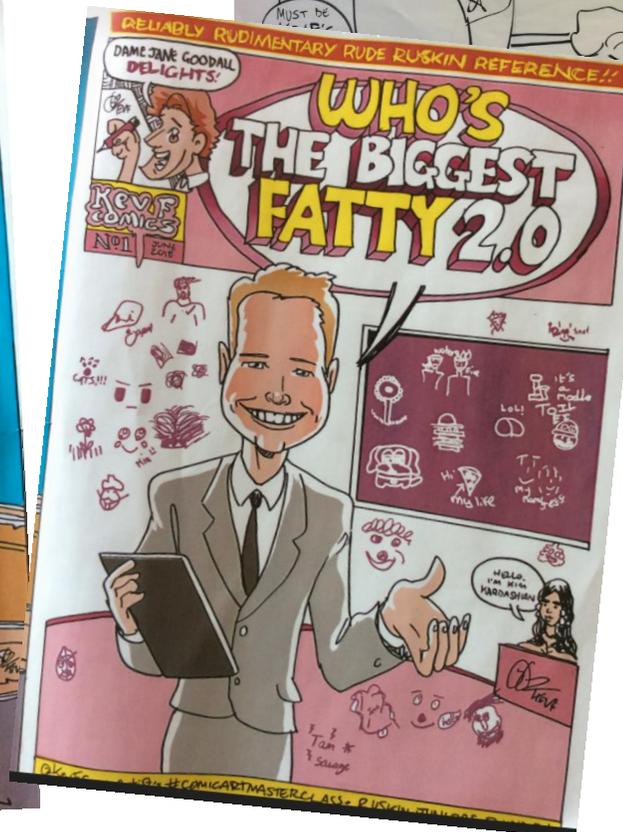
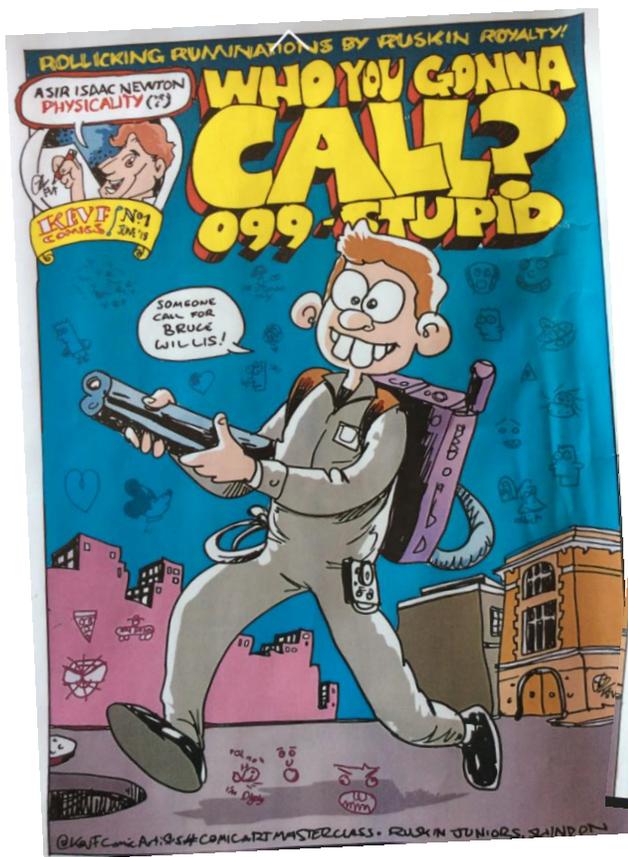
go to undertake a range of art and craft based lessons and we've also got plans to introduce our very own science lab. Exciting times ahead at Ruskin Junior School, watch this space...

Comical Capers

Year 6 were joined by Kev F Sutherland, a celebrated cartoonist who has illustrated for The Beano, 2000AD and Marvel Comics, to name but a few. He worked alongside children providing them with hints and tips and also produced some exclusive pieces of artwork based on the children's ideas. Having spoken to the children, Kev remains as popular as ever and we are delighted to be able to share some of his artwork below.



the
able



Highclere



It was off to Highclere Castle for our Year 3s in June to visit the home of the reknowned egyptologist Lord Carnarvon. He and Howard Carter were famous for discovering the Tomb of Tutenkamun, one of Egypt's legendary Pharoahs. And beneath the magnificent stately home is a wonderful museum housing a mixture of original and replica artefacts from the legendary excavation. The children demonstrated a staggering knowledge of the era and their enthusiasm and passion shone through as they found out first hand how it would have been to unearth the treasures of Tutenkamun. They were also given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities in the superbly atmospheric learning centre. It really is a special location and I cannot recommend a visit highly enough. If

you're fans of Downton Abbey, you might recognise the location from the photo!

Charitable Behaviours

It's been a special year for some of our children who have been demonstrating some wonderful acts of kindness and generosity by raising money for charity. Below you can find out more about some of our high profile campaigners doing their bit, be that getting their hair cut for the Little Princess Trust or running 10k a week in support of the British Heart Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK: some even meeting their (and my!) sporting heroes in recognition of what they have achieved. Amazing stuff. Anyway, I hope you get as excited about the pictures to the right as much as I was and please click on the links below to find out more about the amazing things our children have been up to.

[Everton Football Club Backs Swindon Brothers](#)

[Haircut to Support Little Princess Trust and Prospect Hospice](#)



Fare Thee Well

The end of this school year heralds the departure from Ruskin of some much-loved and familiar faces around the school. We bid a fond farewell to Mrs Jones and Mrs Hanrahan who will be retiring after many dedicated years of service. Mrs Jones' history at Ruskin stretches back to 1989 and she has been a huge asset to the school supporting children's learning, making sure the library runs smoothly and expertly crafting wonderful displays and stage props: you will be hugely missed. Mrs Hanrahan will be most missed for her forest school knowledge: I wouldn't be surprised if she could teach Bear Grylls a thing or two! We also bid a fond farewell to Miss Brinkley who is moving on to start teacher training and we are sure she will be a great success in new career. Both Miss Scotford and Mrs Cox's contracts have come to an end and we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the kindness and professionalism you have always shown in the short time you have been with us. We wish you the best of luck for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mrs Butcher who will be joining our teaching staff in September to cover Ms Minns in Year 4 who is still recovering from illness. Many of you will remember Mrs Butcher as a TA but we are delighted she's coming back to Ruskin as a freshly qualified teacher: welcome aboard!

And Finally...

As our forest school/nature area nears completion, it has been wonderful to see the amount of new wildlife the area is starting to attract. Goldfinches have been spotted out there along with large tortoiseshells, squirrels, wrens and even green woodpeckers. But perhaps one of the most unexpected and beautiful arrivals are a host of different varieties of poppies that have popped up all over the newly formed mound. I'm sure you'll agree, they really are something special.

