

November 2015



# The Phoenix

Newsletter for

Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School



Issue 3

Dear Parents

On behalf of the whole school community of Ryecroft may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Perhaps something of the magic of Christmas lies in its capacity to release the feelings we all believe in, feelings of joy, of hope, of peace, and the wish that Christmas may be seen as not just a day, an event to be observed and speedily forgotten but a spirit which should permeate every part of our lives.

I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 4th January 2016 and wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Mr S Bardon**  
Headteacher

## SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE!



As the winter months are now with us, we need to plan for the worst that the season may throw at us. It is most unlikely we will decide to close the school in the event of snow or other types of inclement weather. Should circumstances prevail so that a closure is necessary, parents should have arrangements in place so that their child has somewhere to go to during the day. Should it be necessary to close the school **during** the school day an emergency contact number written in the home-school link book is very useful. Invariably, the coach companies will monitor road conditions and may decide, at short notice, that they have to come and collect the children in order to get them back safely to their home village.

### Parents Have a Key Role

During an emergency situation, schools must act in order to safeguard students and staff. Parents can assist greatly by being prepared before an emergency. Here are a few critical things you can do:

- Make certain the school always has accurate contact information on file.
- Provide your school with contact information for adults authorised as emergency contacts for your child.
- Talk to your child about what to do and how to contact you in an emergency.
- If you have not already done so, sign up to receive text messages and emails via Schoolcomms.

### Getting Information

The school only has two telephone lines, if parents are phoning the school to check to see if we are open it inhibits our capability to make urgent phone calls. Therefore we would ask you to make use of the following services:

- *Receive Emergency Alert* text messages and emails via Schoolcomms – if you do not presently receive school information via text messages and/or emails but would like to do so, please contact Mrs Evans on 01889 590394 or alternatively email her at [office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk). **Please also ensure that you inform the school should you change your mobile number and / or email address.**
- *School Web site* [www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk) – Please note that in the event of severe weather conditions we may be unable to inform parents of school closure via the school website as the website can only be updated from school.
- **Staffordshire County Council website** – [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education) click on the link for school closure.

## FUNDRAISING

In support of BBC Children in Need, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was a 'Dress as a Super Hero Day'

Pupils also held cake sales at lunchtime to help boost our fundraising efforts.

A fantastic **£491** was raised for this worthwhile appeal. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work.



We would also like to say a big thank you to all of you in helping us in raising **£72.00** from the recent Bag2School collection.


In the lead up to Christmas we have many exciting events and activities taking place in school. Here are several dates for your diaries and calendars.

## MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

# Christmas Production

Starting at 7.00pm, Ryecroft PTA will be hosting an evening of musical performances and short sketches. There will be an interval during the evening where mulled wine and mince pies will be available. The PTA will also be having a raffle for a Christmas hamper.

Admission is payable 'on the door' Adults - £2.50 Children - Free of Charge



Donations of mince pies and yule log for this event would be very much appreciated

## TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

# Christmas Carol Service

As part of our Christmas celebrations, all pupils and staff from Ryecroft will be attending a Christmas service at St Michael's Church, Rocester. The one hour service starts at 10.00am and will include carols and readings from the pupils. **Parents and families are more than welcome to join us in this celebration.**



## THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

# Christmas Lunch

This is a very special and popular event at Ryecroft with pupils having the opportunity to invite members of their family to join them for lunch. Pupils pay the usual cost of £2.10 (or free of charge for those pupils in receipt eligible for free meals) and the cost for adults is £3.00 per person.

Due to the increasingly popularity of our Christmas Lunch and to hopefully aid in a swift service, we have decided this year to stagger arrival/serving times according to Year Groups. For those of you who have children in different year groups, we ask that you join your youngest child for lunch. Times are as follows:

- 12.00pm Year 5 pupils and guests
- 12.20pm Year 6 pupils and guests
- 1.00pm Year 7 pupils and guests
- 1.20pm Year 8 pupils and guests



Children - £2.10  
Adults - £3.00

To ensure we have sufficient food for everyone and to help service run smoothly on the day, we ask that the following deadlines are adhered to for both pupils and adults:

- Pre-order a Christmas Meal Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015
- Payment for Christmas Meal Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

# PTA Christmas Disco

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
7.00pm to 9.00pm.  
£2.50 payable on the night



## SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR THE START OF THE SPRING 2016 TERM On MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

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