



# The Phoenix

Newsletter for   
Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School  
Issue 4

Dear Parents,

Once again we near the end of a great term and I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the successes with you and highlight a few up and coming events.

We had a fun-packed day on Friday 24th March for Red Nose Day with a variety of events including the bake sale, a fancy dress competition won by Harley Tavernor in KS2 and Lily McDaid in KS3. Pupils also thoroughly enjoyed the Red Nose Treasure Hunt, which was found by Jimmy in Year 8.

Pupils have excelled themselves with the number of cake sales this term, raising money most weeks for charities such as M.E awareness, British Red Cross and Douglas McMillan to name a few. Pupils always organise these sales entirely by themselves for the causes they wish to support.

Earlier in the year, pupils were visited by the poet Terry Cafferty who worked with groups on poetry centred on the theme of 'Dreams'. Pupils poems were then entered into the 'Once upon a dream' competition. Well Done to all our published Poets and Authors. We have recently been notified that Cleo Perkins in Year 6 came first in the whole of Staffordshire for her entry. Very well done, Cleo, congratulations! Her brilliant poem is included within this newsletter for you to read.

Can I remind Year 6 parents that it's not too late to sign your child up for a place at Easter School which will be held from Tuesday 11th – Thursday 13th April from 9.00am – 3.00pm. The aim of the Easter School is to practice exam techniques and keep skills fresh. It is also an opportunity to have access to some final one-to-one tuition prior to the SATs. To register your child, please call the school office. Pupils need to bring a packed lunch and a drink as the canteen will not be open.

On the last day of term, Friday 7th April, we will be having an Easter assembly in St Michaels Church, Rocester at 10.00am with The Reverend John Hall. We would be delighted if you could join us to celebrate. This will be followed after lunch, with a Community Run around JCB Lake. Pupils will be able to change into fancy dress (no face paints or hair dyes please) for the event and prizes will be given for the most laps completed, the best costumes and some fun awards too. We anticipate the event starting at around 2.15pm - Parents, Grandparents and Friends of the School are more than welcome to come and spectate, join in or just cheer us along. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sadly, we will also be saying farewell this term to several well-loved colleagues. Mr Luby is taking early retirement and so Miss Starkey and Mrs Slack will be taking over his teaching commitment in the summer term. In addition, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Trotter will also be officially leaving us at Easter and Mr Patrick will be taking up a new position at another school. This newsletter also includes a message from Mr Slack who has been our Temporary Executive Headteacher for the last two terms. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

I wish you all a very safe and peaceful break.

Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely  
**Miss R.Baramuszczak**  
Headteacher



# MESSAGE FROM MR P. SLACK

Dear Parents/Carers

My partnership work in the role as Executive Headteacher will be ending at Easter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children for their hard work and enthusiasm and to the parents and carers for their support and commitment over the last 2 terms in what has been a particularly exciting and challenging period of time. We do appreciate how much our parents support us. We are very grateful even though we may not always articulate it enough.

I would like to end by saying a very big thank you to every member of staff at Ryecroft Middle School who make it such a great place to work and such an excellent place for your children to come to learn.

I wish you all the best for the future and I know that Ryecroft Middle School School will go from strength to strength.

Kind regards

## Midnight Monsters

I had a dream when the stars were bright,  
I knew I should be prepared for a scary night.  
There is a monster living under my bed,  
Its scarlet, inflamed claws fill me with dread.

At the corner of my eye I suddenly see,  
A blue monster with purple polka dots looking at me.  
I am by myself in the middle of the night,  
I hope this monster doesn't give me  
too much of a fright!

The monster springs out on his frog-like feet,  
Oh no! He's gobbling down my  
favourite Halloween treat!  
I'm terror-struck, worried, but also quite cross,  
This delinquent monster seems to think that  
he's the boss.

To my surprise he looks at me with a cheesy grin  
And offers me a treat from my Halloween tin.

**Cleo Perkins (10)**

Ryecroft CE Middle School, Uttoxeter

## ALARM

As some of you may be aware we have faced certain challenges since moving into our new building. One of these issues has been the intruder alarm going off at night and weekends. Admittedly when Ryecroft and Dove First School first moved on-site there were some teething problems. However, the issue now appears to be the external doors. The actual fault for this unacceptable situation has yet to be determined. Although locked and secure, the doors are rattling in the doorframe and thus activating the alarm. We are in continual daily contact with Staffordshire County Council, Entrust and Seddons and would like to reassure the community that we are doing the upmost within in our power to try and resolve this matter. Both Ryecroft and Dove First have made it very clear that this situation is not acceptable and needs to be dealt with urgently.

We would like to apologise and express our sincere gratitude to our near neighbours who have, over the last few months, suffered the impact of this malfunction and intolerable noise.

# SPORTS UPDATE



This half term has seen a successful increase in participation for our students through extra-curricular activities during lunchtimes, after-school and representing Ryecroft at external sporting events. With a range of activities hosted in-house or by Burton Albion, students across the school have had the opportunity to practice their skills and techniques at Netball and Running. KS2 students have been coached by Burton Albion in Hockey at lunchtime and KS3 boys have practiced their football skills at lunchtime and KS3 girls' after-school with Burton Albion too.

Ryecroft are beginning to bounce back with these skills they are learning too by showing their rivalry in several tournaments over the past few weeks. These include the Cross-Country Championships for Staffordshire; Basketball; Chess; Football Netball and Hockey. Our recent success has been against Windsor in the year 7 football friendly winning 3-2 and also KS2 football getting through to the semi-finals in the Staffordshire football tournament. With the prospect of being able to train on the field in the summer term, this will increase our opportunities for in-house competitions as well as other schools travelling to play friendlies against us too!

Next half term is set to be a busy one, with the summer curriculum for PE being applied with the following activities: Athletics, Rounders/Softball, Tennis and Badminton, and cricket. Year 5 will also be lucky enough to have 'Move and Learn' lessons delivered by Burton Albion, as part of the National Scheme to increase health awareness and participation following the Obesity plan set by the Government. With the increased participation in lunchtime activities from this half term, there will be daily lunchtime sessions for students to participate in which will include: running club, football, basketball and cricket. There will also be a new and exciting opportunity to KS3 to experience parkour after-school.

Twelve successfully chosen students will also undergo training to become Sports Leaders to allow them to lead break and lunchtime activities.

**Miss N. Starkey**  
**Lead for Physical Education**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – Easter Holiday**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April - School re-opens for pupils**



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 04 April 2017 Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm) – surname beginning A-K  
 05 April 2017 Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm) – surname beginning L-W  
 06 April 2017 Live Music Concerts for KS2 and KS3 pupils  
 Veterinary Workshops for KS3 pupils  
 07 April 2017 10.00am - Easter Service, St Michaels Church 10.00am – Family & Friends welcome  
 2.15pm approx – Community run around JCB Lake. Fancy Dress optional.  
**NO FACE PAINTS, HAIR DYES OR AEROSOL CANS PERMITTED.**

11 – 13 April 2017 Easter School for Year 6 Pupils

- 01 May 2017 Bank Holiday - School Closed  
 08 - 12 May 2017 KS3 Residential to Standon Bowers  
 KS2 SATs  
 16 May 2017 Year 5 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)  
 17 May 2017 Year 5 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)  
 23 May 2017 Year 7 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)  
 24 May 2017 Year 7 Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)  
 26 May 2017 AM - Sponsored Walk – sensible shoes and clothing please!  
 PM – Fete – details to follow  
 09 June 2017 Level 2 Bikeability for Year 5– *forms must be returned by 17<sup>th</sup> May*  
 16 June 2017 Level 2 Bikeability for Year 5  
 19 – 23 June 2017 Year 6 Residential visit to Shugborough  
 28 June 2017 Level 3 Bikeability Year 7 & 8 – *details to follow*  
 04 & 05 July 2017 All Change Day  
 Year 8 pupils are asked to make their own to Thomas Alleyne's High School  
 Year 4 at Ryecroft  
 Parents' Evening for September 2017 intake pupils  
 18 July 2017 Year 8 Talent Show - *details to follow*  
 19 July 2017 Year 8 Leavers Assembly – *details to follow*  
 20 July 2017 PTA Disco  
 21 July 2017 Celebration Day/ Alton Towers & Splash Landing visits – *details to follow*  
 Last Day of Summer Term  
 24 July 2017 INSET - School Closed to Pupils  
 25 July 2017 INSET - School Closed to Pupils

05 Sept 2017 Autumn Term begins.

