

VIKING CHALLENGE

Charity Off-Road Cycle Event

January 2019 Update



The Viking Challenge donates a record-breaking £30,000 to Redmile CofE Primary School and Reach Learning Disability

Children and parents from Redmile CofE Primary School, gathered together with their teachers to celebrate the success of the 2018 Viking Challenge. Over 1000 riders raised £30,000, which was donated to Redmile CofE and the 2018 chosen charity, Reach Learning Disability. The celebration event took place on Friday 25th January 2019. This is the largest amount the Viking Challenge has raised in its 24-year history.

At this year's Viking Challenge celebration, Jane Noad, Viking Challenge Committee Chairperson presented Julie Hopkins, Executive Head Teacher of Redmile CofE Primary School and Sarah Cobb from Reach with their cheques.

She said 'on behalf of the school and the Viking Challenge committee I need to say a massive thank you to all the riders, sponsors, the 64 parents who baked cakes to feed our riders and the 180 volunteers who supported the event. This is a group effort and it is down to every single person that contributes his or her time on the day, before and after the event or who bakes a cake that makes it the fantastic event it is. The money raised makes such a big difference to the children of Redmile CofE Primary School and hopefully to our charity partner.'

The Viking Challenge also commended the dedication and support of its voluntary committee members and support teams. Former pupil, Josh Beeston has been awarded the Peter Snow Award for going above and beyond to support the with catering to the Viking Challenge. This special award is a tribute to the late Peter Snow who always rode the Viking Challenge.



At the end of the presentations Executive Head teacher Julie Hopkins said *' what a phenomenal amount to receive and I am delighted that so many of our families joined us for the presentation. As we hear in the news about the pressures on school budgets, this cheque allows Redmile School to further continue enriching the lives of our pupils. We asked the children for suggestions on where they would*

like to see funds spent and I'm thrilled that we are able to fulfil those wishes from new skipping ropes at playtime to new technology in all our classrooms. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible.'

Sarah Cobb, Fundraising Officer at Reach said 'we would like to express a huge thank you to the school and Viking Challenge committee for choosing us as their charity for 2018. We all had such fun at the event and everyone that came to help said how well organised and friendly it was! The £12,000 donated to us is so generous and we are very grateful. It really will make a big difference to the lives of people in Nottinghamshire with learning disabilities.'

Preparations are already underway for the 2019 Viking Challenge, which takes place on **Sunday 6th October 2019**. This will be the 25th anniversary of the event and the committee are already planning a few surprises for the riders. The 2019 Charity partner is the MS Society.

For more information about the 2019 Viking Challenge, please visit www.vikingchallenge.org.uk

Further information



- The Viking Challenge has been running for 24 years and since 1998, has raised over £500,000 of which £400,000 has been donated to various charities and Redmile CofE Primary School. Significant donated funds supported the build of a School Hall in (2009) and new classrooms (2012) and 2018's Challenge has already provided a larger playground area and helped to fund educational visits, Spanish and swimming lessons and numerous activities.
- It is the UK's largest off road amateur bike challenge across 30k and 55k. The route changes each year but is based on the Viking Way, an ancient track-way originally linking Newark and Stamford.
- Nearly 5000 cakes, bananas, chocolate and pork pies are served to cyclists across the route.
- Relies on over 150 volunteers on the day
- Reach is a registered charity that supports up to 400 people with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire each year. They run courses, social activities and projects to help people get the life they want in their own community. With four bases – Reach Southwell, Reach Newark, Reach Mansfield, and Flower Pod they are able to run weekly activities ranging from Art, Cooking, Drama, Men's groups, Women's groups and lots more. They also offer short courses in other settings across Nottinghamshire as well as annual holidays and trips. Their care support company – Reach Learning Disability Care CIC (Reach Care) provides domiciliary care to adults with learning disabilities on a one-to-one basis. The money raised from the Viking Challenge will help enable us to continue our work throughout Nottinghamshire.

