



## **Newsletter February 2017**

Dear Parent/Carer

Despite it being a shorter term than usual, we have once again been very busy at Cleves with a wide number of successes - many of which are reported on in this newsletter.

### **STAFF TRAINING**

Our term and new year started with an INSET day on mathematics for the whole staff. Linda Storey from Babcock 4S facilitated a very useful session looking at how we can use concrete maths and resources to introduce number work and secure pupils' understanding.

The session was very well received by staff and had an almost immediate impact, with teachers building new ideas into their lesson plans and giving more thought as to how a practical approach can support number concepts. We have already seen a greater emphasis on using support resources like Numicon, unit cubes, ten sticks, number lines, counting beads and more.

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

In the Autumn we released our new recommended reading lists, which direct pupils towards a broad, age appropriate range of reading material. This is to ensure that pupils are reading at least some books at the right level of challenge and becoming familiar with some popular authors and texts. The PTA have very kindly supported this initiative by investing a further £2000 to increase our stock of these titles.

Miss Simmons continues with her work looking at provision for the most able and we have asked her to design a lesson planning format for staff to use when planning excellence classes.

Miss Kiely has been offered release time in order to create a library and research skills scheme of work.

### **TEACHING & LEARNING**

We have just completed our first round of Spring term observations and outcomes were extremely impressive. We once again completed a number of joint observations to moderate our judgements. 100% of lessons were good or better, of which 82% were outstanding. We saw some really innovative, creative and dynamic lessons.

Lessons generally included lots of opportunities for pupils to talk in pairs or groups. Teacher questioning was excellent and included more open ended questions which challenged pupils to think. Lessons were well structured to support learning. Resources were creative, appealing to pupils and well prepared.

### **EVENTS**

There have been a number of trips and visits over the last 5 weeks and I would like to thank all the parents who have joined us to help with these. One trip in particular was a very long and tiring day with over 80 pupils from the Cleves Choirs attending the Young Voices Concert on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. Without your help none of these trips and experiences would be possible. There is more about this below.

### **BUILDING**

I am delighted to report that the next phase of our extension project is now moving ahead apace and, literally on a daily basis, another major step is evident. Our project manager, John Simpson, remains fully focused on the project and delivering the programme to meet the deadline. The contractors intend to be finished by Easter.

Once the expansion programme is finished we look forward to agreeing the final phase of work as we design our specialist teaching rooms. We intend to create an Art/Technology room (4D), a Science lab (4K), a training and community room (3C), a multi media suite (5K) and a nurture room and physio suite (5H). Other ideas and suggestions are most welcome.

This exciting final phase will once again be part funded by the PTA, who have put aside substantial funds to redevelop these classrooms over the summer holidays, ready for September 2017.

We do have further developments to report. The PTA is funding a new outdoor traverse climbing wall which will be sited near the MUGA. Furthermore they have agreed to fund the replacement of the spinners on the play equipment.

On the subject of PTA investment, we have finally established that planning permission is needed for the pond and outdoor classroom which are planned as part of our grounds development. We will submit this after half term and should hear back within 8 weeks.

## **YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM NEWS**

### **Year 3**

The new year started off with our exciting immersion day all about the Ancient Egyptians, the highlight of which was the tunnel - crawling around in the dark with torches, finding artefacts in trays, and avoiding the surprise in the tunnel - all VERY exciting! We followed this up with our visit to the British Museum and must once again thank the large number of parents who accompanied us to help make this such a valuable learning experience for the children. It has brought the topic alive and the children are thoroughly engaged in learning about Egyptian gods and the journey to the afterlife. We are also sketching and making canopic jars in art to round off this part of the topic.

Having seen the Egyptian mummies, we have been learning a lot more about the mummification process by mummifying oranges and the children (the latter through drama we assure you!).

Drama has been at the forefront in literacy as the children have also been writing and acting out their own playscripts based upon 'The Egyptian Cinderella' - a twist upon the well known fairy tale, although based on real characters from the Egyptian period.

In science we have been learning about forces, particularly the forces of friction and magnetism. Here we have been developing group working skills and learning to take roles within groups in order to work efficiently and effectively - not always an easy task.

In computing we have been using the laptops and learning the difference between how Google and Microsoft programmes work. In particular we have been focusing on the importance of naming and saving work using Microsoft programmes.

Thank you to all the parents who continue to come in regularly to support early morning reading and handwriting as well as to help in class. We really do appreciate your support.

We hope you and your children enjoy the half term break.

Mrs Flaxman

### **Year 4**

The children are now fully immersed in our Invaders and Settlers topic. Within literacy, they have been learning about Caesar's invasion through drama activities and writing opportunities, which included using Comic Life on the iPads. In addition, as a collaborative outcome to their enquiry based learning project, the children have created their own 'Roman' non-fiction text books.

We recently had a very successful trip to the Science Museum, where the children were able to enhance

and consolidate their learning of forces. The year 4 teachers would like to thank all the parents who were able to give up their time to help by accompanying us.

We have had a great start to 2017 and are finishing this half term on a creative high by making Roman bread as part of our DT unit and having our Invaders and Settlers Arts and Craft Day, during which the children will be making mosaics, oil lamps and jewellery and participating in weaving and runic writing.

We hope you all have a lovely half term.

Miss Bye

### **Year 5**

Another cracking half term has been had in year 5 and it's gone by in rather a hurry - usually a good sign. The children have continued to show off their skills in literacy with some superb writing in 2 different genres. First of all, we learned about Apollo 11 and the successful moon mission which ended the space race, and wrote fantastic newspaper recounts which explained what had happened in a clear, chronological sequence. Then the children were able to flex their descriptive muscles, with liberal use of similes and metaphors, in their descriptions of La Luna - a Pixar short movie.

Science has been engaging and interesting. To begin the unit on space, we had an excellent visit from our 'Planetarium Man', and many minds were blown. We've since been attempting to explain the seasons, the phases of the moon, day and night, and much more.

In other subjects, computing has been both challenging and fun this half term, with our use of Lego WeDo to hone our coding skills as well as improve our collaboration with others. Our topic has really prompted us to think about the huge changes which have happened in Britain over the last 60 years, and we have made it to the 1980s already! PE has allowed us to practise some great dances from the last 6 decades, including the jive and the hustle, with remarkable results. Ask the children to show you their new moves and I'm sure you'll be impressed.

In general, it has been a short but exciting term, filled with a great deal of learning. The children have earned their half term break - enjoy!

Mr Tuck

### **Year 6**

A slightly sinister start to 2017 in Year 6 as we have been learning suspense techniques in literacy as part of our Spooky House Story unit. The children developed their understanding of narrative structure as well as creating atmosphere and suspense. Hopefully you managed to hear some examples on our recent Good

Work Radio Show; if not, you can listen [again here](#). The children might enjoy showing off some of these techniques by writing a 100 Word Story, so please encourage them to take part. We have now moved on to writing recipes which will culminate in learning and writing about Potjie, a popular South African dish.

This term our topic is *Forces of Nature* which has a focus on Africa, although our Geography studies have begun looking at natural phenomena such as earthquakes as well as details of world maps. We have begun studying work by the African artist Nicholas Nana Yaw Kowalski and will be creating further artwork inspired by this week's trip to The Lion King. In Science we have been looking at examples of reversible and irreversible changes, including 'cooking' marshmallows and 'exploding' rockets!

Once again, the children have been working hard and are becoming increasingly independent in their studies. Thank you, as always, for your support. The Year 6 team hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

Mrs Flaherty

## **PARENT WORKSHOPS**

This half term we have held two parent workshops on reading and maths. These have been both well attended and we have more planned for the rest of the academic year.

- **Tuesday 14th March (Mrs Batchelor)**
  - Outstanding learning behaviours
  - An overview of the Cleves outstanding learning behaviours and how we teach and learn.
- **Tuesday 23rd May (Mr Tuck)**
  - Mathematics 2 – multiplication and division
  - Strategies used in the classroom and how they can be used at home to help your child with mathematics.
- **Tuesday 20th June (Mrs Jobe)**
  - Grammar and Punctuation
  - This session will provide an overview of the teaching of grammar and punctuation at KS2 including an explanation of vocabulary, the progression in writing development and ways to support your child at home.
- **Tuesday 11th July (Mr Smith)**
  - How we assess at Cleves
  - All sessions will take place between 0900-1000 and refreshments will be available from 0830. Venue to be confirmed. We will issue reminders nearer the time.

All the resources and handouts for the sessions that have already taken place can be downloaded from the school website - <http://www.cleves.co.uk/about-cleves/curriculum/literacy/>

## **GOVERNING BODY NEWS**

It's been a fairly short half term, but governors have packed a lot in. Keeping our children safe, in a wide spectrum of different ways, is one of our most important duties and has been a prominent theme over recent weeks. At a policy level we have reviewed and agreed an updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; with Pupil Associate Governors we have looked at some of the issues and recommendations arising from their safety survey, in particular things that cause some children concern at break times; and amongst other things our Resources Committee has discussed spending money on actions to improve safety on the roads outside the school at drop off and pick up times. A second theme has been admissions, and in particular our consultation on the draft Admissions Policy 2018. We have to meet strict statutory guidance in determining our Admissions Policies and on admissions generally, and I would like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to the statutory consultation and thus helped us to take a better informed decision.

Mrs S Foster, Chair of Governors

## **100 WORD CHALLENGE WRITING COMPETITION**

Our weekly writing competition - the 100 Word Challenge - is proving popular with a number of entries every week. The standard of writing has been extremely impressive and has led to a number of pupils having their work showcased on the 100 Word Challenge website. If you haven't checked it out yet visit our 100 Word Challenge blog which has all the information on how to enter. There will be a competition for half term week. The blog can be accessed here - <http://100wordchallengecleves.blogspot.co.uk/>

If you can, leave a comment against a piece of writing. All comments are moderated beforehand; so far we have received feedback from all around the world!

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### Year 6 Netball

The Year 6 Netball girls have been training hard over this term, and we have been focusing on our defending skills. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, a couple of matches have been postponed. We are however playing St James' at home this Thursday, so fingers crossed for a good result.

### Year 5 Netball

The Year 5 netball team have been busy practising various netball skills in preparation for upcoming matches. We have lots of matches scheduled after half term and are hoping to continue a successful campaign within the netball league.

### Year 5 & 6 Girls Football

The girls' team has had a positive start to 2017. Two teams went to the Royal Holloway tournament at the end of January. Cleves A played some fantastic football, adapting their style to suit their opposition and managed to finish 2nd in their group, unfortunately getting knocked out, on penalties in the quarter finals, to St Ann's Heath. Meanwhile Cleves B finished 3rd in their group and again, were knocked out in the last minute of extra time against Ashley. Both Mr Woods and Mrs Hamilton were incredibly proud of the girls who reflected on each performance, ensuring their next game was even better than the last.

The Year 6 girls also participated in an indoor tournament, held at Cleves at the start of February. They showed impressive teamwork and fought their way to the semi finals, where again they were knocked out by St Ann's Heath.

Well done to all the girls who took part.

Coming up next half-term we have an outdoor tournament which will be held at Cleves, and a second which will take place at St Ann's Heath closer to Easter. Finally, there is the Surrey Cup fixture vs Royal Russell which has yet to be rearranged. Children will be notified as soon as the fixture has been organised.

#### Year 5 & 6 Boys Football

The boys' teams have been performing well in the ERPSSA football leagues, with both teams now competing in the cup competitions in their respective age groups. Year 5 have several games coming up after half term, so are busy training for those. Year 6 have had a strong start to their campaign, winning their first match against Bell Farm in emphatic fashion.

Year 5 have also progressed through round 2 of the Surrey County Cup, and are now in the semi-finals.

The year 6 team also took part in the Surrey 7 a side County Finals at the end of January. This was a round robin competition involving the best 20 schools in Surrey. After winning all our group games we progressed to the knockout stages. In the semi finals we emphatically beat Claygate 5 v 1 and then went on to beat St Michael's 3 v 0 in the final. The team now progresses to the South East Regional Finals in March. Congratulations to all involved.



### Dodgeball

We have been continuing our drive to involve more pupils in interschool competitions. This term, pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in a dodgeball tournament against Walton Oak. With each team playing 6 games, there was a lot of opportunity to compete and score points. Everyone played brilliantly, and there were some outstanding performances, with Cleves Lower School placing 1st, and Cleves Upper School 3rd. Most importantly it was another excellent opportunity for over 20 children to represent the school in a sporting competition. Well done everyone.

Cleves also hosted a Year 6 dodgeball tournament, in which 10 schools took part. The team had some stiff competition, and were put through some very quick-fire matches, but showed some excellent teamwork to place 3rd in their group overall.

### Indoor Athletics

The annual Elmbridge District Indoor Athletics competition took place last Thursday at Leatherhead Leisure Centre and saw 54 of our pupils taking part. For the first time, we had been able to enter two teams into the competition and this was great for all those pupils who have been arriving at school at 8am every Friday morning to practise.

Historically, this is a competition that we have done very well in and this year was no different. The A team stormed to a comprehensive victory and now progress to the County finals in April where we hope to retain our title. More impressively though, the B team finished 5th (out of 12). Throughout the morning they won a number of their heats and competed strongly in others. Considering the team was only formed a few days before the competition, and the Year 5 girls who took part only had one opportunity to practise,



it was quite an achievement. Well done to everyone that took part - you represented the school superbly and made your teachers and parents very proud



### Positive Play

In a bid to ensure that all children are participating in at least 15 minutes of active play a day, we have looked to lunchtimes to give children this opportunity. Several lunchtime supervisors have undertaken a Positive Play course, which they have now begun to roll out at lunchtimes. This involves setting up and running more focussed games and activities, providing a positive environment to develop physical as well as social skills. These include:

- Problem solving and creative games and activities
- Games and activities using small equipment
- Games and activities using no small equipment
- Challenges
- Chasing games
- Quiet games
- Structured mini-games

These have been well received by all who have joined in so far.

### Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Cleves are once again taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids voucher scheme. This is an excellent scheme that rewards schools for collecting vouchers, and swaps them for sports equipment. It is invaluable for us as a school as we always benefit greatly from the extra equipment. So please do collect and send them into school - there is a collection box in reception. Thank you.

### Friday Chess Club

On Sunday 22nd January 2017, Ron and Tom Usharovsky played in the Wey Valley Under 12 Championship/ Under 9 Team Selection Event. Ron competed in the "Under 12 Championships" against players his age, under 11 (year 6) and under 12 (year 7) and won 4 of his 5 matches which is a very good result as it is a tough competition. He was awarded a Wey Valley rosette for this achievement.

Tom played in the under 9 Wey Valley (Surrey County) Team Selection Event against players his age, under 8 (year 3) and under 9 (year 4) and was undefeated, winning all 5 matches and finishing first which is an excellent result in a tough competition. He was awarded a special Wey Valley rosette. This result makes him favourite to be top board in the under 9 Wey Valley Team and the best under 9 in the County when he is still an under 8!!! Really well done Tom.

### **MUSIC NEWS**

#### **Young Voices 02 Concert**

On Friday 20th January, 80 pupils from Cleves Choir and Funky Choir headed to the O2 to take part in the annual Young Voices Concert. It was an action-packed day which involved a two hour rehearsal, lunch and dinner breaks and then the fantastic concert where we joined 7,000 other pupils to make up a huge, all-singing all-dancing choir. We also enjoyed performances from the Beatbox Collective and other professional singers and performers and it really was a memorable night! The children were fantastic and were a real credit to our school - well done everyone. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and siblings who attended the concert and supported us. In addition, thank you to the parents who helped escort us at the end of the night - it was much appreciated! A big thank you must also go to all the members of staff and other adults who came with us on the visit (Mr Kilhams, Mrs Lockyer, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Jones, Mr Matthews, Miss Hamlyn and Mrs Batchelor), to those staff who did all the 'behind the scenes' organisation (Ms Tao, Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Thomson) and to those who ran rehearsals. We couldn't have done it without you.

### **WELFARE**

#### **Free School Meals and discounts for school visits**

Did you know that by registering for Free School Meals your child not only has the opportunity to enjoy a free school meal but they could also be entitled to a reduction in the cost of school visits and residential trips?

The school benefits from additional funding for all students who are registered for Free School Meals or who have registered in the past 6 years. This allows the school to provide additional support and interventions as well as financial support for trips.

Am I Eligible for Free School Meals?

If as a parent/guardian/carer, if you receive one of the following, you may be able to claim for Free School Meals.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit

If you would like to apply for Free School Meals a form can be downloaded from the website <http://www.cleves.co.uk/parents/letters/> or you can collect one from the School Office.

**And finally...**

Thank you as always for another busy, positive and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Hodges', written in a cursive style.

Mr C. Hodges  
Headteacher