



Newsletter December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Our Autumn term finished on a high with our Lower School and Upper School Christmas productions. The children have worked hard all term and the concerts were no exception. Again I am delighted with their efforts, attainment and progress. It has been a busy term as usual and here are just some of the highlights and developments.

School Development Plan work

Our main area of improvement work this year is maths. At the start of the year we changed our approach to setting, making it less hierarchical in order to ensure that pupils' attainment was not capped. If for example we have a larger number of more able pupils in a year group we intend to run two parallel top sets rather than a set 1 and set 2.

With the raised expectations of the maths curriculum, and additional challenge posed by the SATs testing regime, we intend to review all areas of our practice and redesign our curriculum. Although the national curriculum programmes of study cover a wide range of maths topics, and our current plans ensure we teach all the required areas, the SATs test focused almost entirely on number work and reasoning. As part of our improvement work we have booked a maths specialist from Babcock 4S to work with us and redesign our planning and teaching approach. We have already remapped our maths modules to increase the time spent on number work and develop more frequent opportunities for reasoning.

Maths is not our only area of focus on this year as we need to continue to target reading and writing. Our focused reading sessions ensure that children read to their teacher at least once a week and our records show that children attain well and make good progress. We do feel we need to increase the focus on comprehension skills, particularly in the light of the recent SATs materials which, as with the maths, were far more challenging than in previous years. We have therefore decided to include more comprehension work within each literacy module across the whole school, and build in additional weekly activities.

Miss Simmons provided a twilight session on our provision for the more able and staff created a valuable list of activities to extend them in each subject area. We intend to use these strategies in our planning and in-class provision.

Mrs Hamilton met with pupils from all year groups to review our outdoor learning activities. This new scheme has proved extremely popular and it is great to see our grounds being better used for learning.

Pupil associate governors completed their annual safety survey and produced a lunch survey to gauge pupil and parent satisfaction. We were delighted to see pupils felt more comfortable and confident at school despite the disruption of the building work.

We have managed to recruit a new speech therapist who is currently providing half a day a week of support to pupils and offering guidance to staff.

The PTA has been extremely busy with discos, the Christmas Fayre and not least the Fireworks Night. The current committee have already made a number of significant contributions to the school and still have funds reserved for our outdoor learning area and pond. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and the many hours they spend organising events. See their report later in this newsletter.

I am pleased to report that our new parent forum has started and has already held two meetings. Mr Cope is leading on this initiative, which aims to draw on increased parental feedback about school improvement projects. 15 parents attended the first meeting, which focused on the operational approach the forum wanted to follow. The second meeting looked at road safety issues at pick-up and drop off and we intend to pursue this topic further in the new year.

We invited feedback about the October parent consultation evenings from parents, and received some comments we need to consider about the tick sheet reports which focus on learning behaviours. A majority of parents said they found the mini reports very useful but some questioned why their child may have gone down a point in the move to a new year group (i.e children getting 5s may have received some 4s at the start of their new year). This is because there are different, higher expectations year on year within each learning behaviour so pupils have to do more to achieve a 5. It is apparent we need to explain this better, or perhaps show the subset of skills within a learning behaviour. The results were valuable and will guide some changes.

Building and expansion work

Phase two of our expansion project is now well under way and I am pleased to report that it is going well. Both the year 6 expansion and the dining hall work have started and the groundworks are now complete. The steel frames will be delivered early in the new year and then modular inserts should make the construction process relatively speedy.

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is now open and has already made a noticeable difference to activity on the main playground. Thanks again to funding from the PTA we had £4000 of new playground markings and pupils now enjoy basketball, target games and more four square grids. Due to popularity we have also purchased three additional outdoor table tennis tables, one of which has been generously funded by one of our parents.

The PTA have also agreed to fund an outdoor climbing wall, which we tried to install in the summer holiday but due to complications had to rethink. This should be in place by the start of the Spring season.

Next steps

We have another very busy Spring term planned and there are several issues which will require your feedback, involvement and support. Our lunch contract expires at the end of this academic year so we have commissioned a school meal consultant to produce a new tender package which will be advertised nationally. We would like to include both pupil and parent feedback in the process and decision when we select a provider.

Year 3

Goodness gracious, where did the term go? The children have been commenting about nearly filling a 'whole literacy book' and they certainly have developed stamina for writing this term. They have thoroughly enjoyed writing a complete narrative story, taking the delightful Oliver Jeffries story 'Lost & Found' as a model structure. Their final piece this term is based on the lovely book and film 'The Polar Express'. We are watching snippets and using delightful images from the story or film as a stimulus for creative description. The children have also been reflecting on their own progress by looking back through their literacy books and it is great to watch their faces light up as they reflect on what they are now able to do that they couldn't in September.

Our infamous stocking project is underway to add to the Christmassy theme. The children have designed their own stockings and will be sewing decorations and joining the two halves. So hopefully, you will have a stocking to remember underneath your Christmas tree this year!

In Maths we have recently been focussing on learning our tables ... do help to keep these going if you can over the Christmas holidays (e.g. If Grandpa gives everyone 8 sprouts and there are 6 people eating Christmas dinner, how many sprouts will that be altogether?) although perhaps it might be of more interest if you use chocolates!

We are now looking forward to all things Egyptian and our visit to the British Museum. We hope that you have received a letter about this and will consider volunteering to accompany us on this fascinating trip. On that note, may we take this opportunity to thank all the lovely parents who have been coming in regularly to support early morning reading, handwriting, library or to help with art, computing ... the list goes on. We wish them and all our children and their families a lovely Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Mrs Flaxman

Year 4

This half term we have immersed ourselves in the magical world of J.R.R Tolkien's '*Father Christmas Letters*'. This has been explored through letter writing, explanation texts and descriptive narrative within Literacy. We have also made cross curricular links within Art, Drama and especially Science where the children have enjoyed investigating how to keep Father Christmas's hot chocolate warm and Frosty the Snowman from melting (through the states of matter unit).

We have continued our termly topic of 'Discovering India' and we have all thoroughly enjoyed the children presenting all their creative and interesting India projects. Through the charity 'Send my Friend to School' the

children have been learning about children who do not have the opportunity to gain an education, and comparing their own lives to theirs. This was also highlighted in 4B's class assembly.

Year 4 have also become fashion designers through designing and making 'made to measure' waistcoats, using the Rangoli fabric designed and printed earlier in the term. Thank you to those parents who offered to help, we could not offer the children the chance to do all these wonderful projects without extra adult support!

Finally the Year 4 teachers would like to wish you all a fabulous Christmas and a merry New Year. We look forward to see you all in 2017!

Miss Bye

Year 5

As ever, it has been an exciting, eventful and fun-filled half term in Year 5. In Literacy, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use the Prezi slideshow software to showcase our non-chronological reports about the Tudor times. The children developed their research and note taking skills before learning how to write interesting reports based on many different areas of Tudor life. We have also been very impressed with the children's excellent Shakespeare playscript prequels to Twelfth Night - many of which were better than the original!

Our Science lessons this term have been full of investigation whilst learning about sound. We began by quietly listening to the sounds that we could hear coming from outside the classroom, but quickly became a noisier affair involving drums, rice, candles, table tennis balls on triangles and many other exciting things. We've learned about soundproofing materials, how sound is produced and how it travels, as well as how it travels through different states of matter.

We've enjoyed our learning across the foundation subjects this term. In DT, we have all created some very tasty Tudor pottage - thank you for helping us by providing ingredients for this. In PE, the children have created some excellent routines that involve, balances, rolls and jumps. In Computing, we have honed our Scratch skills and created some fantastic boat race games.

It has been a truly fantastic term, and the children have all certainly earned their Christmas break. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year - and we'll see you in 2017!

Mr Tuck

Year 6

Seems like another action-packed (long) half term is almost under our belt, with the Year 6s completing their last ever Autumn term at Cleves. We started off by finishing off our studies of Macbeth, with storyboards, descriptions of Macbeth's castle and some witchy Shakespearean type spells. We have since been working on writing narratives in Literacy, focusing on engaging the reader with different types of sentences and now, with the help of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, using dialogue and character to advance the action. In Science we have been learning about the Theory of Evolution and what it means for life on Earth as well as our own (and the Beckhams'!) inherited characteristics. Now we are gearing up for meddling with the Christmas lights (not really!) in a short unit on Electricity. Our Victorian studies have been continuing, looking at census returns, inventions and more recently

looking at the Victorian influence on our Christmas traditions. We are also creating Victorian cross-stitch samplers, but many of these might appear under your tree on Christmas morning so the less said about that the better.

A few weeks ago we enjoyed the first Outdoor Learning Day of the year. The children worked as environmentalists, appreciating the nature of the school field with a view to persuading the council not to build a plastics factory on it (not really!). It was a glorious crisp autumn day and the children made some wonderful sketches and nature sculptures.

In Maths we have been focusing on developing the children's mathematical reasoning skills - encouraging them to explain their thinking and to be flexible and thoughtful mathematicians. These skills are vital not only for their SATS tests in May but, more importantly, so that they can tackle mathematics in secondary school with confidence and understanding.

The children have worked hard this term and made some great progress. We are all probably feeling a little tired, and deserve all those treats waiting for us over the festive season. The Year 6 team wish all the Year 6 families a Happy Christmas and joyful start to 2017. See you on January 4th!

Mrs Flaherty

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Over the last two weeks we have held four fantastic Christmas performances in which every child in the school has been involved. Thank you for your support in helping the children learn their lines and for sourcing a range of costumes and accessories.

As you know, we held a collection at the end of each performance. £338.68 was donated to the St Mary Oatlands Church and £724.35 was donated to Cancer Research, the charity chosen by the School Council. Thank you for your support.

GOVERNING BODY NEWS

For Governors this term has been one of business as usual, with some important annual formalities to observe, such as approving the accounts prepared by school staff and then audited. Nationally, times are increasingly difficult financially for schools, and it is greatly to the credit of Cleves' staff that the finances are in such good shape, with the maximum amount possible spent on providing a creative, broad and balanced curriculum for Cleves' children. The autumn term is also the term in which we review our Admissions Policy, and as a result we are consulting on changes for 2018; and we also focus a lot of attention on the previous year's data to see what we can learn and what the priorities need to be in the coming year. Whilst it is clear to us from internal termly monitoring data that the vast majority of children make very good progress and achieve more than ever, we support the school's leadership team in looking at where more can be done to ensure that all children perform their absolute best in their KS2 SATs. Finally, to end on two very positive notes we are delighted with how the expansion is progressing and were very pleased to have three strong candidates for the parent governor vacancy and then, after a very high number of votes were cast, to welcome Neil Clarkson to the Governing Body.

Mrs Foster, Chair of Governors

PARENT WORKSHOPS

The following workshops have been scheduled.

- Tuesday 17th January 2017 (Mrs Arpesella) - **Encouraging your child to be a resilient reader**
 - A workshop with strategies to encourage your child to read; suggested books and ways to support your child's development in reading.
- Tuesday 7th February (Mr Tuck) - **Mathematics 1- addition and subtraction**
 - Strategies used in the classroom and how they can be used at home to help your child with mathematics.
- 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) - **ICT - How digital learning can enhance pupil learning at home**

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.

WALTON FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

This term 4W were asked to take part in the annual 'Walton Festival of Light'. The children were lucky enough to have the opportunity to make lanterns from tissue paper and bamboo. They then took part in the procession on a rather chilly Saturday night in late November. Their lanterns were illuminated as they formed part of the parade travelling around Walton town centre before gathering around the Christmas tree outside the Heart Centre. The mayor gave a short speech before 4W got front row seats for the big switch on. It was a fantastic experience for the children and they thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to make their lanterns and join in with the prestigious parade. Thank you very much to all the parents that helped make the lanterns and staff members who gave up their time to escort the children throughout the procession.

Mr Woods

AUTHOR VISIT

This term Years 5 and 6 were very fortunate to be visited by the author Peter Jay Black who came into school to talk about his new novel 'Shockwave'. The visit involved Peter discussing with the children the different characters who feature in his 'Urban Outlaws' books and how to create an action based narrative. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very excited to get the opportunity to have a book signed by Peter at the end of the day!

Miss Kiely

SPORTS NEWS

Football

The Year 5 and 6 teams have been competing in their respective leagues over the past term. Both have performed very well, with Year 5 topping their group (with 3 wins out of 3), and Year 6 coming second in their group (winning 2 and losing 1). This means that both teams progress through to the cup competitions next term. With the solid foundation and experience of the games already played, we look forward to some more successful results next term!

The Year 6 squad have also been involved in a number of tournaments. In early November they won the Elmbridge 7 a side tournament following a very tense extra time win against Cardinal Newman. The team now progresses to the Surrey County finals in January. Furthermore, at the beginning of December the team also took part in the AFC Wimbledon Kids Cup competition. Once again, we competed strongly but agonisingly lost on penalties in the final.

There have also been two more Cleves boys football teams in action. The Year 5 and Year 6 teams played two friendly matches against Walton Oak. Both games were quite closely matched for most of the time but Cleves managed to come out on top in both cases, with Year 5 winning 5-0, and Year 6 winning 4-2. Well done to both teams.

The girls team has been training hard this term and are preparing for the County Cup matches in the New Year. The squad are playing well and are hopeful for much success next term!

Netball

The Year 5 netball team have had a fantastic time competing in lots of games within the netball league. They performed well with two victories out of three and have lots more games coming up in the new year. The team have worked incredibly hard this term, have shown great teamwork skills and are looking to continue their victorious run into 2017.

The Year 6 Netball Team have also had a great start to the season. They played their first match against St Jude's and won 6-0, a convincing and confident start. All the girls who attend the club have been practising hard, especially their shooting, footwork and defensive skills. We have two matches coming up in January so we are hoping to continue our success into 2017.

Hockey

This year, we have been exploring new ways in which to enable more pupils to represent Cleves at interschool fixtures (especially in the Lower School). With this in mind, we have been able to nurture an extremely beneficial relationship with Walton Oak school, and played 2 mini hockey tournaments against them this term.

Over two consecutive Fridays, 2 Year 5 & 6 teams and then 2 Year 3 & 4 teams played several games against Walton Oak. On both occasions a Cleves team won the tournaments, but what was more encouraging was the number of different children participating in interschool sport. Well done everyone.

This has enabled over 40 children across all year groups to represent the school in hockey. We are very keen to further explore this arrangement, and will hopefully have news in the future of more sporting fixtures of this manner.

Running Club

Our weekly running club has been extremely popular this term with over 130 children attending every week. As you may be aware, many of the children are aiming to run a marathon by attending 18 running club sessions throughout the autumn and spring terms. If you would like to know how many sessions your child has attended so far, please email Mr Smith (csmith@cleves.co.uk) who will be able to give you a total. Just to let you know, there are 12 sessions next term and running club will start again on Thursday 5th January 2017.

If your child would like to start coming along to running club, please fill out the form by clicking on the following link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeq_Lxh6iGs84QJSvrOgTM771a1wnB34DrND_XBn3i2doRk7g/viewform

Trampolining

Trampolining club is as busy as ever with many children taking part for the first time. The children have been learning a range of new skills and developing their core body strength. The swivel hips and back drops are coming along nicely! I look forward to seeing even more children after the Christmas break.

Mrs Harrison

MUSIC NEWS

Music at Cleves just keeps going from strength to strength! This term we have had our Christmas performances along with several outside school events. The Christmas performances for the lower school were, once again, incredibly put together. Each class performed with real confidence and enthusiasm. We had the same level of enthusiasm in the upper school performances and even some choreography thrown in for good measure! All the children should be extremely proud of what they achieved in these performances and I would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work with their classes over the past couple of months.

The school orchestra continues to be something that I (Mr. Kilhams) am very keen to have at Cleves and although we have eight extremely professional instrumentalists we still need more to join as we are more of an ensemble than an orchestra at the moment. However they performed really well at the upper school performances and I look forward to hearing them again next term.

Cleves Choir have had a really busy month! Christmas performances aside, they have performed at three other events outside of school. It started with the Festival of Light where we saw 100 pupils take over the stage outside the big Sainsburys live on Radio Wey. It is safe to say that they were the stars of the afternoon and the organisers were amazed to see a school choir of such a size! The choir then had a couple of days before their next event at Dialstone Court (a nursing home in Weybridge). Because of the size of the nursing home we could only take 30 children to this, but they performed so well and acted as real ambassadors for the school. They then had an event in Walton with a mixed voice choir, Walton Voices. Although only 25 children could make this event they really did

a great job and were, once again, the stars of the show! How often do you get a chance to sing with an adult choir of 65 singers? Well, if you are in Cleves Choir - twice!! Because they will be performing with Weybridge Male Voice Choir in the Spring term.

We have also had huge success with individual musicians passing lots of examinations on their instruments and auditioning for groups outside of school such as the Surrey Youth Orchestra and national choirs. A huge congratulations to them for their hard work and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for all the drop offs, pick ups etc and allowing your children to be part of the music at Cleves School. It really does mean a lot and as you can see from their performances this term they get so much out of it. Merry Christmas!!

Mr. Kilhams

ECO WARRIORS

The Eco Warriors have been working hard this term to minimise the amount of energy waste in school. They carried out class audits and broadcast radio adverts to raise awareness. Well done Clodagh Williams in 5SM, whose moodboard won the Energy competition that also ran in Switch Off fortnight. The Eco Warriors have cleared out the raised beds in the garden area and are ready to plant spring veg in the New Year!

Mrs Hamilton

END OF TERM

Just a reminder that we finish at 1.45pm on Wednesday 21st December and there will be no GAP club.

Before we break up, **please remember** to book school lunches for next term. The closing date for the first week's orders is Tuesday 27th December 2016. If you do not book by this date you will need to bring a packed lunch for your child on Wed 4, Thu 5 and Fri 6 January.

ADMISSIONS

The closing date for Junior/Primary Admissions is 15th January 2017. Surrey County Council welcomes online applications; however parents can also request a paper application form or seek impartial help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004). Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child.

PTA

Firstly the PTA would like to thank you all for your help and support so far this year.

We are running well ahead of schedule for money raised this year with 3.6k from the Fair and 26k from our Fireworks, both profit figures.

The Christmas Fair went very well - a great atmosphere and all the stalls were fantastic but we have to mention the children's stalls. They had really great ideas with ingenious products and services on display and above all they were really popular!

Our next fundraiser is the PTA Quiz Night on 3rd March so please put that in your diaries. Last year was very controversial with #whitefishgate and so it's your chance to try again with your mates and have another go! There are no children at the quiz. Their next PTA social outing is on 10th April at the School Discos (for all years) and details will be circulated nearer the time.

At the next PTA meeting (next one is on Jan 18th at 7.30pm- 8.30pm) we will be discussing how to spend this year's money so if you would like your say please come along. It's a very friendly atmosphere with zero recruiting-action, no-one waffles on... and we have WINE! Or we may introduce a Jan detox smoothie - just kidding!

Wishing you a fantastic Xmas with your families!

Best festive wishes,

Your gorgeous-est PTA xx

LOST PROPERTY

We are collecting a huge amount of lost property on a daily basis. This includes large amounts of school uniform and after-school clubs clothing left in the sports hall changing rooms, playground and classrooms. We will be displaying many of these items in front of the school on the last day of term. Next term, please ensure all clothing is named and help us encourage the children to look after their belongings.

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
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.

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.

Chess Club Results Autumn 2016

	BEGINNERS GROUP 1	BEGINNERS GROUP 2
Champion (Trophy)	Archie Addis	Lukas Fox
Runner Up (Gold Medal)	Dexter Butler	George Coffin
Third Place (Silver Medal)	William O'Malley	Charlie Curd
Fourth Place (Bronze Medal)	Dylan Henderson	
	INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED	
Champion (Trophy)	Tommy Skeffington	
Runner Up (Gold Medal)	Matthew Clough	
= Third Place (Silver Medal)	Herbert Campbell Jake Goodman	
	WEYBRIDGE TOUGH	
Champion (Trophy)	Ron Usharovsky	
Runner Up (Gold Medal)	Tom Usharovsky	
Third Place (Silver Medal)	Peter Jones	
= Fourth Place (Bronze Medal)	Jack Blackman Matt Smith	

And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents/family members who have come into school over the course of the term to help with activities ranging from reading to sewing to cooking. The teachers really appreciate your support; indeed, without adult assistance it would not be possible to carry out many of them.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you in the Spring term.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Hodges".

Mr C. Hodges
Headteacher

