

Headteacher's Update

October 2024

Welcome to my first ever Headteacher's Update for Cleves School.



I can't believe it's already been half a term. On behalf of myself and Mrs Green, I'd like to thank everyone for their wonderful welcome to the Cleves Community. As I'm sure you're already aware, the staff are incredibly talented and dedicated. I have been struck by how the needs of the children are central to all that goes on here. It should be the case in every school but I know it's not.

The children have been equally welcoming and it has been a joy getting to know as many of them as possible. I'm still getting to know everyone's names and so I apologise if I've made any mistakes on this front. In all honesty I'm not likely to learn all 720 names but I'll give it my very best shot. I have included a small selection of pictures (at the end of this update) from this first half of the term to give you a flavour of the fantastic learning that has been going on at Cleves.

It was lovely to meet those of you that were able to attend the parent information evenings at the start of the term. It was also lovely to see those of you that were able to attend the welcome or Harvest services at St Mary Oatlands.

I'd like to congratulate the staff here at Cleves for being so fantastic and among other things for the various awards they have secured for the school.



We have recently achieved the School Music Mark, Wellbeing Award and Inclusion Award, thank you to Mrs Clarke, Mr Kilhams & Mrs Mathews for all their hard work along with all the other members of staff that helped .

Thank you to all the parents & carers who have not only signed but also adhered to our Parking Pledge. Our concern is primarily for the safety of the children and we thank you for your support in parking both legally and considerately.

Equally thank you to all the parents & carers in supporting children to enter the school independently. If you need to get messages to teachers then please feel free to email and they will get back to you within 2 working days. Or if you need to send a more urgent message please call or drop in to the office.

Thank you to all those of you that have been checking the lost property. As we let you know all named items have been returned and the things left over will be disposed of responsibly over half-term.

Rethink Waste

Challenge Time - You may have noticed from our weekly newsletter that Cleves is currently 10th (this may have changed since writing this) in the Re-think Waste Competition. I myself tried this and was able to achieve 1000 points in about 30 minutes, which I obviously donated to the Cleves score. If all 720 families from Cleves did the same we could be far out in the lead. We only have a couple of weeks left so don't wait - register and donate now! [Click Here!](#)

You may be aware that there have been changes in terms of what schools are expected to do in order to ensure attendance is as good as possible. As a result, we have been working on updating our Attendance Policy and will share it with parents & carers as soon as possible. However, it is important that everyone understands our vision for attendance is that 'every child attends everyday'. There is an expectation that we use all the tools at our disposal to achieve this, including requesting 'Penalty Notices' where appropriate. This is not something the school has done in the past but we will be open to using such measures if necessary. It is important that you know that schools do not receive the money where fines are issued and the decision to actually issue a fixed penalty notice remains with the local authority.

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| 95% | = | 47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days |
| 90% | = | 95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day |
| 85% | = | 142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days |
| 80% | = | 190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days |

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

I was aware, before applying to Cleves, how fortunate the school is in terms of what the school is able to offer. I'm sure parents & carers are aware and appreciative of the extraordinary provision here, that is over and above what the majority of state-funded schools are able to provide. Our offer in terms of sports is well known and embedded but comes at a financial cost, as does the incredible opportunity in terms of music. Not many schools offer the opportunity to have tuition from trained professionals in as many different instruments as part of the curriculum nor do many have the breadth of Information Technology resources. This is on top of the incredible staffing and our wellbeing and pastoral provision. Our deepest wish is not only that this provision continues but be enhanced moving forwards. Given the increasing pressure on finances, the Chair of Trustees and I will be writing to parents and carers in order to garner thoughts and suggestions as to how we can ensure the incredible provision at Cleves can continue unabashed.

We have spent some time re-launching the Cleves Values and learning behaviours and hopefully you will have seen some of the stickers awarded to children for displaying these values and behaviours.

Our Values are:

- Respect
- High Aspirations
- Kindness
- Perseverance
- Inclusiveness



The learning behaviours we develop and encourage in our children are to be:

- Resilient
- Reflective
- Responsible
- Collaborative



The academic year has got off to a wonderful start with children already showcasing their singing talent and performance skills through the class assemblies and choir. Already Mr Smith & Mr Mulea have coached various teams to victory and both lunchtime and after school clubs have started. I very much enjoy leading the badminton club with Year 6 on a Wednesday lunchtime.

We have already had trips in Year 4 to a local river as part of their geography learning and Year 5 have visited Hampton Court as part of their Tudor topic. Year 6 have enjoyed their Victorian Day and Year 3 have had their outdoor learning day.

The PTA Spooky Discos were a joy to attend - although only one year group managed to get me doing the Macarena. Thank you to the team for the PTA Quiz night which I hope was enjoyed by all who took part.

A massive thank you to the wonderful PTA committee for all their hard work fundraising for the school. These efforts are going to become evermore important as we face the challenges of increasing costs. To this end I urge as many of you as possible to support these events by volunteering. Without volunteers these events simply won't take place. It's not too late to sign up to help with the PTA fireworks after half-term.

Thank you again for the lovely welcome for both myself and Mrs Green. Have a lovely half-term break.

Warmest regards - Mr J Usher











Cleves School
Learning Together