

Newsletter



28th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Snow! How exciting and beautiful it was, a treat for all of our children (and of course many grown-ups too). We saw many snowmen dotted around and it certainly lifted my spirits! Staff have now begun to self-administer Lateral Flow Device Tests, a valuable tool in supporting our 'Covid safe' school environment. As the tests did not arrive until Monday, we have decided that these tests will be taken every Tuesday (rather than Mondays as we previously had planned) and Fridays, so our first tests are imminent!

As you know, we would notify you of a bubble closure by parentmail so it would be sensible for you to check for any parentmails every morning and moving forward, on **Tuesday** and **Friday** mornings in particular.

We know lockdown will continue to half term and we will do our very best to continue to support you and your children until we return. The DfE has now detailed plans for half term: *'Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.'* This means no remote learning will be set for the week of 15th February 2021.

On Wednesday, Boris Johnson announced a tentative date of 8th March for schools to reopen:

- ☐ The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- ☐ There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- ☐ When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

We will of course keep you up to date as we learn any more of what the government's plans for schools may be.

Please note: If you are remote learning and feel the loan of a device would be beneficial, please contact Mrs Ali (Hilary.ali@claygate.surrey.sch.uk).

Only last week, I shared news about our new carpets etc. Graham (Austin's Dad) has been busy at the weekends, maintaining and improving the Woodland Learning Zone. Our new caretaker, Mauricio has added a fence around our pond's pontoon, recently created by Graham. Graham has also built a log store for us, so lots of improvements to celebrate!

Reminder for next Check-Ins for parents who have children at home and who are remote learning. This is an opportunity for parents to network and offer support to each other! Bring a cuppa!

Monday 8 February	1.00 - 1.30pm Year 1 1.40 - 2.10pm Year 2 2.20 - 2.50pm EYFS
Tuesday 9 February	1.00 - 1.30pm Year 3 1.40 - 2.10pm Year 4
Thursday 11 February	1.00 - 1.30pm Year 5 1.40 - 2.10pm Year 6

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A quick reminder that there are many groups offering a wide range of support for parents and children, some are rather basic but others are extremely insightful. We have a collated list on our website, currently sitting under the 'Parents' tab plus a collated 'Parent/Carer Remote Schooling Toolkit'. If you have other suggestions, we will be only too happy to share these too.

As part of Surrey's Early Help offer, a Hub for parents is being developed. Currently the focus is on supporting behaviour: <https://www.surreysfamilyhelphub.org.uk/?view=category>

INSET 12th February has been moved to **June 7th**

Many thanks for your continued support and warm wishes.

Children's Mental Health Week



Next week we are taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Express Yourself. Place2Be has created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are lots of resources on the Children's Mental Health Week website that you can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, tips for parents and carers and an online assembly which will be available from Monday, 1st February.

Visit www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk to find out more.

You can also visit <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/express-yourself-february-calendar/> where there is a calendar of activities to do for the month of February.

Doodle Maths

This week's winners on Doodle Maths are:

KS1
Amos (Chestnut)



KS2
George (Pine)



Class : Chestnut



Congratulations to all of you!

For more information please contact:
T 01372 463348 E office@claygate.surrey.sch.uk
www.claygate.surrey.sch.uk

Inside Out Day

Wednesday 3 February is Inside Out Day: wear an item of clothing inside out! Inside Out Day during Children's Mental Health Week is an awareness campaign that aims to enable young people to start talking about their mental health. How someone looks on the outside doesn't necessarily reflect how they are truly feeling on the inside, so it is important to always be kind and think of others. No one should be embarrassed about how they feel. This is more important than ever with the current issues we are all facing around coronavirus.

We would like all children to wear some / all of their uniforms inside out if they are in school, and if they are at home, please do join in too and wear something inside out! (please send any photos to Miss Hoy to tweet (nicola.hoy@claygate.surrey.sch.uk)).

CPS plans to support Inside Out Day – and to engage children in discussions around emotional well-being. With support from autism specialist Helen Clarke, they have produced [SEN guidance](#) to advise parents on how to help prepare their child for the day.

As part Of Inside Out Day we are planning a Well-Being Wednesday afternoon, we all need a break! Although we are suggesting Wednesday, it could be any afternoon. We will therefore set only 4 afternoon's worth of foundation activities. Instead, choose:

- Go for a pleasant stroll, being mindfully aware of your surroundings
- Go for a scavenger hunt eg find something for every letter of the alphabet
- On your marks, get set... BAKE! Bake Off returns – can you make something to tickle the tastebuds? Or maybe you are going to judge like Paul. Cook or bake something together (see BBC Good Food links)
- Cosmic Kids Yoga
- Create a painting / collage artwork of something that makes you happy eg a scene, your pet, your family etc
- Book Look: Find your comfy place and curl up with a good book. Enjoy being transported to amazing worlds and on wonderful adventures
- Lazy afternoon of movies and popcorn (OK I know this is a screen too!)
- Shove Halfpenny: Clear the table. Each player stands at the same end. Using a 10p or 2p coin, place it slightly over the end then using the palm of your hand try to get it as close to the other end of the table as possible. Closest wins.
- Blue Peter Badge anyone? During the last lockdown, a few children completed activities which allowed them to get their Blue Peter badges. www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges
- Play some board games, play cards: there are so many great card games to play
- Do something thoughtful for someone
- Painted rocks – collect rocks for your children to paint!
- Rolled paper beads: paper, glue and glitter are all you need to make these beads! <http://www.minieco.co.uk/paper-beads-2/>
- Kim's Game: Think you have a good memory? Get an adult to choose a few items (start with 5 or 6) look at them for 30 seconds then close your eyes. Your adult will remove one – can you spot which one is missing?

...Or anything else which suits your family's well-being!

Newsletter



Introducing the Virtual School Library!

Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch our Virtual School Library to keep children reading during lockdown.

Every week, a popular children's author will become our 'Author of the Week' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at primary school children, all available at library.thenational.academy.

Our first Author of the Week is Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, who talks about how her infamous character Tracy Beaker got her name, offers exclusive activities and recommends her top reads to check out.

[Visit the Virtual School Library](#)



"I think it's vitally important that every child should have an opportunity to access books. As most schools – and their libraries – are closed at the moment the free online library is needed more than ever."

Jacqueline Wilson

Visit library.thenational.academy to find out more #VirtualSchoolLibrary

RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch

Here at Claygate Primary School we will be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch over the next few weeks.

Year 5 have been busy making bird feeders in preparation for this.

Don't forget you can take part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch happening this weekend. Click here for more information <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>



Taking Part in Big Garden Birdwatch - RSPB

Pick a time. You can choose any hour between 29 and 31 January. So whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you can still take part. Tell us what you see. Count the birds you see in your garden or from your balcony. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not a running total.