

Newsletter

29th April 2021



It truly feels like this has been a lovely week!

Whilst health and safety and all of our risk assessment mitigations continue, the school is beginning to feel very much like it did before the pandemic. I have observed outside play this week and we have noted how engaged the children are. They do love their kit bags of equipment for their bubble!

We have revisited and relaunched our Craze of the Week! This gives the staff and the children ideas for new and engaging activities.

It has been lovely to hear the buzz of clubs returning to our school, within year group bubbles and still carefully risk assessed. We look forward to further return to socialisation as lockdown measures continue to ease. However, talking to staff and children we have seen huge benefits to some of the new systems implemented due to the pandemic! Our children have

group lunchtimes, supported by their year group staff team. The staff feel they know the children very well and are most suited to support a positive and happy break time. Equally the children enjoy being 'together' and do not need to worry that they will be split from their friends. Year 6 also feel grown up and special using the Rec entrance. Free flow in the mornings is also much quicker now and works well, allowing busy parents to drop their children safely and dash off to work! We have also noticed that increased hygiene expectations has meant that children are healthier and we have a strong attendance figure of 97%; this was the figure Ofsted told us to aim for (rather than 96%), so it would be great to see this continue!

Tomorrow, on Friday 30th April, which would have been Captain Sir Tom's 101st birthday, CPS are planning to celebrate his life and legacy by taking part in the 'Captain Tom 100'. Each year group will reflect on how one person, Captain Tom, impacted our whole country during the pandemic and that we can all make a difference! Each year group will individually or collectively complete 100 actions, for example Year 3 are going to collectively complete 100 laps of the field. The children will decide how the laps will be walked e.g. sideways, backwards, skip, leapfrog etc. Although each year group will choose their own way to celebrate this event, it will also serve as a reminder to us all that we are a community together!

Beginning of the Day Update for next week:

This week we reduced the time for children to free flow into school in the mornings. Reception continued to enter first at 8.45am followed by all other children until 8.55am, when the gates are closed.

As we are now settled into this routine, **Register will now be taken between 9.00am - 9.05am.** Children begin their learning on entry and pause for the Register to be taken, after which the child is marked 'late'. It is important that every child arrives on time. Arriving 'late' is unsettling for the late child but also disrupts the learning of the whole class.

Craze of the week

Week 1

Skipping



Week 2

Bat and ball



Week 3

Frisbees



Week 4

French
Skipping



Week 5

Diabolo



Week 6

Scoop and
ball



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Sports Day w/c 28 June

As lockdown measures ease we are excited to be planning our Sports Days! We have divided sessions across the week more than usual to facilitate social distancing and whilst not ideal for those of you with children in different year groups, we are delighted to be able to have you on site, albeit outside on the field!

Monday 28th June: Year 1 and Year 2: 9.15am - 11.30am

Monday 28th June: Reception: 1.45pm - 3.00pm

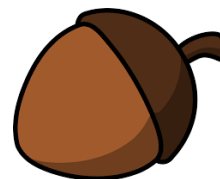
Tuesday 29th June: Year 3 and Year 4: 9.15am - 12.00pm

Wednesday 30th June: Year 5 and Year 6: 9.15am - 12.15pm

The kitchen will provide school lunches for all children not involved with Sports Day who usually have a school lunch. On the children's allocated Sports Day those who usually have school lunch will be provided with a 'packed lunch' by the kitchen and we will have a picnic lunch within our year group bubbles on the field. If your child would like to bring a named picnic blanket that day, they are welcome to do so.

Claygate Acorns Nursery

Our new nursery opens in September and we have created a brief virtual tour for prospective parents. We have also offered tours after school, following covid safety measures. These have been very busy and we have had lots of interest! We now plan to advertise for new and experienced staff to join our EYFS department. You can view [the virtual tour here](#).



New to Reception September 2021

Parents and children joining Holly and Willow in September will be invited to visit. Dates offered: 19, 21, 24, 25, 27 May. Visits will be in small socially distanced groups 3.30-4.00pm and 4.00-4.30pm. Please contact the school office to book a slot.

As always, there will be a menu of transition activities for both Nursery and new Reception children later in the summer term.

Reminder: Doodle Maths Spring Challenge until 30th April

Doodle are running the Doodle Maths Spring Challenge! This Challenge encourages children to use Doodle daily, to rebuild their confidence in their mathematics. Best of all, those who take part can earn a free pin badge and certificate! Encourage your child to earn 450 stars (or 350 if they were born on or after 01/09/2013) and achieve a 7-day streak in DoodleMaths. Once they've reached their target, you can claim their reward by logging into the Dashboard and pressing Claim reward.



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Accelerated Reader

During Year 2, once a certain level of reading proficiency has been reached, children engage with Accelerated Reader. Children select and read a 'real' book from a wide range of authors and genres at their own level before completing a short quiz on the computer. Each quiz gives an indication that the child has understood what has been read and the AR system collates information on reading fluency, reading proficiency, range of genres read etc. This allows us to monitor children's independent reading practice and comprehension and provides both children and teachers with feedback which celebrates successes and helps set targets.

When quizzing on your AR books, please ensure you login through our own school portal link found [here](#). This link can also be found on the school website under the English tab.

Little Princess Trust

We are so proud to share some lovely news with you. Beatrice (Sycamore) has grown her hair over the last few years so that she could cut it to donate 8 inches to the Little Princess Trust. They use donated hair to make wigs for children who may lose their hair due to cancer.



Beatrice has raised over £250!! What an amazing thing to do - you can see the dramatic transformation in the pictures below.



If you would like to add to the amount raised for this worthwhile cause, please follow the link below <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bea-clark2?>

Rapid Testing for Households & Childcare Bubbles

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a school pupil, college student or of a staff member, you can get twice-weekly symptom-free tests.

Households can get a test by booking an appointment online at a symptom-free testing site, or by collecting a home-testing kit from a designated collection point, or if unable to travel to a site, by ordering a kit online. You can find out more at [here](#).

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Reminder: The Big Ask

The Big Ask is the largest ever survey of children in England and will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

Please encourage your child/ren to respond to the survey <http://thebigask.uk/>

Doodle Maths

This week's winners on Doodle Maths are:

KS1 Emily (Chestnut)
This week Emily had an amazing 837 stars!!



KS2 : Ellie (Rowan)

Class : Chestnut



Jammie & Dodger

Please do contact the school office if you would like to go on the rota to look after Jammie & Dodger. In particular we are looking for a home for them over May half term and the summer holidays.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Don't forget the second hand uniform sale takes place on Friday, 7th May.

Please put all good quality donations in the red bin by the gate from Tuesday 4th May. All items will be sold but in particular the PA need donations of the All PE kit, Jumpers and Cardigans.