

Newsletter

13th May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the governors, staff and I are delighted to have received such positive feedback from last week's 'Teaching and Learning Review of Maths and English', providing Local Authority external validation for our progress to date. Their last visit was in October. They do not give an Ofsted type grading, but one of the team is a serving Ofsted Inspector. As you know, Ofsted is not due until January 2022 and we very much hope that they too will recognise all we have achieved!

We are particularly pleased that the team recognised the positive improvements in English and Mathematics and that we have not let a pandemic or Lockdowns hinder our progress.

- *The teaching of English has **improved** since our previous lesson visits in October 2020, particularly in Key Stage 2.*
- *The school's English coordinator (Miss Cannons) **leads by example** and understands the next steps required to ensure that the teaching of English is **effective** throughout the school.*
- *Overall, teacher-pupil interaction was of a **higher quality** than previously seen.*
- *Teacher questioning was mostly **very effective** - probing and extending understanding, and encouraging children to think for themselves.*
- *The teachers **effectively** use White Rose materials across the school. There are **clear daily routines** in place which are designed to aid recall and transfer learning into long-term memory, eg Fluent in 5. The children are familiar with these routines and can **confidently articulate** how they help them to learn and remember.*
- *The children were **eager to share** what they were learning.*
- *They were highly articulate and, in **every case**, were able to identify aspects of their prior learning which helped them with their current work. They were also **able to explain** the methods they were using.*
- *In **all** classrooms, support staff were **very effectively** deployed. In some classes they worked with individual pupils or in small groups, in others they moved around the classroom while the class teacher worked 1:1 or with a group of children.*
- *In **all** cases, relationships appeared warm and were **highly supportive of learning**.*
- *There have been **many improvements** in the quality of English and maths education at Claygate over the past 12 months.*
- *The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has been a difficult context in which to drive improvement, but leaders are **extremely committed** to continuing the school's journey to 'good' and beyond.*

Recommended next steps were 'to continue', 'to ensure' and 'to review' what we have in place; welcome news. We recognise our children are more settled since their return in March and the

time is right to further develop and embed the numerous improvements introduced to date alongside those planned to be implemented by both the Mathematics and English Leaders.

As Lockdown eases, we have been able to participate in cross school writing moderation sessions. Of course, we have a regular schedule of internal moderation, however, as I am sure you can appreciate, judgements of the quality of writing could be seen to be subjective. A range of writing from a random selection of children is analysed by several teachers from different schools to determine whether judgements are accurate. 100% of our judgements were correct. This shows our team appreciate the assessment framework and what is required to be an 'expected' or 'greater depth' writer for each year group. This is also a valuable opportunity for sharing good practice and networking with other teams. We have further planned moderation sessions next half term with different schools to ensure this process continues to be robust at CPS. Mrs Ali continues in her role as a Local Authority trained and experienced moderator, visiting Surrey schools to quality assure their judgements on behalf of Surrey.

It was lovely to have a uniform sale, where goodies and tomato plants were also sold...as always, thank you to our fab team of parents who continue to consider ways to raise funds for our school and for the pool. We look forward to the full return of our Friday cake sales!



Celebrations for the Islamic festival of Eid will begin this month, with the first of its two festivals taking place after the holy month of Ramadan. Eid al-Fitr is the first of the celebrations, which is today, the 13th May this year, followed by Eid al-Adha on 19 July. Eid al-Fitr is called the 'Festival of Breaking the Fast' and celebrates the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan.

I am sure we will have families across our school and within our wider community who will be celebrating with special meals and much deserved sweet treats after fasting during Ramadan along with gifts and new clothes.

In assemblies this week, we have heard about Ramadan and Eid and subsequently some of our Muslim children have shared their excitement about this special family time!

"Eid Mubarak!" from Team CPS and Mrs Cunningham.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, thank you for your ongoing support.

INSET Reminder: our next INSET is June 7th 2021

The Big Ask

As you may know, last month the Children's Commissioner launched the largest survey ever of children in England, "The Big Ask". The views and experiences children share through "The Big Ask" will help to shape their forthcoming Childhood Commission, which will set out plans for how we make sure children are at the heart of rebuilding after the pandemic.

They are very pleased to report that hundreds of schools have taken part and that thousands of children across the country have already completed the survey. As they are keen to hear from more primary school children, they have extended the deadline to 28th May to make sure that nobody misses out. To take part please [click here](#).

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Mufti Day & Cake Sale – Friday, 28th May



The last day of this half term will be a MUFTI.
All proceeds will go towards the Community Pool Project.



In addition, the PA will be holding a cake sale after school. It will be at the entrance to the school, on the grass. There will also be skittles for sale for any children who are gluten/dairy intolerant.

Cake sales will be held every Friday after school for the last 6 weeks of this year – after half term up until 16th July!

Doodle Maths

This week's winners on Doodle Maths are:



KS1 : Amos (Chestnut)

KS2 : Harry (Rowan)



Class : Chestnut

Congratulations to all of you!

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Musical Talent

We received a lovely email this from week Bertie's (Chestnut) piano teacher. She said:

"I am writing to let you know about the special achievement of one of your students, Bertie, who prepared and performed a virtual recital for a care home resident last Sunday. Bertie is one of my piano students, who has made excellent progress and is such a talented and charismatic child to teach."

"Bertie performed 'You are my Sunshine' and 'Che Sera Sera', as well as one of the pieces in his piano method book. The care home residents who tuned in were so delighted that they were still talking about it a few days later."

Well done Bertie – what a lovely thing to do!

Tadpoles

The Preston family have very kindly donated some Tadpoles for our Woodland Learning Area. We are really looking forward to spotting them in the coming weeks and months as they grow!



School Social Media Accounts

Please do follow our School Social Media Accounts. On our Twitter account @claygateprimary you can see daily photographs and updates about school life. The rota below shows which Year group will be tweeting per week, so you can check in during your child's week and try to spot some familiar faces!

We are also active on Facebook (Claygate Primary School) and Instagram (claygateprimaryschoolsurrey) so do like and follow to keep up to date with school activities.



<u>Week</u>	<u>Year Groups</u>
10 May 2021	EYFS
17 May 2021	Years 5 & 6
24 May 2021	ALL
7 June 2021	Years 3 & 4
14 June 2021	KS1
21 June 2021	Years 5 & 6
28 June 2021	EYFS
5 July 2021	Years 4 & 5
12 July 2021	ALL



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