

20th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week this has been! Year 3 enjoyed cricket coaching whilst Year 6 enjoyed honing their cycling skills despite the torrential rain! Their positive attitude and behaviour were commented upon! I am so proud that our children are showing our values. School certainly feels more 'normal' every week! It has also been lovely to meet many new nursery parents and now reception parents are beginning to have their induction visits; they all seemed very impressed with the improvements we have made in Early Years.

This week, the governors, staff and I are delighted to have received such positive feedback from last week's 'Teaching and Learning Review of Phonics and Reading', providing Local Authority external validation for our progress to date. The aim of this visit was to review the school's progress in reading with a particular focus on Early Reading and Phonics. The visit was thorough and involved a discussion with leaders, a learning walk to observe the teaching of phonics and reading, pupil interviews and listening to children read (checking that books were appropriately matched to ability and need), data analysis including impact of initiatives as well as an early reading audit. A very thorough review and a very busy day! Here is a snippet:

Quality of Teaching of Early Reading

*The phonics teaching is **strong** across EYFS and KS1 and teachers have **good subject knowledge**. Teachers and pupils in Y1 use **consistent** phonetic vocabulary such as 'phoneme fingers', 'digraph' and 'trigraph'. Weekly spellings are practiced during phonics in Year 1. The use of whiteboards with phoneme frames helps to deliver Letters and Sounds sessions **effectively** so that pupils can practice segmenting words with ease.*

*In Year 2 teachers recap on phonological knowledge using PhonicsPlay as well as teach spelling patterns and rules daily. A problem solving approach allowed for an open-ended task which provided **challenge** for pupils.*

*The learning environments across EYFS and KS1 complement the **quality first teaching** and pupils actively use displays as a resource during the lesson. In EYFS previous phonemes are displayed and opportunities for pupils to apply their phonological knowledge through the indoor continuous provision was evident.*

Reading for Pleasure and Decodable Library

*The team have worked hard to build their decodable library and all children from EYFS and KS1 have books **matched to their needs**. Once pupils are fluent readers, they are moved onto the AR reading programme and this has increased the percentage of pupils reading at greater depth to 30% by the end of KS1. The newly launched Millenium Club is motivating pupils to read daily and parents are positive about the change to Accelerated Reader. All classrooms have a designated reading corner and there are also designated whole school libraries within the school. Reading is given a **high status** throughout the school and as a result pupils enjoy learning to read and their love of reading is evident in conversations and play. Pupil voice is important to the **enjoyment** of reading, in Reception pupils vote on which book will be shared to the class each day and Year 6 representatives take responsibility for showcasing a variety of books based around their chosen theme in the Accelerated Reader Library. An author display also developed pupils' knowledge of books and it was positive to see an author from a BAME background represented here.*

Handwriting and Punctuation

There are high **expectations** of handwriting and as a consequence most pupils are able to write cursively with fluency by the end of the Year 1. Pupils are proud of their handwriting. The use of symbols to remind children of the 'non-negotiables' was **well embedded** from Reception with pupils checking their writing during the dictation phase of the Phonics session. Teachers check on pupils as they write on their whiteboards and where necessary intervene to consolidate or remind pupils to ensure they have used the correct grapheme and punctuating their sentence correctly.

Recommended next steps were linked to governmental changes in phonics provision which come into force in September and we already have this in hand. It is empowering for our staff team to have external visitors, now lockdown easing has made this possible.

This week we have an EYFS review...it is important for our school to have as much external validation from the local authority as we can as we want CPS to be the best we can be!

The Big Ask

As you 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 report that hundreds of schools have taken part and 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 take part please [click here](#).

Community Pool Update

We have received the following update from the Pool Team:

'Plans for the new building and refurbishment of the swimming pool continue to forge ahead. Our planning application was submitted earlier this year and is now with Elmbridge Borough Council. We are hopeful that it will be approved in the coming weeks. A competitive tender process to appoint a building contractor has also now been completed. CPS is looking forward to working with the selected contractor to deliver this facility for pupils and the local community. We will be sharing more updates with you later this terms as the details are finalised.'



Thank you to Gemma and the swimming pool team and to the PA for all they have done to support this incredible project, which will benefit our whole community!

Don't forget to sign up to join the Community Pool Golf Day on 2nd July. It looks set to be an amazing day so act quickly to secure your place! See the attached flyer for more information.

School Uniform Survey

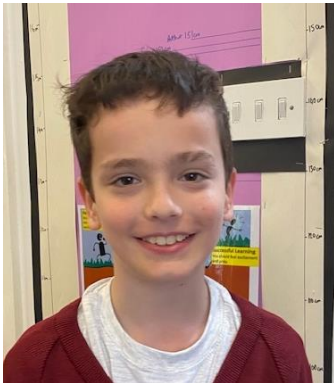
Please don't forget to complete the school uniform survey which was sent out via parentmail yesterday.
Thank you!

Newsletter

Doodle Maths

This week's winners on Doodle Maths are:

KS1 : Emily (Chestnut)



KS2 : Harry (Rowan)

Class : Chestnut



Congratulations to all of you!

INSET Day and Sports Days

Our final INSET day is on Monday, 7th June, immediately after half term.

Sports Days are taking place on the following days:

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

Jammie & Dodger

Our lovely guinea pigs are still looking for a home over half term and for the summer holidays. If you would like to have them over the summer but not for the whole time we can set up a rota with two or three families so please get in touch if you are able to help!
Thank you!



Newsletter



Rugby League

Elmbridge Eagles' Head Coach, Kevin Rudd, will be coming in to school tomorrow (21st May) to deliver some fun taster sessions of Rugby League to Year 4. He will be bringing former pupil and current London Broncos Professional Scholarship player, Charlie Walker.

For details about registering at the club please contact admin@elmbridgerl.com. Alternatively, pop down to the club this coming Saturday (22nd May) and join in with the free primaries festival (details on the attached flyer).

Community Pool Fundraising

One of our parents, Michael Nelhams, is undertaking an 'Everesting Challenge' to raise funds for the community pool. Michael says :

"The concept of Everesting is fiendishly simple: Pick any hill, anywhere in the world and complete repeats of it in a single activity until you climb 8,848m – the equivalent height of Mt Everest.

I will be attempting this on the 30th May on Hill View Road in Claygate, which will require c400 ascents, covering a total distance of over 300km, which should take around 20 hours."

Please see the attached flyer or visit his [gofundme](#) page for more information and to donate.

Good Luck Michael!

Claygate Acorns Nursery

We are still happy to receive any donations of suitable good condition, indoor / outdoor toys, dressing up clothes and books etc for the nursery. We would also like any small chairs, bean bags and rugs. Please drop any donations to the office. Many thanks.

Half Term Art Workshop

Please see the attached flyer about the half term art workshops being run in the village hall.

Football



AFC Wimbledon & England under 18 goalkeeper Matthew Cox with some of our own CPS budding stars!