

Newsletter

14 October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has had many highlights.

The nursery children went on a Bear Hunt!



Year 1 visited Claygate (thankfully, there were no bears in sight), the Head Teacher from Chessington visited Year 6 and of course, it was Harvest! Thank you all for your generosity. Please keep an eye out for our Harvest video – coming soon!

Sadly, but sensibly, the Spooky Disco has been cancelled. I am sure the children will still enjoy the opportunity to dress up on Thursday 21st - please consider that with doors and windows open it can be chilly. Equally, children will need appropriate coats / footwear for break times outside.

I would like to thank all the parents who have contacted the school to inform us that they want to donate the price of their ticket to the school as a donation – it's such a lovely gesture and very much appreciated.

Last week, Rachael de Vizio (Chair of Governors), our new governor, Meryl White and I enjoyed a learning walk around the school. They were incredibly impressed with how the Nursery Provision has changed and improved in such a short time. One highlight was the quality of writing across the school and seeing staff working with groups to extend and challenge, and others providing instant feedback so children could up level their work with amazing results.

'There was a real purposeful atmosphere everywhere we went, with children engaged and focussed on learning and many bright areas to inspire and celebrate their achievements.' Meryl White

The Senior Leadership Team were incredibly impressed with the quality of applications for Leadership positions this year. Well done and thank you to all who took the time to apply. Look out for a photo of the successful children in the newsletter soon.

CPS COVID Update.

This week I have spoken to Public Health England. PHE advice continues to be that pupils should isolate if they have Covid symptoms. They should book a PCR test and isolate until a result is received. Siblings without symptoms do not need to isolate. Elmbridge infection rates are higher than the national average so it is important that we are vigilant.

PHE did suggest we remind you that all household members that are aged 11 and over should continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

'Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

*From 16 August, **you will not be required to self-isolate** if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:*

- *you are fully vaccinated*
- ***you are below the age of 18 years 6 months***
- *you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons'*

Public Health England

PHE suggested we contact our school nurse and I met her this week. She, like PHE, commented that the number of cases at CPS is small in comparison to other settings. She agreed with our actions, which include staff distancing, minimising visitors and using virtual meetings where possible, as well as the in school measures I have previously shared with you. We were commended on how proactive we have been.

We appreciate that this is a worrying time for all and we ask all parents to continue to be proactive, both in testing and keeping the school informed.

Currently, we have a total of 16 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school.

Here's a reminder of when it is appropriate to take PCR and Lateral Flow tests.

HM Government

NHS
Test and Trace

Covid-19 Testing

With symptoms	Without symptoms
'PCR' tests	'rapid lateral flow' tests
When to take the test <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have Covid-19 symptoms• To confirm your positive lateral flow test result	When to take the test <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you do not have symptoms of Covid-19• As part of routine testing twice a week
How long it takes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These tests are processed in labs• Up to 3 days, most results the next day	How long it takes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Result processed by test device• Around 30 minutes
Get a test <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At home• At a test site	Get a test <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At home• At a test site• At work• At your nursery• At your secondary school• At your university• Collect from a pharmacy• Order online

Find out more at GOV.UK or call 119

Year 6 – Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder for Year 6 parents that the closing date for applications for secondary school is 31st October 2021. Although it is recommended to get your application in before half term if possible.

Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Parents Forum

Thank you to the Class Reps who joined Mrs Ali and I for Parents Forum today. We shared our school priorities which make up this year's School Development Plan. We discussed the vital role of Friends' donations which are ever more important because our school is functioning well below capacity with 73 pupil spaces across the school. (Our budget is based on number of pupils.)

We shared that there are changes across Early Years, with a new Framework and assessment this year to implement.

This September, all schools have had to change their approach to phonics and the new scheme CPS selected; Little Wandle Letters and Sounds was chosen as this is very similar to Letters and Sounds (the main change being pace of phonics taught). Again, we noted that Friends funded the £10,000 needed to implement this new scheme.

We discussed our Safeguarding priorities in depth. In the light of these discussions, please see attached information all about online gaming and we will organise an e-safety workshop for parents.

We have uploaded the powerpoint slides, which we used as the basis for our discussions onto the website, under the school improvement tab.

CPS Uniform Expectations

Please read through the attached Uniform Expectations document as a reminder of the winter uniform after half term.

Message from Miss Dias, EYFS Lead:

Next term Reception and Nursery will be learning about people who help us. We would like to invite parents who help in the community to come and talk about their job to the children. We will be learning about doctors, nurses, carers, dentists, police officers, waste collectors, post people, shop assistants and vets. Please contact one of the Reception teachers with your availability:

Miss Dias luisa.martinsdias@claygate.surrey.sch.uk

Miss Spalton-Woods daisy.spalton@claygate.surrey.sch.uk

Jammie

Please do contact Gill in the office (gill.kosbab@claygate.surrey.sch.uk) if you would like to look after our lovely Guinea Pig – Jammie. He loves to visit with the children for weekends and during school holidays!

CPS Football

On Thursday, 7th October, the Year 6 boys (and two Year 5's) football team took part in the first league match in the new school year. It was against a tough opposition – St Lawrence. It was a tight game but Claygate managed to get a well deserved 4-3 win. The football team were really pleased.

Report by: James (Cedar) and Zak (Cedar)



On Friday, 8th October, Claygate Year 6's had a football tournament at Chessington. Across the six games Claygate managed to score an outstanding 13 goals! After these tiring games, Claygate were into the final. However, after a 1-1 game, followed by extra time and a penalty shoot out, we sadly lost. Despite this it was a great day.

Report by: James (Cedar) and Zak (Cedar)

