

Newsletter

2nd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

December is well and truly here! It's lovely to hear the excited chattering about advent calendars! Although we have had to review our bazar, the PA's quick thinking ensured the children still enjoyed a 'Mini Christmas Bazar' with a range of fun activities! The children are rehearsing with gusto and are keen to share their festive videos with you all.

Several staff are absent and Team CPS have been brilliant 'stepping up', teaching and managing Google Classroom for those children not at school. Staff have reported that they are receiving a huge amount of emails, often asking questions which have already been communicated, but all of which take time to respond. Many year groups have 4 reps - staff feel they are being asked the same questions from all 4 reps as well as from individual parents. I have had some recent emails shared with me where the tone can appear harsh - we know a brief written message can be misinterpreted. This adds to stress levels and means energies are diverted from the core purpose of teaching. Please avoid filling up our 'in boxes' unnecessarily. Moving forward I have suggested we have 1 communications rep who will communicate to the year group for year group matters. For individual classroom messages, class reps will be communicated with. Having said that I have been thankful for, and overwhelmed by, the great number of supportive messages we have received (we are always happy to receive these!)

Although our month of Friendship has drawn to a close it is one of our school's core values and makes our school such a special place to be. Our final assembly for November recognised the children's efforts to date with a birthday treat from me - our first Jammie Dodger Assembly of the year!



The children reflect on their achievements and any targets they wish to set themselves across all aspects of the curriculum and their learning behaviours (including growth mindset) as they nibble the biscuit. They then reflect on our values and again what are they proud of and any targets before they eat the jammie heart!



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As you know, our staff team had research based training on the effective teaching and learning of MfL. We teach French because of our proximity to France and many of our local feeders offer French. Of course this is also the 5th most spoken language in the world. We have monitored the teaching of French - staff are enthusiastic about our new approach and feel confident and we can already see great progress across KS2. Mrs Ali sought pupil voice this week and it was incredibly positive! Of course we also teach Japanese. Originally this was a small Enrichment chunk linked to The Olympics which were to be hosted in Japan. Due to Covid, this extended. Again, pupil voice and parental feedback has been so positive that we kept our Enrichment Japanese block!

Golden Tea continues!



My favourite times! Meeting up with our lovely 'always' children AND sharing sweet treats!

For Golden Tea, Team CPS thought about which children are our 'always' children who have a lot of jam in their hearts, particularly linked to our focus value of Friendship!



It was not an easy choice and we have more Golden Teas scheduled next term. I also had a lovely session with Year 6, so much so I forgot to take a photo!

Celebrating Success!



Last weekend, Jake and his father participated in Kuk Sool UK Championships with over 300 other students in Liverpool. Jake was faced with a tough category with students from across UK. Jake displayed his amazing etiquette by remaining calm, collected, respectful and focused. He showed great sportsmanship and clapped and encouraged others.

Jake achieved 3 medals in total, 2 coppers and a bronze!

Jake's father was promoted to first degree black belt. He showed that with dedication and commitment, you can achieve so much.

Although he did not earn a medal, he was focussed and tried his very best whilst being happy for others.

Congratulations Jake and Ian - we are proud of you both!

If you have anything you wish to share, please email me head@claygate.surrey.sch.uk



Newsletter



Another success to celebrate! Miss Dias who, whilst supporting the opening of our new Nursery, running 2 classes and the EYFS phase...has studied diligently and successfully completed her Master of Arts in Education Degree...

Congratulations!

Computer Science Week 2021

It is Computer Science Week next week and Mr Godfrey will be holding lunchtime fun sessions for different year groups. It looks like it will be super fun... activities include:

- Programming bee-bots around a maze
- Coding Lego race cars to go at different speeds - who can win the race?
- Green Screen station
- Movie making station
- Scratch coding station
- Makey Makey - banana piano

A flyer attached to this newsletter gives more information. Watch this space to hear how it went in next week's news!

Doodle Maths & English

This week's top Doodlers are:

Maths KS1 – Evie (Willow)



Maths KS2 – Bailey (Pine)



English – Maximus (Pine)



Congratulations to all of you!

Tennis



On 26th November, four Year 6 students went to Esher Tennis Club to compete in a tournament there. The four children who went were Jasmine, Charlotte and Arthur (from Hawthorn) and Callum (Cedar). They did an excellent job of representing the school and coming second!

Report by Jasmine & Charlotte

Flu Vaccinations

Has your child missed out on their flu vaccination at school?

If your child has missed their flu vaccination at school, please contact your local immunisation team to book an appointment at a catch-up clinic. You'll find contact details for your local immunisation team on the Children and Family Health Surrey [Immunisations](#) webpage.

Covid

We continue to be well over Surrey's threshold and staff absence continues to be high. Please continue to be vigilant as we head towards the Christmas break.

Children who have symptoms should self-isolate and get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. **They should isolate until they receive their results.** If a child tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance (other members of the household including siblings are no longer required to isolate).

Children who have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test even if they have no symptoms.

Children who have a positive PCR test, should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance (other members of the household including siblings are no longer required to isolate). If a child's PCR test is negative and if they feel well, they may return to school.

Please inform the School Office if a child tests positive. Timely communications to the school enable us to alert cleaners as to where to deep clean etc. and keep us informed of potential Covid outbreaks.

Job Opportunity

Rowan Prep School are looking for an after school cleaner, working 4.30 – 6.30 approx (2 hours a day) during term time, with a deep clean in the holidays. If you are interested or know anyone who may be please contact Vicky Langham on 01372 460 930.

The Winter Mini Challenge 2021; encouraging children to be a 'Wild World Hero' this winter

The Summer Reading Challenge saw thousands of children reading and exploring nature and action for the environment as part of this year's Wild World Heroes theme.

Now things have started to get chilly and the winter holidays are coming, children can join the Wild World Heroes as they embark on an Arctic adventure.

The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards for reading and reviewing books. To take part in the Winter Mini Challenge, children simply read three or more books – these can be any books of their choice. Every time they finish a book, they add it to their Challenge website profile and leave a short book review. Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

How can my child take part?

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. A child needs to read at least three books **between 1 December and 16 January** and add them to their profile on the [Reading Agency's - Winter Mini Challenge](#) website, to earn fun digital rewards! They will find loads of other great stuff on the website too, including games, book reviews, reading activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around.

Visit the [Surrey Libraries](#) website for more details.