

Newsletter



10th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has whizzed by! We are already half way through the year! Like many schools, COVID impacted CPS over December / January in particular. Our staff team, as always, stepped up to ensure the children's learning was not negatively impacted due to staff absence, even if it meant supporting 2 Google classrooms and 2 face to face classes! In fact, the teachers have repeatedly said how proud they are of our children who have been eager to get involved with new topics and challenges.



This week has been busy as it has been Mental Health week. Mrs Evans and the pastoral team ran daily lunchtime workshops linked to this year's theme, 'Growing Together', exploring how by supporting each other we grow together. Very apt as our motto is 'Together We Grow'. The teachers also utilised various resources to support similar discussions, to think about mental health and things we can do to help our wellbeing.

Our learning community has come together perfectly, with parents workshops, staff training and now Internet Safety Week and children's online safety learning. With the theme 'Exploring Respect and Relationships Online' there were lots of opportunities to learn more about this important issue but also explore online safety and to consider the link between this and how it can impact on our well-being.

It has been lovely to have children involved in various tournaments - football, netball, athletics and even swimming have all taken place to date and there are plenty more scheduled for the rest of the year. We are so lucky to have Mrs Gee and the many staff who support her in this offer.

Pool update: We are so pleased that the weekend delivery of steels, previously delayed, was successful. Just over half of the total number of steel sections were delivered and moved within the compound. Erection of the first columns will commence next week. Exciting!



One of our pupils who was our first digital ambassador, was part of a team who have just won CyberFirst girls competition! We are delighted that her passion has not diminished!

Congratulations Natalie.



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Parents Forum last week focussed on Reading. We began with a quick overview of Claygate's approach to all aspects of reading and phonics, particularly in the light of recent national changes. Mrs Ali and I were blown away by your positive feedback and how parents have already noted how our new approach has impacted on progress and encourages that love for reading. We can't wait to start using the library again too! Feedback on opting for a Zoom meeting was appreciated; we were able to welcome many more parents and hope to continue to be able to invite anyone interested to these meetings rather than limiting attendance to class reps. This meant parents with young children and also those working from home could log on more easily. It was also lovely to feel the buzz and to catch up with so many parents during our half termly Parent Pop-Ins - a welcome opportunity to visit and celebrate your children's learning and successes!

As you know, we have adapted our approach to phonics and early reading due to new government legislation. We have purchased a wide range of resources with support from CPS Friends. As the children now read a book within a focus group, it is so important that they have their reading book every day. Over the course of the week, the children explore new vocabulary, develop fluency, expression and prosody and of course understanding of the text and comprehension skills. We have purchased 6 sets of every book and without a full set, this resource cannot be used. This creates a gap for those children who require books containing those phonemes.

Please can I ask you to encourage your children to care for our new books, model how we look after them when we are reading, keep them in a safe place and return them to us. To date we have lost a significant number of books or books have been ripped or misplaced. If a book is damaged or lost we would kindly ask for a donation to help us to replace the book and to maintain a full set. If at any time you come across a school book, please do return them! We are so grateful for your support with this.

As you know our library is transforming into a woodland theme, (voted for by the children) and supported in part by the PA. We have a dedicated team of parents going through the library stock - you would not believe some of the texts, they are so out of date. This includes our sets of encyclopaedias - currencies and geographical facts are one example where they are out of date!

World Book Day is 3rd March and the children are invited to have a PJ themed Mufti with all proceeds going to replenish this stock with encyclopaedias suitable for each age band. More details will be shared after half term...please do not feel the need to buy any new PJs!

Each Governing Body meeting agenda includes a focus subject presentation from a Subject Lead to share action plans, successes and impact. This allows our FGB to 'dive deeper' into each subject as well as each having an overview of the subject they are linked to. Governors meet regularly with staff to discuss each subject and those areas targeted for improvement and the impact of this. This term's meeting focussed on Computing and was delivered by Mr Godfrey, outlining what we teach, why we teach it and the outcomes for our children as they progress through the school. Computing at CPS has certainly grown and developed with the introduction of Kapow (our computing scheme), through the training of staff and of course the purchase of much needed resources.

It is with sadness that I share the news that Mrs Weekes' is leaving our school and the profession to pursue her previous career as a beautician. She has brought so much to our school and our team and I am sure she will keep in touch with us all. Mrs Weekes will be missed of course but we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Omar who has worked previously in Reception and across the school and is incredibly skilled and experienced.

Next term, Reception and Nursery will be learning about animals. For their role play areas, they are looking for donations of anything 'pet' related eg pictures, books, calendars etc and in particular:

- Clean empty dried cat/dog/fish food packets (not plastic or pouches)
- old pet collars and leads
- old pet carriers
- pet bowls
- pet soft toys

Thank you for all of your continued good wishes and support for both Team CPS and myself. We would ask parents to ensure they communicate with us in a kind and thoughtful manner; all staff work incredibly hard with all childrens' best interests in the centre of all they do. My attention has recently been brought to several emails, often sent late at night and many over the weekend, and some parents who email excessively. Responding to emails can often take time away from the preparation of teaching and learning and can impact on staff wellbeing. There have also been a smaller number of conversations reported which have lacked respect and upset staff. Our aim is always to work together as a community with positive relationships serving as a foundation for us all.

We wish you a wonderful, relaxing and safe half term. We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 22 February.

Year 4 – 3D Roman Mosaics

Year 4 have been creating 3D models of Roman mosaic tiles. We think you will agree, they are really effective!



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Children's Mental Health Week 2022

This week we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. On Monday we kicked off the week with an assembly all about Growing Together. Then we ran M-Fit workshops at lunchtimes throughout the week. We looked at our support networks and the people who help us grow. We designed hot air balloons, showing the people who help lift us up. We thought about our emotional growth and set ourselves goals we could reach for. We enjoyed a dance to 'Reach for the Stars' by S Club 7 and we took a moment to have a mindful meditation, to help calm our minds.



Self-Care & Mental Health for Kids


Share your own feelings to encourage self-awareness.




Find social groups that help them feel like they belong.


Focus on articulating feelings.
"I am angry."
"I am sad."

Set aside time for low-stress or solo activities.



Practice self-care for yourself to set the standard.

Encourage journaling and diaries.

Encourage your child to focus on the moment.



Establish a self-care routine.



Recognize toxic stress events.

BlessingManifesting

Cultivate interests and hobbies.

Newsletter



Dogs on Site

Please can I remind all members of our community that as a Surrey School we are a 'dog free' site which means that no dogs whether carried or not are allowed past the car park gates. (This of course does not include visitors like our Reading Dog which has been agreed with the authority).

Many thanks for your support with this.

Doodle

This week's top Doodlers are:



KS1 Maths : Sebastian (Chestnut)



KS2 Maths : Matthew (Cedar)

Top Doodler English: George (Beech)
collecting 889 stars!!



Harrison (Beech) also did amazingly
well with 782 stars.

Carys (Cedar), Emily (Hawthorn), Alfie (Hazel), Ben (Rowan), Maximus (Pine), Jack (Sycamore) and Charlie (Sycamore) all have over 500 streaks!!!

Ben (Alder), Dana (Chestnut), Theodora (Elm) and Ailsa (Alder) have been
fabulous all round Doodlers!



Congratulations to all of you!

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