

# Newsletter



25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

What a fabulous start to this academic year; although I agree 8 weeks is a long half term. The children have settled into their new classes and risen to their new year group's expectations. There has been so much to celebrate already! Please do look at the topic webs for each year group so you can find out more about what the children have achieved. I have loved visiting the different 'points' of the new Claygate Charter; each and every one focusses on our children's physical and mental well-being and gives the children the opportunity to shine in a different way. Our Music Enrichment performances with Mrs Lasebikan and Mrs Gee were uplifting as well as phenomenal.

We hosted a prospective Parents Open Morning where our ambassadors and new Year 6 leadership team led guided tours; they were eloquent and did a brilliant job; thank you! Both Senior and Junior Choirs sang and totally wowed their audience. Talking about our school always fills me with pride, as does sharing our children's enthusiasm for learning. I loved hearing about Year 5's recent scientific investigations...who knew Pampers really are as good as they say!

Jenny French from East Elmbridge Foodbank contacted us to thank everyone for their donations:

'A huge thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff at Claygate Primary School for your Harvest Festival collection for the foodbank. Having been virtually empty over the summer months, our food store is filling up fast thanks to your generous donations which will enable us to continue to provide for those in need in our community.' It is lovely that the children can see our values beyond our school gates.

Spooktacular pumpkins wowed all of our visitors...showing just how creative we can be! Judging was problematic as each and every one was a winner! Our children thoroughly enjoyed the PA's Spooky Disco. Without our fantastic PA such events would not run. Thank you to Faye Hellon and Ellie Dowling. Our PA meeting was a success too but we are still looking for support for a variety of events and there are even some roles going spare!

Thank you to our governor Mark Aulds and Helena Tuffin for leading a successful Health and Safety visit last week. If you ever see anything which needs attention please do let us know. Mark also arranged a working party last weekend: thank you to everyone who gave up their time to paint fences, do some weeding and cut back some bushes!

Have a wonderfully restful half term. Thank you all for your continued support.

## Pumpkin Fun



Last weekend Maximus (Elm class) won a prize at the urban farmer's pumpkin competition hosted at the Hare & Hounds. Maximus won the 'prettiest pumpkin' category and was delighted.

Well done Maximus!

## Rabbits & Guinea Pigs

If anyone would like to have the rabbits or guinea pigs for a weekend after half term, or during the Christmas holidays, please do contact the office as we have some spaces. Thank You.

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## Diwali

This week Year 1 have had lots of fun learning all about the Hindu festival, Diwali. They have been exploring Rangoli patterns, linked to our mathematical learning of 2D shapes. During science the children used their sense of smell to identify the scent of different candles. We had a fabulous time learning a Diwali dance and have even had our own Indian Restaurant in our role play area. The children have loved learning all about 'the festival of light' and we would like to say a huge thank you to Arya's (Oak) mum and auntie who shared the Diwali story and traditions with the children.



## Football news

The girls' football team played a League match v St. Pauls away on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Match report by Amelie (Hawthorn Class).



It was a great first football match of the season against St Pauls. At half time we were leading 2-0 and at the final whistle we had a fabulous score of 4-1. Well done to Emilia (Cedar class) for being chosen as player of the match.

## Cashless Payments

Just a reminder that after half term we will be a 'cashless' school. All items will have to be paid for using card, online via Parentmail. We will no longer accept cash or cheques as payment for any school related activity. Many thanks for your assistance.

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## Roman Workshop

"On Tuesday, Year 4 became Romans for the day. There were soldiers, Celts and Emperors galore. The children were recruited into the Roman army and found out a lot about the history of Rome and how Romans lived. With excitement, they studied and held ancient artefacts and weapons, learnt a Roman boardgame and challenged themselves with a Roman quiz. In the afternoon, the children got into formations and practised their marching before finding out about Boudicca. Finally, two gladiators faced off in a battle to the death. Overall, a highly entertaining and educating day!"



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## Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day

At CPS we know happy children learn best. Anti-bullying Week is imminent but we prefer to focus on the positives so our focus is all about FRIENDSHIP. We will be celebrating Friendship Week from Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November at CPS. As part of this week, we will be taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' once again. This is an opportunity to encourage our children to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes them unique! All the children need to do is wear odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November to help raise awareness. There will also be a special assembly on this day to highlight friendship week and celebrate what makes us all unique.

Subsequently, the following weeks will continue to build on this in assemblies, circle time and PSHE lessons. We will then have a performance from Year 2 up to year 6 'the Power of Change' with follow up activities and learning. We would like to request a voluntary donation of £2 for children in these year groups to cover the cost, rather than asking for donations for Odd Socks Day.

Please note we will also be celebrating Children in Need later that week on Friday 15th November and invite parents, carers and pupils to make donations as part of this appeal, but we are aware that this is two collections very close together.

## The Science of Nappies

In science, Year 5 have been testing the absorbency of different brands of nappies.



## Costume Swaps

A parent has had a brilliant idea! Many of our history topics repeat each year so every year parents purchase or make Roman outfits. The children naturally grow out of these and they are then binned or popped into charity shops. If you are finished with a Christmas or period costume and would like to donate it (after Year 4 assemblies) please pop it into a bag (labelled with what costume is inside) and drop it into the office.

NB: Before the next Spooky Discos, the PA will do a costume swap, so keep this year's ready for next!

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