

Newsletter

6th December 2019



December has arrived and there are so many exciting things to look forward to! This week our Christmas trees appeared as well as the stage so rehearsals could begin in earnest. I admit hearing bursts of carols does put everyone in a good mood. Children have started to write and bring in Christmas cards and there's a general buzz around the school.

This week our focus on reading continued with a visiting children's author, Serena Hassan who shared her book 'The Tap-Dancing Pigeon of Covent Garden' to EYFS and then to KS1. She talked about what it is like to be an author and how she writes her stories; we too can be authors! The book also highlighted the importance of looking after our environment; another issue close to our hearts, one of the reasons we are embracing the year round – walk to school challenge with Living Streets. The children who have walked / cycled / scooted to school at least once each week have been awarded their first WOW badge which can be worn for the month of December! Well done everyone who managed this; let's all try for the December badge.

Year 1 enjoyed a fabulous Dazzle Day yesterday; they were thoroughly engaged in their toy workshop. They were so enthusiastic about their learning; it was a joy to see!

Thank you to everyone who attended the EYFS Phonics Workshop; the video will be shared; a great idea particularly for working parents.

Mrs Kane is sadly leaving us on December 12th, we would like to wish her well for the future and thank her for all of her efforts to date. We have employed an experienced school manager, Mrs Ros Clark, who I am sure will receive a warm welcome from Claygate!

Your thoughts and opinions are important and do help to guide us in so many ways. At our parent consultation evening we had some super feedback 'post - its' about Accelerated Reader. Reading was discussed in greater depth at Parents' Forum today with myself, your class reps and our Reading Lead Mrs Moorhouse along with a discussion on the wider curriculum including Enrichment and our extra - curricular offer. We have also sent a parent questionnaire using the Ofsted parent questionnaire format. Thank you for taking the time to complete this; it would be good to get as many responses as possible!

The professional development of all our staff is important; during staff INSET this week we hosted our ELT colleagues to examine writing standards and moderate writing across our schools. This was a valuable exercise which benefited all teachers. As we do have a focus on raising writing standards, our Year 6 team also had some time with an English leader from Cleves Junior School to collaboratively reflect on the process of writing and how we ensure progression and high quality written work across all subjects. This will help drive improvement across the school although the main focus was Upper KS2. Being part of a Cooperative Trust has many benefits and our History and Geography Leads have also been collaborating across the 6 schools to share good practice, brainstorm ideas and prepare future INSET for all of our schools.

Mrs Cuniffe and I are deputy designated safeguarding leads to Mrs Ali. We both had thought provoking Safeguarding training updates on Thursday. Our school safeguarding priorities this year are to ensure online safety is taught effectively, safeguarding is embedded across the wider curriculum and all safeguarding policies and procedures are robust. If you ever have any concerns, please feel free to contact any one of the safeguarding team, or the class teacher.

The Children's Christmas cards arrived this week and we think you'll agree they are fantastic! Thank you to Caroline Plumb for organising them.

The Christmas Bazaar team have been extremely busy for weeks and they have set the scene for what looks like an amazing community event tomorrow. Thank you all for your generosity in supporting us with donations and selling / buying raffle tickets etc and I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow!

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Girls Football

The Girls Football Team had their last group match last Friday, 29th November at Hinchley Wood Primary. Here is the match report from Greta, Cedar class.

Last Friday, our Girl's Football Team played against Hinchley Wood. Most of us were absolutely petrified because we all knew that if we won this game we would be through to the semi-finals. That also meant, if we lost we would be out of the whole football league!

When we started we thought it would be like any other game but no; they were nearly as good as us. When the score was already 1-1, we were gasping for air. We carried on playing determined not to give up; and guess what? We won 3-1! (Caroline scored 2 and Maha 1). We're now through to the semi-finals - hooray!

Well Done Girls – we look forward to hearing about the next match!



10k for Shelter



On Tuesday evening, Mrs Dobson, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Gee took part in the 10km London Winter Sleepwalk for Shelter. They raised over £800 for this amazing charity that supports the homeless and raises awareness for such a good cause.

Kuk Sool Won

Last week-end Anton (Pine) and David (Chestnut) took part in Kuk Sool Won UK championships Liverpool and won a medal each, Anton in sparring and David in techniques.

Congratulations boys!



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Toy Workshop

On Thursday morning, Oak and Alder class had a fantastic visit from Chertsey Museum. They enjoyed learning about, holding and playing with toys from the past. The children particularly enjoyed interacting with their peers whilst sorting toys, playing skittles outside and sketching toys. They were most impressed that they got to make their own Thaumatrope. Some of the children were so excited by the toys they had seen, they added them to their Christmas list.



Author Visit – Serena Hassan

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Rabbits & Guinea Pigs

Our lovely guinea pigs are still looking for a home for the Xmas holidays – please do let the office know if you are able to help.