

Newsletter



13th December 2019

I am sure that everyone who has attended a performance this week will agree that they count as a highlight of this term and the festive feel of Christmas is now upon us! All of the children's individuality, talent and enthusiasm was unmissable! They clearly enjoyed themselves and you could see how proud they all were! Thank you to all of the staff and of course our musical maestro, Mrs Lasebikan. Thank you also for your kind words and emails etc of support and praise.

Today, Christmas jumpers were the order of the day plus festive jokes were prepared for a fabulous Christmas lunch. Thank you to all of the parents who helped us make this such a success as well of course to our amazing catering team! It has been a busy week and many of the children are already excited about Christmas! We have heard a lot about those naughty elves again causing chaos in many of your homes.

This week also saw some of our 'always' children visit me for Golden Tea. These children consistently strive to model all of our values:

Safe and Healthy
Courageous
Achievers
Respectful
Responsible
Friendly

All children shine in different ways and this is one of the many ways children are recognised. We also recognise values through house point tokens and Values Awards. Children may receive multiple house tokens, certificates and visits to Golden Tea. Children also are keen to be sent to me and Mrs Ali to share their good work or to receive an Achievers Award for having a Growth Mindset, showing resilience in their learning and doing their best whilst so many shine in performances and sports. Children may receive multiple house tokens for resilience and achievements as well as certificates. It is explained to the children that rewards are given on merit rather than being restricted to one award within a set period. Many schools have elected to ban all extrinsic reward systems and there is evidence demonstrating the value for this however we presently plan to continue with the rewards we have; the children love their new House Point tubes!

Water bottles! It has been brought to my attention that there is a group of parents sharing concerns about children's access to water throughout the day. Our internal water taps provide fresh, chilled filtered water where children (and staff) regularly fill water bottles at break and lunchtimes; there's usually a queue. Children however often overfill water bottles and cause a puddle on the floors! There are comments that children do not like using the outside water fountains; this is quite a skill and so do favour their bottles, which we of course completely understand, however 400 bottles outside is not an option!

The general ruling is that children (and staff) are very much encouraged to drink water throughout the day. There are however times which are particularly encouraged eg just before, during and after break times. Water is also freely consumed in the lunch hall. There are also times when access to water bottles is understandably discouraged eg when the teacher is delivering the 'teaching and learning' part of the lesson or if it appears that they are using this as a tactic to avoid engaging in their learning. This is the same for accessing the toilet. Moving forward, I will ensure children have a specific water breaks regularly throughout the day as children seem to be confused regarding this and we will also ensure the children drink their water with their lunch

There is also reference to the state of the toilets; I agree. Toilets are however checked and cleaned as boys in particular often miss! Since I started, we have redecorated and improved some of the facilities but I am happy to accept volunteer offers to enhance any of the toilets.

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Notes and reminders for next week:

Tuesday 17 December 2.45 pm Elm Class Enrichment Performance

Wednesday 18 December 2.40 pm Pine Class Enrichment Performance (as it is very slightly longer!)

Holy Trinity Key Stage 2 Concert Monday and Tuesday evening, children arriving at 6.10pm for a 6.30pm start. The church will not be accessible prior to this time. All children should wear their school uniform. Children who are wearing costumes should bring these in to school on Monday morning.

In response to those working parents who have previously been unable to attend both of their children's performances, we are trialling having all of our KS2 children perform together across two nights. Please can all children support and attend this event, wearing school uniform on both Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Please can children arrive no earlier than 6.10pm. When arriving at the church in the evening, please collect any coats from your children before they are sent to their teacher. This is so that after the performance the children can be collected as quickly as possible.

NEW:

At the end of the concert collecting children is always hectic! After chatting to an insightful Mum and the staff team, this is the plan for the end of the performance:

Year 5 will leave Church to go into the hall for collection first. At this time we ask for everyone to remain seated patiently.

Parents will then be asked to leave the Church to go to their respective collection points.

Year 3 children will be dismissed to their responsible grown-ups via the door next to the internal Christmas Tree / car park door, swiftly followed by Year 6 children.

Year 4 children will be dismissed to their responsible grown-ups via the side door next to the cemetery.

This does mean some parents will need to collect from multiple doors but we will keep all children safe until they are collected.

We estimate that the performance will be approximately 1 ¼ hours, this will be clearer for the second performance!

Thank You!!

A huge thank you to the organisers of the fantastic Xmas Bazaar which we enjoyed last Saturday. Sachia Broadbent, Olivia Mason, Liz Pearce, Susie Nelhams, and Fiona Butler worked so hard to make it such a success.



Poppy Appeal

We have heard from The Royal British Legion that as a school we raised £123.65 for The Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who bought poppies, wristbands etc and to all the children who stood outside selling them.

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ELT Spelling Bee: 17th January 2020

Thames Ditton Junior School will be hosting a Spelling Bee Competition next half term together with schools in the Ember Learning Trust. This is aimed at children in Years 2 to 6. We participated in this last academic year and it was a fantastic experience for our children.

Your child will come home tomorrow with a list of spellings for their year group.

Spelling heats will take place in classes during the week beginning 6th January, so children should aim to learn the spellings (for their year group) before this time. The words will be read in isolation and in the context of a sentence when tested. Children will be expected to be able to write the correct spelling and also spell the word out letter by letter (using letter names rather than sounds) if asked to.

Children do not have to enter the competition, however, we want to encourage as many children to be practising these spellings on a regular basis at home and this is a great way to ensure this happens.

3 winning spellers from each year group will go through to the final which will take place at Thames Ditton Junior School on 17th January along with other schools in the Ember Learning Trust. Words in the final round will not be given out to be learnt at home but will be selected from the National Curriculum word lists appropriate for each year group. We will keep you posted on the results. Happy spelling!

Girls Football



On Tuesday, 10th December the Year 5 football team, along with Megan (Year 4) played their first friendly match against the tough Esher Church School. Despite the terrible weather the team had an amazing time, drawing 2-2. Both of our goals were scored by Megan although Paddie (Aspen) was unlucky not to score.

Match report by Rosie (Pine)

Kuk Sool Won



Congratulations to Jessica (Lime) for achieving her red belt in Kuk Sool Won!

Faith In Action

Back in the summer we asked for donations of school uniform to help support Isaiah School in Katete, Uganda. We have received a lovely update from them saying that the school is going from strength to strength. 136 children aged 4-11 are enjoying bright, dry, fully equipped classrooms. We have also received a beautiful Christmas card from them which shows the children wearing CPS uniform.



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