

Newsletter



17th January 2020

Week two and we are fully immersed in our learning journeys for the Spring term! As part of our School Improvement Plan, the governors and Senior Leadership Team formed a curriculum working party which is focussing on our curriculum offer for specific subjects as well as progression across the school. Our continued focus is understandably ensuring the development of teaching and learning in Reading and Writing alongside embedding our new maths mastery approach introduced last year although we are aware that there is renewed emphasis on the whole curriculum offer and this too is under development at CPS.

Popping into classes, Year 2 children told us all about the Greedy Zebra and how they were predicting and creating their own story endings. In Year 6, children learned in great detail about how the heart works by dissecting a heart in science. We were so impressed with our Year 1 mathematicians who could clearly tell us how they were solving addition problems by making totals of ten using their number bonds! Meanwhile, in EYFS the children's adventures extended up the Beanstalk! Music lessons, were challenging and amazing as usual with an array of instruments to master. Our Year 5 scientists blasted off into space whilst Year 4 are delving deep into the past as historians, exploring Ancient Egyptians.

Just before Christmas, we introduced a new approach to Spelling, ensuring spelling rules and patterns are actively and consistently taught, so participating in a Spelling Bee with our Ember Learning trust partnership schools was both timely and fun!

As you also know we worked with a Reading Consultant last term. Wednesday's Parent Meeting was a good opportunity to share information with you on Accelerated Reader and how we now actively teach reading skills across the school; the slides are now on our website.

Friends of Claygate Primary school give £11,000 to the school.

At our last meeting it was agreed to make another donation to the school to provide the following:

- New overhead projector for the hall
- More books for the library
- Further funding to expand roll out of the accelerated reader program

First I would like to thank all parents who are already contributing . Going forward these contributions are going to be even more important as the school is predicting an in year deficit of **£68,000**. This already assumes a Friends contribution of £30,000. The reasons for this deficit are as follows:

- The school is running with 35 pupil spaces as both Reception and Year 6 classes are not full, leading to less funding.
- Government/Surrey not guaranteeing to fund the pay increases /pension increases that were awarded in September 2019

If you are not contributing I would urge to consider doing so as without this funding stream the education of children could suffer. We ask a contribution of £15 per month per child, but any contribution would be welcome. Forms can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the website.

Mark Aulds
Trustee

School Ball 2020

The school ball will take place on Saturday 17th October. Be sure you make a note in your diaries now so you don't miss out!

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Netball



On Wednesday the CPS netball teams played Esher Church School in a league match.

My team won 9-1 and the other team lost 3-2, we were evenly matched. Well done to all of our scorers.

We enjoyed the matches very much so thank you very much Mrs Gee for giving us this opportunity. We will play St. Lawrence on Tuesday next week.

Megan & Sorcha (Hawthorn)

Football

On Friday the 10th of January 2020, the year 5 A football team played the year 6 A team. It was a challenge for the year 5's because the year 6 team are in a tournament and are doing very well. It was a fair game. The final score was 4-1 to the year 6 team but everyone had fun.



Match report by Alex, Aspen Class

Netball



On Wednesday 15th January the Year 6 A and B netball teams went to play against Esher Church School. The A team's match was close and tough, the final score was 3-2 to Esher. Well done to everybody who played so well.

Report by Emma and Emilia, Cedar Class

Arbrook (Green) House Day

Next Wednesday, 22nd January we will have the second of our house days. This time the focus will be on Arbrook and once again we have met with house captains to decide what will happen on the day itself.

The house captains will sell raffle tickets from Monday morning onwards: 1st prize is a £10 Smiggle token, 2nd prize is a lunch pass for two weeks and 3rd prize is a one week pet pass with the opportunity to work alongside Miss Bendela for the week and help care for our pets!

Children in Arbrook house should wear their house colour on the day with all other children in their uniform as usual.

The house captains would also like contributions of cakes again (plus fruit for healthy options) preferably with a link to the house colour and will be selling these at morning break time to everyone. House captains will also run an obstacle course at lunchtime in the MUGA with the highest scoring participants awarded house tokens. Children can bring in a maximum of £1 to spend on the day. Cakes are 50p each and the obstacle course is 50p.

Money raised will go towards playground improvements so please do encourage your child to take part either by purchasing a raffle ticket or bringing in money on the day to spend.

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Kuk Sool Won

Last term, for the first time, the martial art of Kuk Sool Won was taught to a group of Year 1 students. Each week, during Thursday lunchtime, Susan and Aaron - two black belts from the local club in Claygate - came along and not only taught some martial arts skills but helped our students learn about the core martial arts values: values which are shared by Claygate Primary School.

JKN Susan, explained to staff, 'There is often a misunderstanding about martial arts: some people wrongly believe that it's all about learning how to fight but actually, it's really about learning good manners, friendship, responsibility, respect and it's about gaining the confidence to always try hard and not compare yourself to others. These are life skills and the hope is that through martial arts activities, we can show the students how to incorporate these values into every day life.'

Through a combination of games and use of equipment borrowed from the Dojang, students were taught how to fall safely, how to block and some handstrikes and kicks but, underlying all of this was the constant reminder to work kindly and respectfully together, to show good manners, to listen and to keep trying - however difficult the task may seem.

After only 8 weeks, in an end-of-term show to demonstrate to Mrs Cunningham all they'd learnt, every student showed incredible concentration, teamwork and good manners. They all thanked their Headmistress for attending and were delighted by being rewarded with a gold medal (AKA Christmas chocolate coin!). In fact, the students were so grateful to Mrs Cunningham for coming to watch they even kept a chocolate for her – which meant smiles all round!

Aaron said, 'We had a wonderful term and really enjoyed teaching the students. It has been especially rewarding to learn that their teachers have noticed a difference in the students and how they are in class.'

This term the focus of Kuk Sool Won lessons will be 'compassion.' The activities will look at how students can show kindness and friendship and this will mean more games that require the need to focus, listen, work in pairs and respect each other.



Chinese New Year

Just a reminder that on Friday, 31st January 2020 we will be celebrating Chinese New Year with a delicious chinese lunch - the menu was sent out via parentmail this week and is also displayed in the school office window.

This is a whole school activity so if you do not wish your child to have the meal please inform Mrs Kosbab (gill.kosbab@claygate.surrey.sch.uk) by **Thursday, 23rd January 2020** at the latest. If you do not opt out by then the £2.35 charge will be added to your parentmail account.

If your child does not usually have a school lunch and has any food allergies or intolerances please make sure you complete a Special Diet Request Form which you can get from the office.

