

Newsletter



14th February 2020

We have had a huge focus on Internet Safety this week as it was Internet Safety Day on Tuesday. Mr Godfrey delivered two assemblies and our computing lessons this week have also had an E-Safety focus; please see the attached flyer.

We also had our half termly fire drill and we were very pleased with how sensible our children were, evacuating promptly. Our Reception children in particular impressed us as they evacuated via different routes to those they are accustomed to due to their library and music sessions.

Illness: We know that illness is unavoidable and to be expected. However it is very important to inform the school on the first day of absence with the reason either by phone (01372 465 348), or in person at the school office. Our EWO has visited and is concerned at the high percentage of holidays which are taken at CPS...

Did You Know....?

- For every day of school missed by a pupil it will reduce their attendance by 0.5%.
- Ten whole days of school has been missed if your child has 95% attendance.
- Twenty whole days of school has been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%.
- By the time a pupil is persistently absent (85% attendance) they have missed 6 weeks or half a term of schooling.

Naturally this impacts on learning, however many children find 'being out of the loop' and revisiting learning which they missed first time around very stressful. Also time away from school can impact on children's friendship groups and ability to chat about what they missed the previous day within their social circles.

This week, training was all about phonics and spelling. Staff welcomed another session with Lindsay Pickton; an experienced Teaching and Learning Advisor specialising in Primary Literacy, who we worked with to focus on the writing process and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) during 2019-2020. We are delighted that he was impressed with how we are developing a progressive scheme across the school with discrete spelling sessions since he last visited and he shared further strategies and activities to support the teaching of SPAG.

Our INSET session on Friday will enable the team to reflect further and adapt planning to include some of these ideas but the majority of time is to focus on the CPS curriculum offer, particularly across the foundation subjects to ensure all links are planned, sequenced and add to the children's learning experience through discrete lessons and, where appropriate, through strong cross curricular links.

As we approach the end of half term, we were again treated to Enrichment performances; thank you to Mrs Lasebikan and Mrs Ali for showcasing the children's talents; always a highlight! We were very impressed indeed. The outdoor learning team were also buzzing about their Woodland Learning and their fire lighting finale (and of course smores!). The children have also enjoyed participating in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch; isn't it surprising how many birds we can spot in Claygate!

Monday 24th February is National Thinking Day so the children are welcome to wear their Scout, Guides etc uniforms and again this reminds us that our FRIENDSHIP Value goes beyond our school gates.

As I am sure you are aware, Clubland hire the use of our school to run wrap around care for our children. This includes the use of the lower playground and climbing apparatus. It has been brought to my attention that some children are entering the bottom playground to play and use the apparatus after school. There have been multiple occasions where Clubland's use of the area has been impacted due to non-Clubland children accessing their zones. This also raises a safeguarding issue. I am sure this access has been granted by parents not appreciating the impact on Clubland, I would like to draw your attention to this and request that in future all parents leave the site promptly with their children.

Have a wonderful half term break!

Y4 Natural History Museum Trip

Last Thursday, Year 4 travelled by train up to the Natural History Museum. For some, this was an adventure in itself as it was their first time on a train. All the children behaved brilliantly!

When we arrived at the Museum, the children were amazed by the huge whale skeleton hanging in the main entrance hall, it really was quite a sight! After dropping off bags and coats, Year 4 were whisked off to the Attenborough studio to learn all about Earthquakes and Volcanoes. The children were entertained and educated through a fun, interactive and amusing workshop, even finding out all about seismographs! We witnessed the destructive force of Earthquake Carys on the poor unsuspecting Bob Town (thanks George!) Other children helped save villagers from an erupting volcano, but poor volcanologist Barbie was left behind. Overall, lots of brilliant learning took place and the children even earned their Natural History Museum diploma for Earthquakes and Volcanoes.

After everyone's favourite part of the day (lunch) the children travelled up to the Red Zone of the museum, through the earth! They had time to look around the exhibition and learn lots of new facts about volcanoes and earthquakes. They even got to experience how an earthquake would feel in the earthquake simulator. It was then time for another exciting trip on the trains to return back to Claygate. A complete success, the trip has inspired our learning and will continue to do so over the next half term with the remaining part of our natural disasters topic.



Pobble

This weeks' published authors on Pobble are:

Elm	-	Eliza
Hazel	-	Tess and Luca
Sycamore	-	Isabelle and Clara
Lime	-	Harry and Sophia
Rowan	-	Freya and James
Aspen	-	Jude, George, Sid & Kush
Pine	-	Maya
Cedar	-	Rachel and Harry
Hawthorn	-	Gregor and Natalie



School Meals

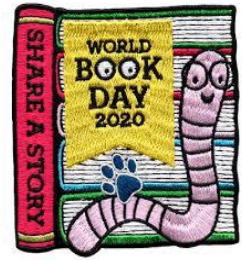
The price of School Meals for next half term is £70.50. Please ensure this amount is credited to your child's account on the first day of next half term (24th Feb). Please also ensure that all other arrears are cleared at the same time.

Unfortunately we will no longer be able to provide a school meal to children whose lunch accounts are arrears.

Reception and Years 1 & 2 are provided with Free School Meals and do not have to top-up!

World Book Day

World book day is on Thursday 5th March this year. For this year's celebration the theme is sharing stories. At Claygate, we have decided that the best way to share books is when we are comfy! As a result, we would encourage children to wear pyjamas to school on this day and bring their favourite book with them. Children are also welcome to bring any books which they no longer want so that they can participate in a book swap during the day. Any parents who would like to come in and share a book are very welcome! Please contact class teachers to organise this. We would appreciate a mufti donation of £1 to contribute towards this.



Swimming Gala



On Tuesday 11th, 24 children from years 3-6 took part in a swimming gala at Parkside School. 3 other schools took part: Royal Kent, Esher Church and St Andrews. There were a variety of races: individual or team involving the 4 different strokes. It was a really fun event, enjoyed by both the many spectators and children, with all children swimming brilliantly. We came 2nd overall which is a great result.

Pond Area Working Party

There will be a pond area working Party on Saturday, 8th March from 10am – 12pm. Everyone welcome! Don't forget your gloves and boots/wellies.

Football Focus

On Wednesday a girls and a boys B football team took part in a district football tournament at the Xcel in Walton.

The following are pictures and match reports written by children who took part.



Report from Amelia W, Cedar class

On Wednesday, the girls B team played in a football tournament at the Xcel. We played 3 games in the tournament plus a friendly. We won our first game 1-0 thanks to Ellie's awesome goal. Our second game was a 0-0 draw. We lost our 3rd game 3-0 to *Thames Ditton*. After the tournament we played a friendly against the winners Hurst Park and we drew 1-1. It was a great afternoon and everybody had amazing time.



Report from Otis, Cedar class

On Wednesday the Claygate boys B football team played in the Elbridge football tournament. It was an amazing effort from the boys, we worked hard on our attacking and defending. On our way to the final, we beat 4 teams and lost one match. These results secured us a place in the final. The final was against Esher Church School. It was an exciting, nail-biting match with each team having opportunities to win it. Unfortunately, we conceded a goal in the last few seconds of the game to lose 1-0. Well done to all who played and thanks to Mrs Gee for organising such a wonderful day.

