

Newsletter



6th September 2019

What a busy start to the new year; but we are delighted that we were able to get the school ready and open on time! The teachers have worked hard meeting to plan and get classrooms and resources ready and of course a huge shout out to Leo, our caretaker who coordinated works and ensured we were ready to safely open.

It was lovely to see the children in uniform, looking their smartest, ready and excited to return. It felt so lovely to be welcoming familiar faces; such a difference from last year when everything was so new. It was lovely to catch up with everyone's holiday news and to see the children in their new classes looking so very grown up.

Our office team is diminished with a last minute resignation from Mrs Garner. We are delighted to have successfully appointed Mrs Mais who will start later this month to take over her role. We have also appointed Mrs Kosbab; Mrs Green's maternity leave replacement. Thankfully we still have Mrs Green for a little while longer! We are fortunate to have the wonderful Mrs Hampshire step into the breach until Mrs Bucci returns. Please bear with us whilst short staffed and, hopefully, phone lines will soon be reconnected!

Despite office chaos, we have begun a programme of redecoration and some corridors, toilets and classrooms have had a much needed face-lift! A team from Barclays came and have smartened the fences, giving them a much needed lick of paint! Thank you! If your place of work does community days, please let us know.

Thank you also to everyone involved in the care of Pepper and Patch, our rabbits, Jammie and Dodger our Guinea Pigs and of course our chickens; Ruxley, Foley, Blakedon and Arbrook. I'm sure they all had a great summer too!

Thank you all for your continued and on-going support; it really does mean a lot!

Attention Volunteers

A huge thank you to our incredible team of volunteer helpers who worked with us last academic year. As always, we welcome your support in all year groups and particularly need volunteers to help listen to children read and support with times tables practice.

All volunteers will need to attend a safeguarding briefing ahead of working with us. This includes volunteer helpers who supported in class last year and volunteers who attend sporting events. There are three briefing sessions on the following dates, please sign up at the office for a slot:

Monday 9th September at 9.00am

Wednesday 9th September at 9.00am and again at 2.45pm

Please do also ensure that you have a valid DBS check in place. These can be completed online however documents will need to be checked. The office can support with this so do pop in and see a member of the team to book a slot to complete the check.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the briefings next week.

Term Calendar

We are sending out our Term Calendar again for your reference as there have been a couple of date changes..

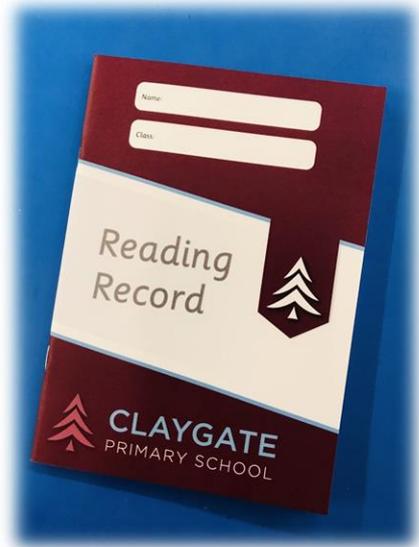
These dates are correct but may be subject to change throughout the school year and we will do our utmost to inform you and highlight any changes in a timely fashion.

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Reading Records

Hopefully you will have seen our fantastic new reading journals. We introduced them across the school to the children yesterday and all are excited to begin using them. We have increased our expectations in terms of the amount of reading we expect our children to be doing at home and at school and will be checking these diaries regularly.

Children in Upper Key Stage Two are expected to record their home reading in these journals and we look forward to reading their comments. Class teachers will communicate these new expectations with you all at the forthcoming parent information sessions, however if you have any questions in the meantime please do speak directly to your child's class teacher.



Animal Antics

A huge CPS Thank you to all that cared for our animals over the Summer Holidays. It makes such a difference to know that they are being looked after by people that truly care about them.

We love getting updates and pictures of our animals when we are not with them... just like this one from Eva in Hawthorn Class!



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Abseiling for Autism

Before the summer holidays we told you about Gerry and Sonia Davies who were to be abseiling 165 meters down a tower in London to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder to funds for the National Autistic Society.

Here's a little update from the daredevils!

"As promised, we wanted to let you know we did the abseil for the National Autistic Society last weekend. It was nerve-wracking stepping backwards off a building 165 metres up, clutching hold of a thin rope and swaying in the wind! We did try to take in the wonderful view of the London skyline and the kids where amazing cheering from the ground.

So far we've raised over £4,400 which is overwhelming and we're hugely grateful."

Don't forget you can still donate at the following JustGiving site.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/soniaandgerryabseil>



Bikes and Scooters

Just a reminder that bikes and scooters must not be ridden on school property.

Our paths are narrow so, for your safety, please ensure both you and your children dismount and walk your bikes/scooters onto and through school grounds.

Changeable Weather

We're hitting that time of year when the weather is slightly unpredictable so please make sure you send your children in with a raincoat so they're fully equipped for playtime.