



Cliffe Woods Primary School

22nd September 2023 Newsletter



School Lunches/Snacks

We would like to remind you that we encourage the children to eat healthily, and so we ask that children do not bring in any fizzy or energy drinks as part of their packed lunches. We also ask that snacks both in packed lunches and for breaktimes are healthy. This means no chocolate bars or sweets. Also, please be aware that we have some children with severe allergies, and we are a nut and seed free school.

In key Stage One all children are given a daily piece of fruit or vegetables, although you are welcome to send in your own fruit or vegetables for your child. In Key Stage Two, there are opportunities to buy a snack for 50p. We are looking at adjusting the offer for these snacks to ensure that they are in line with our healthy school ethos. Again, you are welcome to send in your own healthy (nut/seed free) snacks.



Medway Music

Medway Music Association's Saturday Music Centre held at Rainham Mark Grammar School is now welcoming new members. The sessions run at the Music Centre are for complete beginners (no experience required) to the more advanced musicians, aged between 5 (Year 1) and 18 (Year 13).



The Music Centre runs during term times only and is an affordable opportunity at only £15 membership for the whole year. For this price, members can take part in as many groups weekly to which they are suited. The Music Centre starts again on Saturday 23rd September. Attached is the Music Centre timetable, session descriptions and registration form.



School Uniform

A gentle reminder that children are expected to wear the correct school uniform (details are on our website) and have long hair tied back. Please can we also remind you that earrings should be removed on PE days if children are unable to remove them.



The PTA will be offering a second-hand uniform shop each term, which will be situated on school grounds, where good quality second hand uniform will be available. The first one this term is on Monday, October 9th from 3.15pm.



Excellence From All

Head Students

Our Year 6 children were encouraged to write statements in order to be considered as Head students. It was very difficult to decide between the incredible applications, but the final decision was made and the following children have been selected:

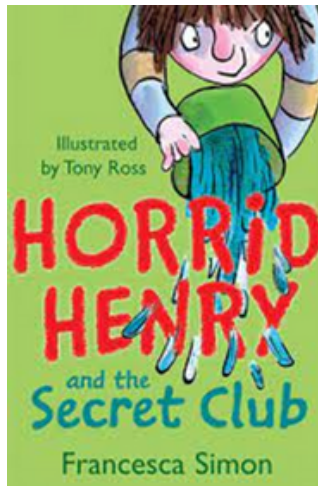


Jimmy, Espen, Lily s and Adelaide

Reading Ambassadors

Our school reading ambassadors have had a busy start to the term. They are already coming up with ideas for World Book Day, which is next March and are going to be surveying pupils to find out the types of books they most enjoy reading so we can update library areas. Each month, they will be displaying a reading recommendation on our Ambassador board in school. Here are the two books our reading ambassadors would like to recommend this month.

KS1



Freddie (Yr4) – 'In this book, Moody Margaret tries to ruin Henry's club. It's really enjoyable finding out how Henry gets his own back. These are good books for Year 2 and later in Year 1 because they are funny.'

KS2



Sukhmani Dhanda (Yr6) – 'This is the first in a series of books. Once you have read one, you have to keep reading them! They are mystery stories with lots of tension and suspense.'



Social Media

A reminder that if you would like to follow the school's social media accounts, please email socialmedia@cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk with details of your child's name and class as well as your X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram handles. You will then be given access to both X and Instagram.



Sport

This year, we are entering lots of sports competitions and will be introducing some new sports into school. Our first event is the Hockey Mini Youth Games which will be held on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October. After finishing 4th in the Mini Youth Games last year, we are striving for a top three position this year. Every Monday after school, selected children are invited to a club in preparation for the upcoming sport.



Escape Room Fun

Some children in Year 6 had some great fun taking part in an Escape Room activity run by David Leece and Lindsay Hartney from Medway Council's Youth Service. They will be back later this academic year, so that children who have not yet had this experience will have an opportunity to take part in the event later in the year.

All three groups managed to escape in under an hour and David was extremely happy with how the children behaved and especially how well they worked collaboratively as a team. He was also very impressed with the organisation of the room and how the staff showed interest in what the children were doing.

Most children gave this a 5-star rating, and their evaluations included comments that included: 'I loved it so much! It was scary and hard at times, but this is what made it really fun!'



PTA

The PTA held their AGM on Friday, 15th September, and we are looking forward to another successful year. Whilst there is an active committee, we do not have a Chair, and the PTA will be sending out further information regarding this vacancy. Please keep an eye on the events calendar on our website for news about exciting activities planned.

Parking

Can we please remind you to park considerately when you bring your children to school and collect them. We had a near miss last week, when cars were parked on the corner of the road, making it difficult for people to safely see to cross the road. The Medway mobile enforcement vehicle does occasionally patrol outside the school, so please be aware of that too.



Charities

Last year Cliffe Woods staff and families kindly donated filled shoeboxes to the Blytheswood Christmas Shoebox appeal. This year we have signed up again to take part. If you are interested in joining with us, a checklist and instructions can be found here:

<https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/> We will also have leaflets to send home soon. Please note that some items are not accepted – e.g. chocolate or toys related to war. All details can be found on the checklist. When your shoebox is complete, please bring into school before half-term, by Thursday 19th October at the latest.

We are also taking part in the 'Wear it Pink' appeal, details were sent out last week, and we are grateful to all of you who plan to take part in this worthwhile cause on Thursday, October 19th.

Environment

We are very aware that children can stain their uniforms when we have practical art lessons, and we would like to ask if you have any adult old shirts or T-shirts that the children could wear over their uniform during these lessons so that we could keep a stock in our creative studio. If you do, please send them in with your child and the class teachers will organise them.



Safeguarding

If you've been out and about this summer, you likely will have noticed school-aged children using vape sticks. Within the space of a few years, it has become shockingly common place for those underage to be in possession of these devices. These are often brightly coloured, and flavoured with sweet tastes which seem almost to be designed for children. It is of vital importance that you and your child are aware of the potential health implications of this new trend. Action for Children have published a page on the matter. Please follow the link below to find out more:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

Harvest Festival

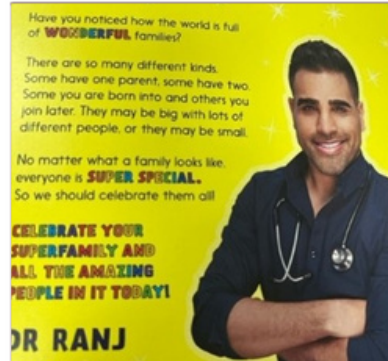
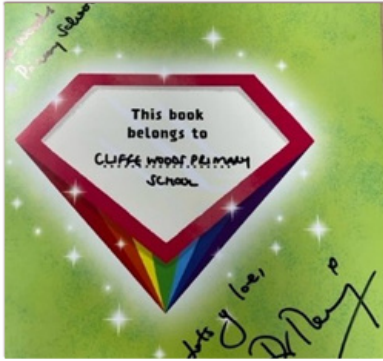
We are holding our annual harvest festival assembly on Tuesday, 17th October, and Caring Hands Charity will be leading the assembly. If you are able to donate any items from the list below on or before the 17th October, we know the charity would be most grateful. The following link will tell you how this important organisation helps local people in times of need: <https://www.caringhands.org.uk/>

Baked beans	Pasta
Soups – any flavours	Ketchup, ground salt & black pepper
Tuna	Rice
Vegetables – any variety	Smash
Tomatoes	Tea and Coffee
Spaghetti/ravioli	Sugar
Hot dogs	Powdered milk
Potatoes	Noodles
Fruit – any variety	Savoury rice
Rice pudding	Various cooking sauces (jar or packet)
Custard – tinned and powdered	Pasta sachets (e.g. mug shots)



Diversity

We are very fortunate that one our parents is related to the television personality and children's author, Doctor Ranj, and he has kindly donated and signed a copy of his new book, A Super Family Like Ours, for the school.



Finally

Thank you for all your support for our wonderful school, and we look forward to another successful and fun year!

Yours sincerely

Ket Connolly

Diary Dates

Dates for the Diary

Please take a careful look at the following dates, all of which can be found on the Events Calendar on the school website, and make a note of any that may affect your child.

Thursday 28th September	Dolphin Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Friday 29th September	Staff Development Day (School Closed to Pupils)
Thursday 5th October	CENSUS DAY
	Shark Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Friday 6th October	Yr 1 Phonics Meeting at 9.00am
Monday 9th October	New Year R 2024 Open Day Tour
	PTA Second hand uniform sale at 3.15pm
Tuesday 10th October	Flu Vaccinations
	PTA Meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday 12th October	New Year R 2024 Open Day Tour
Tuesday 17th October	New Year R 2024 Open Day Tour
	Harvest Festival
Wednesday 18th October	Individual and Sibling Photographs
Thursday 19th October	Wear It Pink Day
	Shoebox Appeal – last day for donations
	Last day of Term

Have Your Say Meetings:

Friday 3rd November at 9.00am
Tuesday 6th February at 2.30pm
Friday 19th April at 9.00am

