



Dear Parents and Carers,

Charity Events

The children really got into the spirit of Children in Need on Friday 17th November, and as always, the generosity of our community was incredible. Through wearing something spotty, we raised £505.54 for this worthwhile charity.



The next pupil-led fundraiser is planned for the week beginning 27th November, when a group of Year 5 pupils will be selling a range of items to Key Stage 2 children to raise money for the RSPCA.

Book Fayre

The book fayre will be open on 23rd and 24th November after school in the school hall, so please do come along and browse the wonderful books on offer. Payment will be by card only.



Fireworks

Our annual fireworks event was a resounding success, and the display was, according to many of our visitors, the best they had ever seen. Whilst we have had some comments relating to the timing of the event and the concerns about local wildlife, we did consider this. We believe that by holding an organised, safe display that lasts for just 15 minutes, this reduces the number of smaller displays that can last for hours or days. We also reduced the noise levels of the fireworks in comparison to previous years. Our event was held on the first evening after the 5th November where the following day was not a school day.

We raised the magnificent sum of £1,787.18, which will go towards enhancing the opportunities for the children and each year group will get a share of this for resources in their areas.

A big thank you to all those involved, and to our dedicated staff for giving up their own time to make the event such a success.



Have your Say

We had one email in advance of the last 'Have Your Say' meeting, which was around the Year 6 roles and responsibilities. Following on from that, and discussion with the Year 6 team, it has been agreed that there would be a period of announcing the roles over several assemblies, so that the roles are not all given out in one go. The other point agreed was to reduce the number of prefects and other roles, so that fewer than 50% of the year group in future will have roles. We also considered rotating some of the roles, in particular those of the playground leaders, as there are always children who would like to take the role on for a period of time, but not necessarily the whole year. Hopefully this will reduce the risk of children feeling disheartened by the allocation of the roles.



Diversity

Mr Chaggar and Mr Upple, from the Medway Towns Gurdwara, visited to deliver a whole school assembly on Diwali. They spoke about the religious festival from both a Hindu and Sikh perspective, giving details of the stories behind the festival. They spoke about our core value of respect and how Sikhism is a faith that believes everyone is equal. Mr Upple also spoke about how we must respect each other, regardless of religion and beliefs etc.

At the end of the assembly, a special diva lamp was lit, and music was played for a moment of reflection. The pupils from across both KS1 and KS2 also had some great questions for our visitors!



We also welcomed Clifford, the Vicar from St. Helen's Church in Cliffe, for an assembly last week. Clifford introduced himself to the whole school, spoke about his life before becoming a vicar and then showed us the different gowns and special clothes that he wears for different occasions. We even had a Year 6 pupil modelling these clothes! We look forward to welcoming Clifford again for further assemblies and visits throughout the year.



Clifford also shared an opportunity for our pupils to be involved in decorating St. Helen's Church with angels. The challenge is to make, craft, model or draw an angel to add to the collection, which will be displayed in the church on Christmas Eve. These can be made as a class or group or individually, they can be taken personally to St. Helen's before Christmas Eve, but we will be taking any that our children make, either at home or school, to the church in advance of Christmas Eve. I have attached a poster with the details.



Reading Ambassadors



The reading ambassadors continue to promote reading across the school and are keen for us to run our Christmas Reading Bingo challenge again this year!

A grid will be sent home with each child later this term and the aim is for them to read or listen to as many stories, audio books, magazines or information texts as possible so they can tick off all of the boxes on their grid and potentially receive a small prize. This is an optional activity but the purpose of it is to really promote a love of reading and perhaps for the children to try reading something different, for example reading some poetry, therefore, we would like the children to read or listen to the books listed rather than simply find examples of each. The grids should be returned to school in January.



Equality Safe/Agents for Change

Our newly appointed Agents for Change have worked on, and shared, the child-friendly version of the Anti-Bullying Policy, which is now on our website. The Agents for Change are very visible in school, with their badges on display.

We were so proud of these pupils, who also took part in the Equality Ambassador training last week. They joined in activities where they explored what identity is, the different types of prejudice and looked at case studies. They approached the day with such maturity and truly did the school proud with their compassionate and insightful responses and ideas. This group of pupils, now known as our Agents for Change, will be leading on a whole school project to educate others on prejudice and discrimination and ways to challenge this. So far, they have suggested the introduction of boxes for each class so children can privately share their feelings, concerns or ideas, along with creating their own educational video to be shared across the school community. We will continue to update you on their progress.

PTA

The Wonka bar sale was a resounding success and we would like to thank the PTA for their hard work in organising this. Over 800 bars were sold to excited children and determined parents in all weathers! The prizes were well-received, and the children are looking forward to having a special class non-uniform day, earning lots of Dojos and being Head of School for a day! Thanks also to the school for all the prize donations and help with the printing. Team work has yet again really shone through. Alongside this, very welcome additional funds of £849.72 were raised for the school.



The Christmas Fayre is also planned for Friday 8th December, where there will be stalls, refreshments and carols to prepare us for Christmas.



The Christmas wrap, where your children get to choose a present for their families, is also planned for Monday 18th December.

Details of these events will be sent via the PTA newsletter. These events raise additional funds for the school, enabling us to purchase resources to enhance the experiences of the children, so we would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to support the school.



Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe in Sport - NSPCC

Sport is a fantastic thing for children and young people. It helps them socialise, keeps them fit and more importantly can introduce them into an interest for life. One which will increase their quality of life far into the future, setting good habits and instilling values and self-discipline. Engaging with them in this manner can show them new directions for their lives and expand their opportunities. Unfortunately there are, like with anything, risks attached. To help head off these potential problems, the NSPCC has created a page dedicated to offering guidance on how to keep pupils safe in sporting environments. To find out more please follow the link below:

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents>



New Member of staff

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs D Harrison, who has joined our EYFS team. She is not to be confused with Mrs A Harrison, who is already part of that team! We know the new Mrs Harrison will be a great addition to the team, and her years of experience working with pre-school children will support the progress and learning of all the children in early years.



Social Media

Don't forget to register for our social media platforms, so that you can keep in touch with exciting events. If you have yet to register to follow, 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.



Surveys

Thank you to those parents/carers who completed our most recent parent survey. As stated in the email, this gives us an opportunity to respond to general concerns and for us to see whether there is a pattern or trend for us to tackle. Any individual concerns should always be addressed via the class teacher or the leadership team.

There were many positive comments about the range of extra-curricular opportunities that we offer, alongside a few concerns about the after-school clubs, and the difficulty with getting places on some of these clubs. Whilst we appreciate that not all children can get a place on the club of their choice, we offer a very wide range of clubs, using additional sports funding to employ a sports coach. The other clubs are all run by teachers on a voluntary basis, who give up their time to provide extra-curricular opportunities for the children. The timetable for these clubs is set out at the beginning of the year, but we will continue to look at ways we can improve this offer still further.

Some comments were also raised about communication and use of contact books. I have shared specific comments with individual teachers but would remind you that the regular newsletters always have a list of future events at the bottom. Dates are also available on the website calendar. Parents and carers can contact class teachers via email as well as contact books, which can often be a more efficient way of communicating.

Whilst we received some feedback regarding inclusivity, we are very proud to celebrate diversity and inclusion in our school. Details of how we do this are in the regular newsletters as well as on our website. We have, as mentioned above, appointed several Year 5 children as Agents for Change, who are champions for equality and inclusion.

Feedback regarding dates of events in school has been considered, and when we set out dates for the next academic year, we will try to spread these events more evenly over the week. This year's calendar has already been set and dates are available on the website for your information.

With regards to curriculum information, don't forget to check out the curriculum page on the school website, which breaks down the content of each subject area, as well as detail for each key stage. The phonics section gives information about the sounds learnt at each phase.



After School Club

The after school club on Friday 15th December will only be open until 4:30pm due to staffing arrangements. Of course those who need to book on until 4:30pm on that day will still be able to do so.

Yours sincerely



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 23rd November
Friday 24th November

Tuesday 28th November
Thursday 30th November
Friday 1st December
Monday 5th December
Wednesday 6th December

Friday 8th December
Wednesday 13th December
Thursday 14th December
Friday 15th December
Wednesday 20th December
Friday 5th January
Monday 8th January
Friday 12th January

Book Fayre
Book Fayre
EYFS Bedtime Stories
Parent Consultations
Parent Consultations
PTA Non Uniform Day
PTA Meeting
Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Dinner(see menu attached, Arbor will show as the normal roast at the moment)
Christmas Fayre 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Year 2 Christmas Performance - 2pm
Year 1 Christmas Performance - 2pm
Year R Christmas Performance - 2pm
Last day of term (School closes at 2pm)
Inset Day - School closed for children
Term 3 Starts
Panto - Cinderella

Have Your Say Meetings:

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

