



Dear Parents and Carers,

Charity Events

At the beginning of this term, some of our generous Year 6 children sold a variety of cakes, bookmarks and loom bands and raised £78.25, which has been donated to our PTA. Thank you to them for their efforts.

Our Year 5 students have raised £280.00 for the RSPCA, by selling some delicious cakes and cookies, squishies and a variety of other goodies. Thank you to them for their efforts and we know the RSPCA will be grateful for the contribution.



Our next planned charity event will take place on 16th January for four days, where a group of our caring Year 4 children are raising money for an epilepsy charity.

Reading Ambassadors/Book Fayre

Thank you to all who supported our book fair, it was extremely popular and the children were keen to explore the books on offer. As a result of the books purchased over these two nights, the school earned rewards totalling £422, which we have spent on additional books for year group reading areas.



Diversity

Children in Key Stage two have had access to a live Hannukah lesson, to learn about how the festival is celebrated in Jewish households. A whole school assembly, where the Hannukah story was shared and candles were lit, has also taken place.



The Key Stage 2 choir were taken to Rochester Cathedral, where they joined several other local schools for a Christmas Carol service. The children did us proud and the event was a moving start to the Christmas period. They also sang at our Christmas Fayre, allowing our guests and visitors to enjoy the beautiful singing.



Sporting Achievements

Ewan in Year 5 has been selected for the U10's district cricket squad for 2024, which includes Medway, Maidstone & Swale. We are very proud of him and looking forward to hearing more about his successes!



Khairi in Year 6 continues to make excellent progress in his tennis journey. He has recently participated in two consecutive junior tennis tournaments at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca. Around 60 nations were represented in the two events with approximately 2,000 matches played across all age groups in total! Khairi had some excellent results, despite often having to play two matches a day. Khairi achieved a range of impressive placings, and following one of the draws was placed 5th in the 64-player draw, an amazing achievement!



Christmas Performances

Once again our wonderful children have shown us their talents in their Christmas performances. Our Year 2, 1 and R children have worked so hard to learn their lines and songs and are a real credit to you and to us.



Equally Safe/Agents for Change

The Agents for Change planned and delivered a PSHE lesson for Year 5, where they explored gender and stereotyping. They created some interesting discussions, and challenged stereotypical views, such as 'girls don't play football.' They also shared how difficult they thought being a teacher is!



Enrichment

Mrs Hyland and Mrs Connolly took 25 Year 5 and 6 children to BAE Systems, where they were given the opportunity to learn about how coding can be used in the real world. Once we were through the very tight security, the children had a great afternoon. They asked pertinent questions, identified how to try to solve real life problems, and worked with computing engineers on their projects.

There were gifts for all the participants, trophies for the 3rd place (Kyle, Natalia and Sukhmani) and 2nd place (Callie, Janet and Conifer in Year 5).



3rd Placed Team



2nd Placed Team

The winning team (Max and Fynn in Springbok Class) received a voucher to have a go on a flight simulator at BAE Systems.



Our Winners!

The children were a credit to the school, and we look forward to seeing their computing careers develop!



All hard at work!

The PTA continue to work tirelessly to 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.

Recently they held a successful bedtime story session for our youngest children in Reception. The children enjoyed wearing their pyjamas, snuggling with their pillows and teddies and listening to a range of stories. They also enjoyed cookies and chocolate milk, supplied by the PTA.



The Christmas Fayre has also recently taken place, and details of the funds raised will be shared in the New Year. The online raffle was a great success, making it easier to buy tickets via an app and a QR code. There was also a visit from the big man himself, who made many children's day!



Collaborative Learning

You may have heard some of your children using the term 'Kagan Structures' about how they work collaboratively with their peers. We are planning a Kagan parent workshop to take place on Friday 26th January straight after drop-off, so you can find out for yourselves what this is all about.



Safeguarding

The online safeguarding newsletter was sent out recently, and is also on our website.

Five to Thrive – supporting your child's brain development

Early life experiences, both positive and negative, affect the way our brain cells connect and, therefore shape the journey into adulthood. A positive relationship between parent/carer and child supports the child's healthy brain development. Understanding brain development can be difficult but experts in the field, called Knowledge Change Action Ltd (KCA), have created a simple and effective approach called Five to Thrive.

Five to Thrive is based on five key activities that are the building blocks of healthy communication and brain development, these are: Respond, Cuddle/Engage, Relax, Play and Talk. There are lots of websites with information about this approach but we have included a link to the Barnardo's page as this has lots of useful information that can help with babies right up to the teenage years.

[Healthy brain development with Five to Thrive | Barnardo's Family Space \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

The Five to Thrive activities are important at all ages and stages of your child's life, so it's never too late to start.



Social Media

Following feedback regarding social media, we have decided to focus on using Instagram as a way of sharing events, good news etc, alongside our newsletters and web site. We will no longer be using X (formerly Twitter) due to issues with deleting expired accounts.

If you would like to be added to our Instagram account, please email socialmedia@cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk with details of your child's name and class and Instagram handle. You will then be given access to Instagram.



Parking

I know we have asked this in the past, but I would like to remind you again of the importance of considerate parking when you are collecting or dropping your children at school. Parking on corners of junctions or on the yellow zigzags can threaten the safety of our children and the wider community when crossing the road. It is also important to consider the school's neighbours and to not block their driveways. The local authority CCTV vehicle does visit the school site from time to time to identify these hazards, and they will issue parking fines to anyone parking illegally.



Finally

This just leaves me to say have a wonderful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming your children and you back on Monday 8th January, and hearing all about how the children have spent their Christmas holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Connolly
Head of School

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY &
NEW YEAR



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.

Wednesday 20th December

Friday 5th January

Monday 8th January

Tuesday 9th January

Wednesday 10th January

Thursday 11th January

Friday 12th January

Friday 19th January

Thursday 25th January

Friday 26th January

Tuesday 30th January

Wednesday 31st January

Thursday 1st February

Last Day of Term (School closes at 2pm)

Inset Day – School closed for children

Term 3 – All children return to school

New Year R Parent Tour

PTA Meeting at 7.00pm (Cliffe Village Club)

MYG Cross Country (Capstone Park)

DICE Parenting Programme

Panto in school - Cinderella

Choir to sing at the O2

MYG Swimming (Medway Park)

HMD event at Chatham Memorial

Synagogue at 6pm

Kagan Parent Workshop at 9:00 am

Gosling Stay & Play at 2.00pm

Puggles Stay & Play at 2.00pm

Tiger Class Assembly at 2.30pm

Trust Recruitment Fayre at 3.30pm being held at St George's C of E Primary Phase School, Westcott Avenue

Have Your Say Meetings:

Tuesday 6th February at 2.30pm

Friday 19th April at 9.00am

