



Cliffe Woods Primary School

25th January 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of January. We have had a great start to the year, and the children have already clocked up some amazing achievements.

The sports successes will be shared in the separate sports newsletter, which will be coming out soon.



Charity Events

Some of our wonderful Year 4 pupils sold a range of cakes and other goodies to raise funds for a charity very close to their hearts that supports children with epilepsy. They raised a total of £145.56 which we know will be very well received.

In the week beginning 5th February another generous group of Year 4 children will be selling bookmarks, keyrings and cookies, as well as 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' to raise money for medical research.

We are very proud of our children and their commitment to supporting others, but as I have said previously, we are aware of the cost-of-living crisis, so do try to spread the children's charity events out over the year.

We are also running the very successful and popular Danceathon that we ran last year. This will take place on Wednesday 21st February, straight after school. Details have been sent out via Arbor where you can also book your space for this event, and the funds raised will go towards the PTA.



Excellence From All

Numbers Day

We will be taking part in the Trust numbers' day on Friday 2nd February. Children should come to school in their normal school uniform with a number theme (example sheet attached). We are looking forward to exciting numbers-based activities on that day.



O2 Young Voices

We had the pleasure of taking 42 children from Year 2 through to Year 6 to participate in the largest children's choir in the World. They were true ambassadors for the school, behaved impeccably and to hear over 7,500 children, including ours, singing in unison was truly uplifting. A bit thank you to Mrs Hatton and Mrs Butcher for leading the choir, and for Miss Ward for accompanying us on the trip.



Musical Opportunities

Medway Music Association and Dynamics are offering a range of musical opportunities over the Easter break. These include face to face sessions at a low cost, and free online sessions. I have attached the flyers and booking forms for your information.



Reading Ambassadors

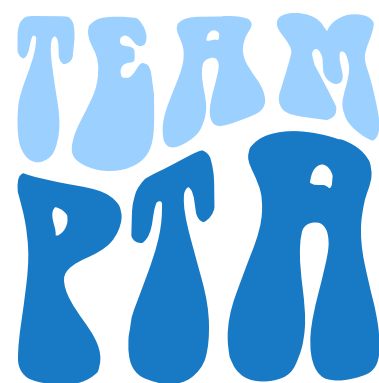


Our reading ambassadors visited classes across the school last week, to reward those who successfully completed the Christmas reading bingo challenge. Thank you to all who took part or supported this. The participants were excited to receive a magnetic bookmark for their prize.

PTA

The PTA have planned some exciting and new activities for the coming months ahead. These include a craft fair on March 17th and a summer festival on 29th June. Further details will follow in the PTA newsletter. The much-loved discos are also taking place on 7th February, and you will have received an email explaining how to book your child a place.

We have some exciting ideas for ways to use some of the funds that the PTA have raised, and following our next PTA meeting, we will be able to share this with you.



Diversity

Year 4 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Medway Towns Gurdwara, and experienced rich hospitality as well as learning about how Sikhs worship together.



Six children from Year 6 are representing the school at the Holocaust Memorial Day event at Chatham Memorial Synagogue on Thursday 25th January. This annual commemorative event highlights how the lessons learnt from the Holocaust and more recent atrocities can be used to prevent them happening again.

Our Agents for Change led a thought-provoking assembly this week on the theme of identity and identity-based bullying. They spoke with all of the pupils about what identity means and how when we attack part of a person's identity, we attack all people who share that characteristic. They discussed how it's important to think before we speak and gave the children some positive ways to be an upstander rather than a bystander when they see or hear unkindness, without putting themselves into an unsafe situation.

There has been a reported incident when a parent overheard a child making a racist comment whilst collecting her child from school. We would like to remind all of you that we never tolerate any form of racist abuse, or any case of treating people differently due to a protected characteristic. We have spoken to all the upper key stage 2 children about this and held an assembly last week on racism. We would really appreciate your support in sharing this message with your children too, so that they are clear that we are all working together.

Kegan Workshop

On Friday of this week, Mrs Robins and Miss Thomas will be leading a workshop on 'Kegan Structures', highlighting how children work collaboratively with their peers. We hope to welcome as many of you as possible to this workshop, please enter the main hall via the front playground for 9.00am.

Safeguarding

Medway Public Health are holding a multiagency 'marketplace' event called WELCOME TO MEDWAY on 13th February 10-1pm at All saints Church, Magpie Hall Road Chatham. They are also having a Family Fun Day at the same time over the road from the church at the Chatham Children and Family Hub. Please see attached poster with further details.

Child Mental Health Week 5th - 11th February

We are once again supporting Child Mental Health Week which, this year, has the theme 'My Voice Matters'. We want all children and young people to feel that they are listened to, and someone is taking notice of their thoughts, feelings and views. Research shows that children who feel that their voice really is heard, are more likely to have better self-esteem, self-efficacy and experience a greater sense of community.

In school, we will be working on a number of activities to promote the importance of sharing our feelings and opinions and to empower and celebrate each child's voice.

If you would like some further information on how you can also support your child at home, please see the information sheet attached.



Safer Internet Day - 6th February

Understanding how to stay safe online is always one of our priorities when teaching children about keeping safe, however, we will have a specific focus on key issues around internet safety on this date. As we all know, things change so quickly in the online world so this year the focus will be on AI, influencers, watching videos and playing online games safely. Please take a look at our monthly online safety newsletters too so that you can keep up to date with the latest guidance, issues and where to go to for further support.



Finally

I have once again been advised of a near miss on the road outside the school due to unsafe parking. Can I please ask you all to be considerate, and to think about the children's safety at all times, as we are really concerned that there could be a serious accident.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. Connolly'.

Mrs K Connolly
Head of School



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.

Friday 26th January	Kagan Parent Workshop at 9:00 am (Main Hall)
Tuesday 30th January	Gosling Stay & Play at 2.00pm
Wednesday 31st January	Puggles Stay & Play at 2.00pm
Thursday 1st February	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
Friday 2nd February	Numbers Day
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 9th February	Last Day of Term
Monday 19th February	All Pupils return to School
	Year 4 Swimming lessons start (every Monday)
Thursday 22nd February	Founders Day (Cubs/Scouts can wear their uniforms)
Thursday 29th February	Panther Class Assembly at 2.30pm

Have Your Say Meetings:

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

