



Cliffe Woods Primary School

18th March 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Sad News

We are sorry to have to let you know that our much-loved school crossing patrol officer of many years (Lollipop Lady), Carol Norton passed away recently. Carol was a regular outside the school for many years, helping to keep the children safe, prior to her retirement several years ago. Her family wanted the school community to pass on the details of her funeral, and all who knew her are welcome to attend the service.

The funeral cortege is planning to drive past the school at 1pm on Wednesday 10th April, where anyone can pay their respects. The funeral service will take place at 1:30pm at Waterford House Evangelical Free Church, 101 Rede Court Road, Strood, ME2 3TE. This will be followed by a cremation service at Thames View Crematorium, Gravesend Road, Shorne DA12 3JH at 3pm.

The family have requested that guests wear something red with their outfits, as Carol would have wanted everyone to celebrate her life.

Staffing

Mr French, who has been a larger-than-life figure in school for many years, is leaving us on Friday, 22nd March. We are very sorry to see him go, and wish him all the very best in the future. We know the children will miss his sense of fun and his computing knowledge.



Excellence From All

Charity Events

A group of Year 4 children worked very hard selling cookies, cakes and small crafts to Key Stage Two children to raise money for Cancer Research UK – a charity which we as a school support wholeheartedly. They did extremely well, raising £210.90 - so well done to them and thank you for supporting them.

On Friday 14th March the children and staff came to school dressed in red to raise funds for Comic Relief, and they all looked lovely in their variety of red outfits. Thank you for your kind donations – the total raised was £334.57

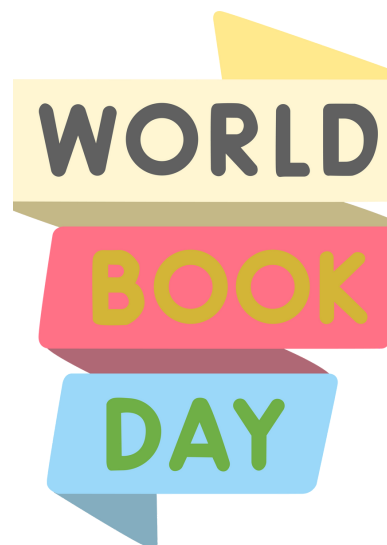


Our next charity event is this week, when another generous group of Year 4 children are selling a range of treats and items to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Please ask your children in Key Stage Two to look out for them in the courtyard.

Reading Ambassadors/World Book Day

The whole school had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day. The children (and staff!) looked fantastic in their costumes, and it was great listening to the children share why they had been inspired by the person they came dressed as. Other activities that day included a 'Where's Wally?' hunt on the playground and class pair ups where older and younger children got together to read and listen to stories.

We were also very fortunate to have the author and playwright, Sam Gayton, visit us and deliver a workshop with pupils in Key Stage Two. The children were entranced listening to Sam as he performed raps and read extracts from his latest book. For anyone who is interested, you can find out more about Sam and his books on his website [Sam Gayton](#) | [Author & Playwright](#)



Diversity

Mrs Galea-Baker is leading an assembly this week on neurodiversity, where she will talk to the children about a project called LEANS (Learning about Neurodiversity in Schools) and she will share a video to help children understand what neurodiversity means.





The Easter Fair took place on Sunday 17th March, and was a resounding success. The bonnets were spectacular, and the craft fairs and stalls were full of interesting goodies. A big thank you to the PTA and all who helped on the day; the total raised will be shared in due course. The winning Easter Bonnets were worn by Grace and Freddie.



The PTA are currently working on funding a major improvement to our playgrounds and the facilities within the playgrounds. Many of the future events will be focused on raising funds for this, which will enhance the enjoyment and experiences of the children when outside. We will keep you informed of the progress made towards this, and of any other ways that you may be able to help.

Mothers' Day Tea

The two mothers' day tea afternoons were very successful, with the family members enjoying scones, jam and cream as well as a welcome cuppa, served by their children. They also all received a growing daffodil arrangement, which looked beautiful and will give pleasure in the future as the bulbs continue to flower and multiply. The atmosphere was lovely, and we would like to extend our thanks to all the staff who worked so hard to make it happen, and in particular our fabulous administration team.



SATs

A reminder that our Year 6 pupils will be taking their external end of primary school assessments, SATs, during the week commencing 13th May. Please ensure all pupils are in school that week so that they can show the achievements that they have made since being at primary school.



SEND Events

Live Music Now is running two more social mornings of live music, conversation and refreshments in Medway Libraries. These events are for families of children and young people with additional learning needs and disabilities. The whole family is invited to enjoy a live music experience together! There are events at Lordswood Community Hub on 16th and 23rd March at 11am-12.30pm. Full details are in the attached poster and flyer.



Fidget Amnesty

Please see attached poster – we are holding a ‘fidget amnesty’ – if you have any unused fidgets that need a new home our children would love to have them to use in our quiet areas at lunchtimes.

Finally

We would like to wish you a lovely Easter break. Let's hope the sun shines and we manage to have some time in the great outdoors. Remember, school finishes for the children at **2pm on Wednesday 27th March** and we all return on **Monday 15th April**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ket 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.

Tuesday 19th March
Wednesday 20th March

Thursday 21st March
Wednesday 27th March

Thursday 28th March
Monday 15th April
Tuesday 16th April

Thursday 18th April
Tuesday 23rd April

Wednesday 24th April
Thursday 25th April
Thursday 2nd May

Yr 4 Music Extravaganza at 2.00pm & 5.30pm
Yr 3 Music Extravaganza at 2.00pm & 5.30pm
Trust Basketball Competition
Yr 1 & 2 Multiskills Competition
PTA Break the Rules Day
Last Day of Term – School closes at 2.00pm
Staff Development Day (no children in school)
All pupils return to school
MYG Netball Champion Series
Parent Consultations
Parent Consultations
MYG Netball Cup & Plate Competition
Puggles Stay & Play Phonics Session at 9.00am
Yr 5 Parent Residential Meeting at 6.00pm
Goslings Stay & Play Phonics Session at 9.00am
Kangaroo Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Koala Class Assembly at 2.30pm

Have Your Say Meetings:

Friday 19th April at 9.00am





All Together Now

A social morning of live music, conversation and refreshments in Medway Libraries.

These events are for families of children and young people with additional learning needs and disabilities around Medway. The whole family is invited to enjoy a live music experience together!

How To Book

To reserve a free place, telephone Medway Libraries on 01634 337799 or visit a library in Medway and ask staff to book a place for you.

Free to attend but due to limited capacity, booking is essential for each date. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Live Music Now's All Together Now concerts are a great opportunity for families with a child with additional learning needs and/or a disability, to come together and share an enjoyable morning in the company of Live Music Now musicians.

Each event has a 25 minute live music session, then a 20 minute refreshment break and chance to socialise, followed by a second 25 minute live music session. Free refreshments included.

Chatham Community Hub
Saturdays: 20 January & 3 February
11am - 12:30pm

Community Hub
Dock Road
Chatham, Kent
ME4 4TX

20 January - [Gavin Alexander](#) and [Elliott Morris](#)
3 February - [The Windy City Weatherbirds](#)



Hempstead Library
Saturdays: 17 Feb & 2 March
11am - 12:30pm

Hempstead Road
Gillingham, Kent
ME7 3QG

17 February - [Duo Furioso](#)
2 March - [Mary Reid](#)

Lordswood Community Hub
Saturdays: March 16 & March 23
11am - 12:30pm

Kestrel Road
Chatham, Kent
ME5 8TH

16 March - TBC
23 March - [FluteShake](#)



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY UKSPF, AND SUPPORTED
BY MEDWAY COUNCIL AND MEDWAY LIBRARIES.

livemusicnow.org.uk



Funded by
UK Government

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You

All Together Now, Medway

Saturdays 11am - 12:30pm

Family events for children with disabilities. These fantastic events are 90 minutes long and include 20 minutes of play and two 20-30 minute music sessions for families to have fun!

To book, call Medway Libraries on 01634 337799, use the QR code below to book online, or visit a library in Medway and ask staff to book a place for you.



Saturday 20 January
Chatham Community Hub
Gavin Alexander & Elliott
Morris



Saturday 3 February
Chatham Community Hub
The Windy City Weatherbirds



Saturday 17 February
Hempstead Library
Duo Furioso



Saturday 2 March
Hempstead Library
Mary Reid Morris



Saturday 16 March
Lordswood Library
TBC



Saturday 23 March
Lordswood Library
Fluteshake



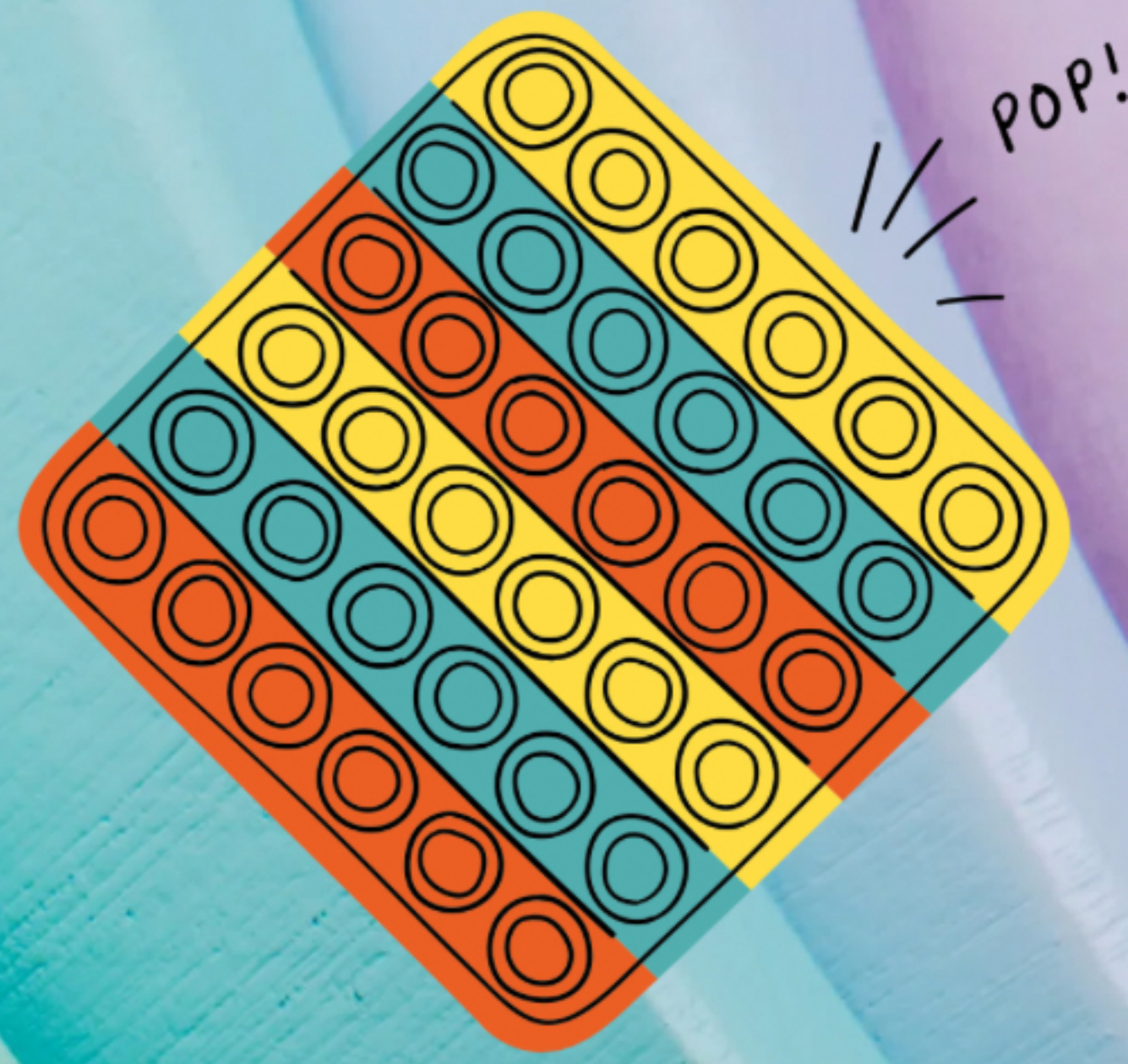
Funded by
UK Government

**LEVELLING
UP**

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You



***Do you have
any fidget
toys hanging
around not
being used?***



We're holding a Fidget Amnesty

***We would love for the
children to be able to use
fidget toys at playtimes!***



***Any donations
greatly
appreciated
and can be
handed in at
the coffee box
or the office.
THANK YOU!***