



Dear Parents and Carers,

Speaking Competition

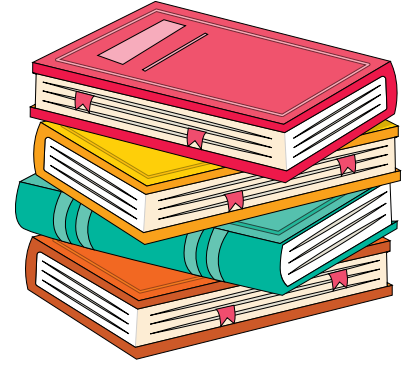
We are so proud of the children who took part in the first Trust speaking competition. The class winners were treated to a session with a storyteller, followed by a masterclass in public speaking.

We held the final of our school competition on Monday 25th March, and selecting a winner from the amazing competitors was very difficult. With the help of one of our Governors, we came to a decision, and the winner was Aubree in Year 3. She will go on to represent the school at Trust level later in the year, as well as having an exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament with the other school winners next month. We wish her the very best for this.



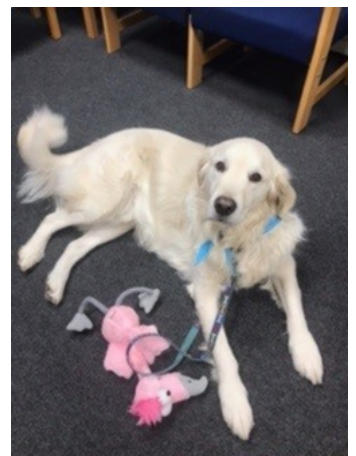
Books

We are very fortunate that the PTA continue to fund the annual trips to Waterstones in order to replenish our libraries in Key Stage 2, but we have noticed that a large number of books that children have taken home to read have not been returned. Could we ask that you check your child's book collections to check whether any school books have been mixed up with their own books



Charity Events

On Tuesday 23rd April, several of our Year 5 students are raising funds for Canine Concern. This is the charity that provides our wonderful therapy dog, Barney, and they will be selling loom bands, clay balls, squishies and some sweet treats to our Key Stage 2 children. This is a charity that is very close to our hearts, as many of our children benefit from spending time with Barney, so we appreciate the children's efforts and your generosity



Carol Norton

Thank you to those of you who managed to line the road outside the school to say goodbye to Carol, our much loved 'Lollipop Lady'. We are also very grateful to the Ansell family, who created and donated a wonderful floral tribute to Carol. We will use the equivalent cost of this tribute to purchase some plants for Mr Allen's garden.



Reading Ambassadors

Our Reading Ambassadors continue to work on ways to encourage our pupils to read for pleasure. They have recently been investigating the types of books our children are keen to read and would like us to put out a request for any second-hand books of the following genres/titles, that can be added to our outdoor reading shed in time for the summer:

Comic style books/graphic novels

Diary of a Wimpy Kid or Dog-Man

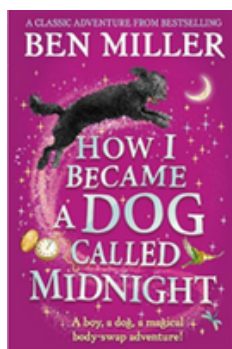
Any of the Tree House stories

Wiggle Bottom Primary series

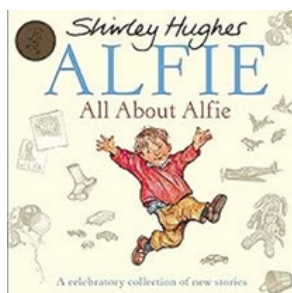
Information books about animals

This month, the ambassadors are recommending two books.

‘How I Became a Dog Called Midnight’ by Ben Miller, is about a boy called George who has always wondered what it's like to be a dog. After a magical mix-up one night, he swaps places with a huge dog called Midnight and the adventures begin!



‘ALL About Alfie’ is a classic book, written in the 70s by Shirley Hughes. This one is a collection of little stories about Alfie and his friends that is great for younger children to enjoy.



Breakfast and After School Clubs

Our breakfast and after school clubs are becoming increasingly popular, so if you would like your child to attend one of the sessions it is essential that you pre-book on Arbor so that we can ensure we have correct staff/child ratio. We have had several children attending the facility without pre-booking, and we cannot guarantee a place for children who are not pre-booked.

Sporting Achievement

We are delighted to say that we have another budding success story in football. Mason in Year 6 has been signed for Chatham Town Under 12s, and he plays up front. We are very proud of his achievements.



Diversity/Agents for Change

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, as a school we have been working to complete the Equally Safe programme through the Equaliteach organisation. The aim of this is to continue to find ways to promote equality, tackle prejudice and educate young people about the harms of bullying. We want to ensure our pupils have the knowledge and confidence to feel empowered in calling out bullying and prejudice when they see it and become active citizens who work for change.

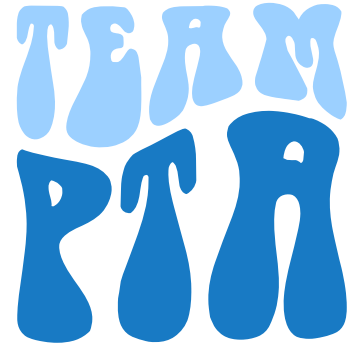
We wanted to share with you the feedback we recently received from the Equaliteach representative who came to deliver training at our school. She was so impressed with our Agents for Change initiatives and all the good things we have been doing in the school that she asked if they could use our school as a case study to showcase 'outstanding practice' on their website. Obviously, we are very proud of our pupils here at Cliffe Woods and it's wonderful to have the work we have been doing on equality, diversity and inclusion acknowledged in this way. Although we have come to the end of this part of the programme and have now been awarded our Equally Safe mark, the work of course does not stop there.

Escape Room

We have had our last visit from the team at Medway's escape room for our current year 6 on Monday. They all really enjoyed the experience, and the feedback we had from the team delivering the activity was incredible. They said how well-behaved and engaged our children were, and what a lovely school this is. Definitely something to share with you and our school community!

PTA

The PTA are holding several events in the coming months, including a bingo night on 26th April. As previously mentioned, they are working on funding a major improvement to our playgrounds and the facilities within the playgrounds, and we look forward to seeing some amazing additions to our playgrounds.



Trust Choir Concert

The annual Trust concert took place at Woodville Halls at the end of last month. This was also a celebration of ten years of the Aletheia Trust, and it was a joy to hear all the schools singing together. Our children were shining stars as always! A big thank you to Mrs Butcher and Mrs Greening for leading the choir, and Mrs Greening for participating in the staff choir too.



Ukulele Festival

We were delighted to see some of our Year 4 children perform on their ukuleles at Chatham Central Theatre, as part of Medway Music Association's Ukulele festival. They did us proud, and we have some budding musicians amongst our pupils.

Medway Music Association's FREE Weekly Online Music Tech Sessions run via Zoom on Tuesdays 16:30 – 17:30 during term time only.

These sessions are for pupils aged 9 – 18 (year 5 – year 13) and cater for complete beginners through to the more advanced.

These sessions will offer pupils the chance to work with an online Digital Audio Workstation - Bandlab. Pupils will learn how to create music electronically and production techniques such as looping, automation and sampling, as well as creating music for specific purposes, e.g. music for adverts, films etc.

We have attached the registration form for pupils to register now for Term 5 which starts on Tuesday 23rd April.



Finally

As we are now coming into the warmer season (although the last few days haven't been a good start to this!), we would ask that the children have water bottles and hats in school. We will hopefully be able to use the field at lunchtimes soon, and as there is little shade please ensure that your children have sunscreen on too.

A reminder that we are holding a SEND coffee afternoon on Wednesday May 15th at 2:30pm, and that all parents/carers are welcome. Jayne Sweeney, our link school nurse and Scott Baggley, a mental health support practitioner, will be joining us to discuss issues of sleep and anxiety. We hope that you will be able to join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Yours sincerely



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 23rd April	MYG Netball Cup & Plate Competition Puggles Stay & Play Phonics Session at 9.00am Yr 5 Parent Residential Meeting at 6.00pm
Wednesday 24th April	Goslings Stay & Play Phonics Sessions at 9.00am
Thursday 25th April	Kangaroo Class Assembly at 2.30pm PTA Meeting at 7.30pm
Friday 26th April	PTA Bingo Night at 6.30pm
Thursday 2nd May	Yr 3 Trip to Living Land (Leaving school at 8.30am) Koala Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY (School closed)
Wednesday 8th May	Yr 6 Parent Residential Meeting (final details) at 6.00pm
Wednesday 15th May	SEND Coffee Meeting at 2.30pm
Tuesday 21st May	MYG Tag Rugby Champion Series
Wednesday 22nd May	Yr 5 Production at 2.00pm Yr 5 Production at 6.00pm
Thursday 23rd May	MYG Tag Rugby Cup & Plate Competition
Friday 24th May	Last Day of Term

Have Your Say Meetings:

Friday 19th April at 9.00am

