



Cliffe Woods Primary School

9th October 2024 Newsletter



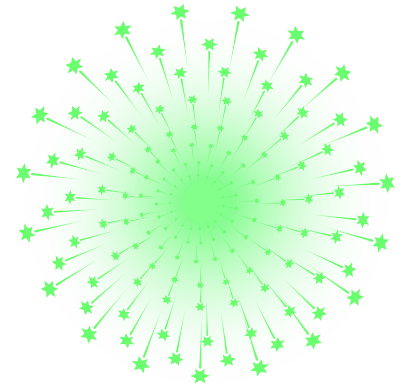
Dear Parents and Carers,

The first few weeks of term have passed so quickly, and our new pupils have settled in really well – a testament to them, you and our fabulous staff!

Now that the weather is turning colder can I remind you to ensure your child has a named coat in school, as we do go outside whenever possible and in most weathers!

Fireworks

Our annual firework spectacular display will take place on Friday 8th November. Further details will follow shortly, with tickets going on sale very soon. We hope as many of you as possible are able to support this event, and enjoy a firework display in a safe environment.



Arbor App

Please can all parents ensure they have signed up to the Arbor App. Please check that all your contact and emergency contacts, as well as all other information that we hold on the system is up to date. We use Arbor as our main source to contact parents regarding events, parents evening bookings, clubs etc. Please contact the school office if you have any problems.



Excellence From All

Charity

Cliffe Woods families and staff have, very generously, donated filled shoeboxes to the Blythwood Christmas shoebox appeal over the past few years. We are signed up again this year to take part. If you are interested in joining in, a checklist and instructions can be found here;

<https://blythwood.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Blythwood-Shoe-Box-Appeal-Leaflet-2024-1.pdf>

We also have some hard copies of the leaflet to send home if you prefer. Please note that some items are not accepted e.g. chocolate or toys related to war. All details can be found on the checklist.

When your shoebox is complete, please bring into school by Monday 4th November (the start of Term 2). Many thanks!

Our first pupil-led charity took place at the end of September, in aid of the charity 'Tiny Tickers'. The Year 4 children (Ada, Sophia K, Grace, Chloe M and Isla C) sold a range of goodies, including scrunchies, and raised nearly £150 – well done to them.

Our next planned pupil-led charity is for the week beginning 14th October, where some Year 6 children will be selling cupcakes and other goodies at breaktime for Key Stage 2 children in aid of a charity very close to our hearts, the AT Society. We are also dedicating our Christmas Jumper Day this year to the AT Society, on 5th December, which is the same day as the Christmas Dinner.

We are also recognising 'Wear it Pink' day in aid of breast cancer. This has been scheduled in our diary for Tuesday 22nd October, where the children can come to school in something pink and make a small donation to this very important charity for a disease that has affected many of us and our families/friends.

Children in Need falls on Friday 15th November, and children will be able to make a small donation to this charity on that day and wear something spotty. We also have a group of year 4 children (Marnie, Aubree, Jessica and Ava) selling small items that same week (11th to 14th November) also in aid of Children in Need.



Child Friendly Medway

Medway Council have launched a Young Citizens Award, which is aimed at recognising and celebrating children and young people who have done something outstanding, made a difference in their school or community, or have overcome challenges.

Children and young people from year 3 to the end of year 6 (ages 7 to 11) attending a Medway school or living in Medway can be recognised by parents, carers, community members, other pupils, friends, and school staff for going above and beyond. They can also self-nominate.

A Medway Young Citizen could be a child or young person who:

- is an anti-bully ambassador
- clears litter
- helps an elderly resident
- is polite
- cares for animals
- learns or shares a creative skill
- is a good friend
- is courageous or compassionate
- or something else that needs recognising!
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The scheme will launch on November 1st, and for more information please log in to Medway Council's website [Medway Young Citizens Award](#) | [Medway Young Citizens Award](#) | [Medway Council](#)

Music

We have been offered the opportunity for children to learn the piano and violin during school hours, arranged by the PianoFunClub. Lessons can be arranged on an individual basis or in pairs. Details of this and the prices are in the attached flyer, or you can book online at <https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/parent-page>



Medway Music Association's FREE Weekly Online Music Tech Sessions run on Tuesdays 16:30 – 17:30 during term time only will start again on Tuesday 5th November.

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

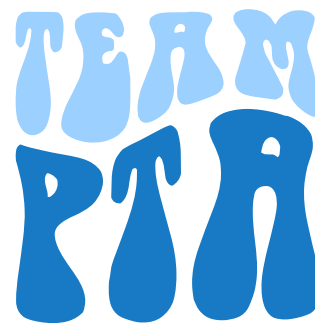
We have attached the registration form for pupils to register now for November. Full details can also be found at

[Free Online Music Technology](#) | [medmusic \(medwaymusicassociation.co.uk\)](#)



Excellence From All

The PTA continue to support the school by funding a range of extra-curricular events as well as improvements to the playgrounds. So far this year the PTA has funded science workshops for all children, consumables for the playground and the pantomime for EYFS and Key Stage One in December.



The discos take place this week and we know the children and staff are looking forward to dancing the night away!

Once again we would like to thank our PTA, unsung heroes who work tirelessly for the school on a voluntary basis.



Diversity

As a school we have previously acknowledged the 'Show Racism the Red Card' day, and we are doing this again this year. Wear Red Day 2024 will take place on Friday, 18th October, and all children will be encouraged to wear something red. The mantra 'Change Hearts. Change Minds. Change Lives' will be shared with the children, and we will remind them that we are upstanders, not bystanders, and that we challenge any prejudicial behaviour. We are in the process of appointing our new 'Agents for Change' and they will continue the excellent work of the children who took on these roles last year.

We would also like to recognise that Sunday, 6th October was World Cerebral Palsy Day. World Cerebral Palsy Day is a global movement that started in 2012. Last year, it reached over 10 million people. It aims to bring together people living with cerebral palsy, their families, supporters and organisations from over 100 countries. All with the aim to ensure a future in which children and adults with cerebral palsy have the same rights, access and opportunities as anyone else in our society. Some members of staff have worn green in acknowledgement of the day, and Chloe in Year 4 has shared with her peer's what life is like living with Cerebral Palsy.



Sporting Achievements

We are thrilled to share that Ewan in Year 6 has been selected to play cricket for the Regional Squad, and we can't wait to hear how he gets on!



Jude in Year 3 plays football for a team, Next Level, and was very fortunate to be able to play at Manchester United against their youth academy teams. Jude scored one of his team's goals at the historic Cliff Training Ground in Manchester, and his team fought hard against some superbly talented players. He now has games against Leyton Orient FC and Fulham FC – we are looking forward to hearing great things as Jude's journey continues.



Safeguarding

I hope that you have had a chance to read our latest online safety newsletter – this will keep you up to date with the latest online safety advice. It can also be accessed on our website - <https://www.cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk/news/newsletters/>

Reading Ambassadors

We have been very lucky already this term to welcome two inspirational authors to meet our children virtually. Year 5 met Katherine Rundell; the children found it really inspiring and some are now writing their own chapter books using her writing tips! They have also chosen her work for their next class read.



On Tuesday 24th September Year 3 had a special zoom meeting with the author and presenter, Hamza Yassin. Hamza is a wildlife photographer who was inspired by some of the greatest wildlife figures, such as Sir David Attenborough and Steve Irwin. Hamza has travelled all over the world and shared some of his amazing stories with the children. He also highlighted that he has quite severe dyslexia, however that did not stop him writing a book to share with the world. He told us that dyslexia is his super power and he was explaining that without it, he would not be where he is today.



Remembrance day

As you are all aware, Remembrance Day falls on the 11th of November. We have been approached by Medway District Scouts who have asked that their members are permitted to wear their uniforms on Remembrance Day to honour and commemorate the sacrifices made by members of our armed forces. We have agreed to this request, so if your child is a member of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts they can wear their uniforms to school on Monday November 11th.

We will also extend this to members of Girlguiding, so if your child is a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide they can also wear their uniforms to school on Monday November 11th.

Walk to School/School Street

It is lovely to see so many more of our children walking to school, and I know some of you are parking and striding. This makes the road outside the school safer for our families. As you know, the Local Authority are consulting on creating a 'School Street' to keep our children safe outside the school. If you would like to share your views, please ensure you respond by Sunday 27th October, when the consultation period closes.

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>



Pantomines

We are delighted to share that the PTA have agreed to fund a pantomime for our EYFS and Key stage One children, which will take place in school in December. We are also welcoming the theatre company who performed for the whole school previously back to school in January, where all the children will be able to enjoy the fun of the pantomime for a very small cost.

Whilst on the subject of pantomimes, we are super proud of Logan P in Year 6, who auditioned and won a part in the pantomime to be shown at Woodville Halls in Gravesend. This is a fabulous achievement, and it would be lovely if any of our families are able to go to the performances that he is in. The pantomime is Jack and the Beanstalk, and Logan will be in the following performances:

Sunday 8th December, 1pm; Friday 13th December, 7pm; Monday 16th December, 5:30pm; Saturday 21st December, 11 am; Sunday 22nd December, 5pm; Tuesday 24th December, 4pm; Friday 27th December, 1pm; Sunday 29th December, 1pm; Tuesday 31st December, 12pm; Friday 3rd January, 1pm and Sunday 5th January, 1pm.

Tots and Toys Baby Group

Tots and Toys Group is held on a Thursday morning from 9.00am -10.15am in the dining hall. The ladies who currently run the club will be leaving at the end of this school year as their children will be joining Year R. If you are interested in helping to run the club from next September please pop in and see them on a Thursday.



Finally

Can I please ask that you collect your children on time. I know that in the past if parents/carers have arrived late we have been able to look after children in the after school club, but the after school club has become very popular and bookings are often near to capacity, so we are unable to care for children there. We appreciate that sometimes traffic issues etc. cannot be avoided, and are sympathetic to that, but there are some children who are rarely collected on time, adding additional strain on our staff and after school club numbers. If children are consistently collected late, we will have no choice other than to add them to our after school club numbers and then charge parents for that time.

Whilst on the subject of wraparound care, our breakfast club is also often close to or at capacity, and it is essential that children are booked on in advance, otherwise we may not be able to accommodate them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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.

Wednesday 9th October	PTA Discos
Friday 11th October	Phonics Information Session for Year 1 - 2.45pm
	Parent Wellbeing Coffee Morning - 9.30am
Monday 14th October	PTA Secondhand Uniform Sale - 3.00pm
Tuesday 15th October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Wednesday 16th October	Individual & Sibling Photos
Monday 21st October	Flu vaccination
Tuesday 22nd October	Wear It Pink Day
	Last Day of Term 1
Wednesday 23rd October	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
Monday 4th November	First Day of Term 2
Wednesday 6th November	Have Your Say Meeting - 9.00am
Friday 8th November	Fireworks Night - (further information to follow)
Thursday 21st November	Hippopotamus Class Assembly - 2.30pm
Friday 22nd November	EYFS PTA Bedtime Stories - 5.00pm

Have Your Say Meetings:

Wednesday 6th November at 9am
Tuesday 4th February at 2.30pm
Monday 23rd June at 2.30pm