



Cliddesden Primary School
Headteacher's Newsletter
Autumn Term Issue 5
12 November 2021

Dear Parents and members of the school community



This week I have enjoyed 'walking the school' and dipping into lessons as part of my monitoring of teaching and learning across the school. I have seen some wonderful work and high-quality teaching. English Link Governor, Jake Dovey also paid a visit to monitor reading across the school. He visited each class to see guided reading lessons and phonics in Beech and Willow. Below is a quote from his visit report.

'As always, the children were effusive when talking to me about what they were doing. The confidence the children have into talking to and questioning a stranger in the room is such a fantastic quality. This is a strength that comes from the secure and encouraging environment the teachers have created in the school. I spent some time with Mrs Lavender who was doing some extra phonics work with some children from Beech. It was nice to see children here that I remembered from my reading visit last year when they were in Willow. I could see the improvement in some children quite clearly.'

I have also been regularly showing prospective parents around the school for next year's foundation stage intake. I am pleased to say there have been plenty of families showing interest in the school. Many have commented on the calmness around the school and the confidence and positive learning behaviours that the children demonstrate. One of our pupils when asked what the best thing about Cliddesden is answered *'that we are like one big family'*.

Mrs Smith and I led an assembly this week on positive behaviour and anti-bullying. The children enjoyed watching the scenarios we played out. Like every school we sometimes have children that can display challenging behaviour but we deal with this in a quick, firm yet supportive manner as outlined in our Positive Behaviour Policy. Our school values of Aspiration, Teamwork, Kindness, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect and Harmony underpin our behaviour policy and practice, and we teach and encourage the children to show these values in everything they do. Their good work is celebrated in our Friday achievement assembly.

Christmas Plans

Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us. It is our plan to have as much normality as possible with Covid mitigations in place. We intend to have a Willow and Beech Class Nativity

performance that **parents** can attend. We are planning to have three performance showings that will be limited to an audience of 30 people (there are 45 families so 90 spaces available in total). Tickets will be limited to 2 per family and I am sorry but this is not negotiable. The performance will be on Tuesday 14th December at 2pm and Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th December at 9:30 am. Tickets are free but you will need to book them in advance. If one show 'sells out' you will need to book for one that has spaces available. Details of how to book will be sent out early next week. We will also video a performance and put this on our website.

Please note that is **the plan** and should cases of Covid rise again in school, the live performances will not be able to go ahead. In which case we will have to rely on a video of the performance only.

We must all be aware that at this current time there is no certainty on what events will take place in school and our contingency plans may have to come into force at any point. We hope that this won't be the case.

Friends of Cliddesden are planning to have the Secret Sale again this year. This will be on Friday 10th December and details will be sent out soon. Christmas Jumper Day (no need to buy a new one, any festive clothing will do!) will also be on this day, not the 16th as previously advertised in the 'Friends' newsletter.

Inter School Sports



Yesterday our Tag Rugby team had their first fixtures in The Georgian League. The league meets four times a year and the same schools play each other. Considering it was the first time the children had played for the school due to Covid restrictions they did amazingly well. We are currently in 3rd place with 9 more games to play. The results were:

North Waltham	3	Cliddesden	2
Barton Stacey	0	Longparish	3
Longparish	3	Cliddesden	1
Barton Stacey	1	North Waltham	3
Barton Stacey	1	Cliddesden	2
Longparish	4	North Waltham	4



Hill and Dale Competition

A reminder that The Hill and Dale Christmas edition cover design deadline is this coming Monday 15th November (sorry not December as one correspondence advertised). We only have a few entries so far so over the weekend please encourage your children to get drawing if they haven't done already.

I wish all our families a happy and safe weekend.

Kenneth Davies
Headteacher

Governor News

This term our governors have met with school leaders to discuss and agree the School Strategic Plan. This 5-year plan sets out our vision for the school and is available for everyone to view on the Headteachers welcome page of the school website:

<https://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk/home-1/home>

As a governing body we are extremely proud of our school and the staff, children and parents that have created such a welcoming environment to support young learners. This is reflected in the feedback given in meetings from our governor visits and the conversations we have had with parents and carers on the playground. However, to enable us to reach a larger demographic we shall soon be sending out a parent survey and would like to see as many people complete it as possible.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is currently a parent governor vacancy. Letters will be going out to all parents today for applications. Please consider taking this opportunity to support your child's school in a different way. Please contact me, via the school office, if you would like more information or discuss what is involved.

Mike Jordan
Chair of Governors

To view class pages, find out about our curriculum, read all about our events in school, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

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