

# Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



January 2019

*"We live our lives with arms and minds wide open"*

## Governor News

*Our Statement of Governance, which details the membership, attendance and work carried out by our Governing Body is available to view on our school website.*

## Hello & Goodbye

Welcome to Mrs Tydeman and Mrs Burton who are teaching 2G this term. We are very pleased to have you as part of our happy teaching team.

## Attendance

Congratulations, this month to 1<sup>st</sup> 2G - 98.46%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 6O - 98.39% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 1J - 98.03%

Schools are required to monitor all pupil attendance closely as it is one of the measures Ofsted and others use to "rank" the school. At Collingwood we recognise that most pupils have good attendance and are only away from school if unwell however, we *do* still have a duty to inform parents if attendance is considered to be less than 90% and *do* send out letters notifying parents if this is the case.

## Snow Closure Arrangements

When we have snow, school will only close as a very last resort; as long as the children are safe, the heating is on and enough staff are able to get here, Collingwood will open! We are very proud of the fact that we have only had to close during two separate bouts of bad weather over the last 12 years.

The decision to close school is taken as soon as we are able to establish how many members of staff are able to get into work. This takes some time and can change suddenly as staff get stuck in traffic. We always post our decision first on the school website (top right, moving text) and on Twitter (@CollingwoodPrim) - a text and email to parents will also be sent as soon as we are able to. A list of school closures can be found on the Essex County Council

website: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx> Parents are also advised to listen to Essex FM or BBC Essex when bad weather is expected as they will continue to list schools that are closed. **PLEASE DO NOT RING SCHOOL, the phone will not be answered before 8:45am as staff will be communicating by mobile as we all try to get safely into school.**

## 2019 SATs and other National Assessments

- Year 6 SAT's commence Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The papers will be externally marked and be given a standardised score which will result in an assessment as having met the "age related standard" or not.
- Year 2 SATs tests commence during May. These will be graded similarly to year 6 papers, but by their teachers.
- Year 1 and 2 Phonics commence Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June

## Our School Development Priorities

**Priority: To continue to develop pupils' and parents' awareness of internet safety and offer easier ways for pupils and parents to report their concerns.**

From time to time most children will come across images and information on the internet that we would have preferred them not to see. Usually this is not because a child has been naughty but is as a result of their natural curiosity or because a child's game or APP has had inappropriate material placed on it by someone they do not know. Statistical evidence shows that as a parent, you are the person that children are LEAST likely to tell about this! Remember the 2 John's advice...we can choose to send our child onto the internet and wave them off or we can choose to travel with them and sit and look at the APPs they are using WITH THEM discussing what to do next.

If you **do** find something you do not like you should click on the CEOP button (on most websites or [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)) and report the material WITH YOUR CHILD SITTING BESIDE YOU so that they feel involved. **DO NOT CONFISCATE THE GADGET OR DELETE THE APP** as they will never tell you anything ever again!

If you feel that your child is being groomed, manipulated or exploited on line, call the Essex police on their special hotline designed for this purpose 01245 452058 in order to stop this happening to another child.

**Priority: To give our pupils a greater voice in school development.**

On Friday, Our Learning Council announced that they will be carrying out a survey to find out from pupils what helps them learn best and what stops them from learning. This week they have been busy compiling their questions and plan to present these as an electronic survey. We look forward to hearing the results!

Before Christmas we asked pupils who their favourite authors were and which books they would like more of. We now have a very long list which Mrs Outhwaite, as English Lead will be looking at for future purchases.

This week, in assembly, we asked children what they feel they should learn more about. This will be shared with teachers and incorporated into our planning. Common ideas were: learning about nature, animals and doing more science experiments. More unusual ideas were: learning about Japan, speaking German, trying foods from different countries and learning about disasters!

### Snack Time

We have been quite alarmed by some of the snacks that children have been bringing to school. Please remember that only fruit/vegetables and breakfast bars (no nuts please) and healthy snacks such as milkshake, popcorn, fruit bars etc should be eaten at school. Cold chicken nuggets, crisps and cakes are certainly not allowed!

### Donations please!

If you were lucky enough to get a new computer game, tablet, camera, Kindle, Nintendo game or educational toy for Christmas, please consider giving the old one to us...we promise to put it to very good use!

### Social Media

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, @collingwoodprim. We often tweet reminders and news and if the school is closed due to snow, you will hear about it here first!

### Food Bank

Your child may have already told you that we are now a collection point for Chelmsford Food Bank. Please leave donations in the box in our foyer. **We have been asked to collect:**

- **Tinned** meat, fish, vegetables, spaghetti, fruit and custard.
- **Instant** mash, custard, porridge, Pot Noodles and Mug Shots.
- **Dried** pasta, rice, noodles and breakfast cereal                      Bottles of squash
- **UHT** milk and fruit juice    Toilet rolls, washing powder/liquid
- Jars of jam, coffee and pasta sauce    Teabags and biscuits

Mrs Buckland-Garnett

### South Woodham Ferrers Library

Dear Muggles, Witches & Wizards,

We invite you to join us on Thursday 7th February at 4pm for a special Harry Potter Book Night event at South Woodham Ferrers Library.

We promise you an afternoon of wizarding fun and the chance to discover and share the magical world of Harry Potter. Get sorted into your Hogwarts house, take part in magical lessons, Quidditch and craft and lead your house to victory in our end of year exams.

Please leave your broomsticks at the door and keep your wands at the ready. The Sorting Ceremony will begin promptly at 4pm. Don't be late!

**Sally Grant**

**Senior Customer Services Assistant, South Woodham Ferrers Library**



Essex County Council is consulting on its proposed strategy for library services over the next five years. The strategy sets out the priorities for library services, based on public feedback from a county-wide survey of users and non-users earlier in 2018, to shape a service that's modern, focused and fit for the way we live now and in the future.

The consultation launched on 29 November and lasts 12 weeks, closing on **Wednesday 20 February 2019**. During this time there will be information drop-ins at every local library.

Find out more and complete the survey online at [www.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation).

Families can complete the survey together, or as individuals. Children and young people under 16 are asked for parental permission at the outset. A quarter of the responses so far are from families and one in 20 are from under 16 year olds. We want to hear from as many children and young people as possible. The survey can also be done over the phone on 0345 603 7639 and is available in large print, on paper or as an [EasyRead](#) version as well. Call the number above or visit your local library to request any of these.

**Essex Libraries Consultation Team**

### **Forest School @ Danbury Country Park**

Forest School at Danbury Park are running after school Forest School sessions on Thursdays, 4-6pm for children aged 7 years plus. Book a half term block of 6 weeks from £48, sibling discount available - starting 28/02/19. There are also Half Term taster sessions on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 10am to 12pm and 12.30 pm to 2.30pm. The cost is £8 per child, sibling discount available. If you come to a taster session and book the half term block you get 6 sessions for the price of 5 (£40). For information and to book, email [forestschool@essex.gov.uk](mailto:forestschool@essex.gov.uk).

### **11+ 2020 Entry - for current Year 5 pupils**

Please see these dates for your diary relating to the Consortium's 11+ examination procedure for 2020 entry:

- 11+ registration opens - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- 11+ registration closes - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019
- 11+ Main Test date: - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

### **Curriculum Information**

*Please see our school website: [www.collingwoodschool.net](http://www.collingwoodschool.net) for information on how we teach at Collingwood. Current topic webs and curriculum information for each Year group can always be found here.*

### **Curriculum News**

The children in year 4 have been very excited about writing to their pen pals in India. We drafted and then wrote our letters in the Autumn term and received a reply just before Christmas. When reading the reply's we found out about what it was like to go to school in India, their traditions, homes and families. The children were then set homework to write their own reply and this will continue half termly. We are looking forward to our next set of letters soon.



Don't forget our on-line [Reading Eggs Learn to Read Programme for Children](#)

Reading is an important skill that all children need to learn. Support your child's reading journey from the comforts of your own home.

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will learn. Reading Eggs supports each child's learning by offering individual, one-on-one lessons. These online lessons allow your child to progress at their own rate gradually building their reading confidence and rewarding them at every step of the way. And the best part is that children love it. The programme makes learning to read fun and highly motivating for children up to 13 years - nurturing a lifelong love of reading, straight from the family home. You've been there to celebrate their first words and first steps. Now see your child learn to read their very first book with Reading Eggs.

## Maths

As you may already know, the government are introducing a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) to determine whether Year 4 pupils can fluently recall multiplication facts for tables up to 12x12. The MTC will be introduced in June 2020 (2019/20 academic year) subject to the approval of parliament. This means that children currently in year 3 in England will be taking the test as a statutory requirement.

In November 2018, the government published the 'Multiplication tables check assessment framework' which has given schools more information about how the tests will work. So far we know that:

- There will be 25 questions worth one mark each. The questions will be in no particular order. Every question will follow the same format and will require the same type of response e.g.  $4 \times 8 = 32$
- Children will have a maximum of six seconds to answer each question - this is based on research undertaken by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA). There will be a three-second pause before the next question is displayed.
- The emphasis will be on the "6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables", with two to four questions in every test taken from each of the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables, meaning that between 18 and 22 questions will focus on KS2 content.
- There will be no question reversals in any test. For example, " $3 \times 8$ " would not appear in the same form as " $8 \times 3$ ".
- Children will be randomly assigned a test. The system will provide a range of tests, equal in difficulty, but with different questions in different orders. No test should have more than 30 per cent of the same questions as another test.
- Children will be able to access a "practice area" in the run up to the test window in June. This is so children can become familiar with the format of the test.

To prepare for this test, our school is using Times Tables Rockstars as this follows a very similar format to the proposed test. Please encourage your children (especially if they are in Y3!) to use Times Tables Rockstars regularly so that both their fluency and speed develops - aim for Rock Legend status! Log in details for TTRS for children in KS2 can be found in the back of purple communication books. Thank you for your continued support -Mrs Macartney, Maths Subject Leader

## Sports News

Well done to the year 6 boys who played brilliantly in the football competition at William de Ferrers on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Despite the freezing cold weather, they gave it their best and came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 5 schools.

Mrs J Hardwick - PE Lead

## *Policies Being Reviewed by staff, pupils and Governors this month:*

- *Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy (comments by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March please)*

Once a policy has been reviewed by staff a copy will be available from the school office for parents to view and comment on before it is presented to our Governors for approval. Please put any comments in writing and hand this to our office staff to be passed on to our governors for consideration (it is helpful to us if you are willing to give your name and your child's age). Whilst these will not be responded to, they will be presented at the meeting where the policy is discussed. Thank you.

Most of our policies can be found on the school website but are also available on request (a charge may be made for printing)

## 7 'til 7 Club News

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Father Christmas was not the only busy man over the festive period. Mr Caton worked very hard installing our new toilets. All the staff and children would like to say a BIG thank you to him.

Due to our ever increasing numbers, we would ask if you could give at least 24 hours notice please. This would enable us to source any additional staff needed. Without this we cannot guarantee we would be able to accommodate your request. Thank you

Now that the darker chilly evenings are here, the children can no longer play outside. We have, therefore purchased some new board games which the children are having fun playing. More craft activities are on offer too. Should you have any craft materials or games that you think would be suitable for us to use, we would be very grateful. Don't forget, if

you are planning a shopping trip, lunch or even have an appointment, your children are very welcome to come to our Club on a one off basis.

Mrs Budd and Mrs Chettur (7 'til 7 Club Managers)

## School Meals

Every day during lunch time service there is a salad cart containing a variety of produce which is available to accompany the dinner, baguette or a jacket potato. Most days there is cucumber, tomatoes, beetroot, sweetcorn, red and yellow peppers. In addition to these there can be a selection of coleslaw, carrots, lettuce, potato salad, spring onions, pasta, rice, fruit cocktail, mandarins, pineapple, peaches and raisins.

Recently, the children in 7 'til 7 breakfast club gave the kitchen tomatoes and lettuce to use on the salad bar, so they can see the rewards of their hard work planting and nurturing these crops.

Come and join our school meals to sample some of these different products.

Mrs M Chettur



**F.O.C.U.S. (our wonderful P.T.A)**

## F.O.C.U.S. Windfall

The Windfall draw for December was taken this afternoon and the draw-person was Chris Caton. The winners are:

1st Place - Sinead McGurk £22.25, 2nd Place - Marie Ball £13.35, & 3rd Place - Simon Trice £8.90.

Thank you for all of your continued support - and anyone that would like to join the Windfall Club please do so - it's very easy to join and there are three winners every month!

Exciting news! We have been selected for the next round of the Co-op Community Fund scheme. All you need to do is get a Co-op points card and select FOCUS (Friends of Collingwood Primary School) for the 1% donation from own brand products and services (from this Sunday 28th). A fantastic easy way to raise funds for Collingwood School!

**The next event is 1<sup>st</sup> February Games Night (adult only) & 8<sup>th</sup> February Coin Trail**

## Informal Coffee Afternoons

Date	Theme	Staff present
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	"Independence and Resilience Checklist"	Mrs Minister
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Using "Mathletics" and "Maths Rock Stars" at home	Mrs Macartney and Mrs Minister
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Our Curriculum at Collingwood	Mrs Hammond and Mrs Buckland-Garnett
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Theme to be announced	Mrs Minister and Mrs Buckland-Garnett

No need to book, just turn up and bring a friend, younger children are also welcome. Let us know if there is a theme you would like us to cover.

## Vacancies at Collingwood

### POSITION 1: "As and When" Mid-Days

We are always seeking individuals who are available to work at short notice to cover absence.

**Salary:** Equivalent of 6 hours per week (if 5 lunchtimes are worked) Band 1 Points 6-10 (£7.78 per hour initially)

### POSITION 2: "As and When" Playworkers for our 7 'til 7 Club

We are always seeking individuals who are available to work at short notice to cover absence or if additional adults are required. Any workers' own children are able to attend the club for free during the period you are working.

**Salary:** £9.50 per hour

**Our Governors and staff are committed to safeguarding children. All appointments will be subject to satisfactory references, DBS and medical checks. Please collect a Job description and Person Specifications from our school office and complete an application form or ask to find out more.**

## Messages from other Organisations

**Guitar Lessons** -Lessons are provided by Mr David Ainsworth on a one to one basis. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

### Tokon Kai Karate

Tokon Kai karate run a class after school each Tuesday from 3.15-4.20pm for age 5-11yrs. Come along and give it ago - first lesson free. For more information contact Sensei Jo Griffiths on 01245 362232 or 07958 057406 - [info@tokonkai-karate.co.uk](mailto:info@tokonkai-karate.co.uk).

**Gymnastics Club** The club runs after school on Wednesdays, 3.20pm to 4.15pm. Please see the leaflets in reception for booking information.

**Fencing Club** A new club started this term on Tuesday mornings before school starting at 8am. Please see the leaflets in reception for booking information

### Dates for your diary

All dates, class lunches, performances etc. can be found on our website calendar at [www.collingwoodschool.net](http://www.collingwoodschool.net) **If school is ever closed, at short notice, it will appear on <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx> and the school website/be tweeted first** and be announced on Essex FM and BBC Essex as soon as possible. Please avoid ringing the school as the phone is unlikely to be answered whilst we are organising staff!

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	FOCUS Event - games night
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3HB Class Assembly - 9.15am
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	February Half Term
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3HB Class Lunch
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Class photographs
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2C Class Lunch
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	EYFS Class Assembly - 9.15am
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> , Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Termly Learning Conferences
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mother's Day Lunches
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Years 3, 4 & 5 Production
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	FOCUS Event - Easter Entertainer & Discos
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Easter Break
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	First Day Back
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> May	1G Class Assembly
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May	4H Class Assembly
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May	2G Class Lunch
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	5M Class Assembly
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	May Half Term
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	1J Class Lunch
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	2C Class Assembly
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and 2 Phonics screening
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day Lunches
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> June	4W Class Assembly
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> June	RNR Class Lunch
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day - 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> July	FOCUS Event - Summer Disco's
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	6O Leaver's Assembly
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Non Pupil Day

*Essex County Council's criteria for issuing Penalty Notices is:*

- 1. If there has been at least 10 sessions (a morning or an afternoon are one session each) of unauthorised absence during the previous ten school weeks.*
- 2. If there have been at least 6 consecutive sessions (ie 6 half days or 3 whole days) of unauthorised leave of absence during the first two weeks of September due to a term-time holiday ie if a child does not return to school until Mon 10<sup>th</sup> September.*