

Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



June 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.

This month, Governors have been concerned about the level of debt owed by some users of our 7 'til 7 Club. This is preventing us from improving the facilities for pupils and payment in advance is being considered from September. **Please ensure that any outstanding fees are paid before the summer holiday.** Failure to do so, will result in your child's place being withdrawn.

Hello & Goodbye

Goodbye to Miss Gilbert who has decided not to return following her maternity leave. We wish you good luck.

Attendance

Congratulation, this month to 1st 5M 96.2%, 2nd 2G 96.49% and 3rd 3HB 96.33%.

All 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 their child is a "persistent absentee" (ie attendance is less than 90%), regardless of the reason, and *do* send out letters notifying parents if this is the case.

Following discussions with parents who have taken term time holidays, we have recently added information about Penalty notices to the back of our Leave of Absence form. Information can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

Our School Development Priorities

- **To work with our Primary and Secondary School colleagues in improving life opportunities for all pupils in the town.** This term we have updated our joint attendance policy, teachers from all schools have worked together to assess pupils writing, secondary colleagues have visited Year 6 and we have planned further opportunities for parents to attend internet Safety Workshops next term.
- **To re-design Collingwood's curriculum making it more relevant to the lives and interests of our pupils** We continue to meet with staff from all of the schools in the town, including William De Ferrers. You will have noticed our focus on the local area this term in the children's work.
- **To give our pupils a greater voice in school development.** Our new Learning Ambassadors were announced in assembly this week. They will meet regularly with Mrs Bruce to focus on improving the work of our school so that everyone can learn well. Also, all children will be involved in making decisions on how to spend the money they raise at our sponsorship day.

Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers, our P.T.A. have announced that there will be no Summer Fayre this year, which saddens me. In order to continue to raise funds to benefit children, teachers have organised a special "Sponsor Day" on Friday 29th June. Children will participate in all four sponsored events, regardless of which ones they have been sponsored for, with all funds raised going into the budget used for their own classroom resources.

Mrs Buckland-Garnett

Curriculum Information

Please see our school website: 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

Year 2 Trip to Royal Gunpowder Mills

On Monday 3rd June, our year 2 pupils visited Royal Gunpowder Mills - here are a few of the pupil's comments:

Emma M - I wish I could stay there forever!

Annabelle B - we had to wrap paper around a pipe to make the rocket shape.

Rose W - I loved seeing all the old rockets in the special room (artefacts room).

Izzy F - we used a base, wheels, metal pipes and a bottle to make the rocket cars.

Eleni C - it was so exciting seeing who's rocket blasted off the furthest.



Miss L Campbell - 2C Class Teacher

Year 6 Girls trip to Leonardo - "Women in Engineering Day"

"On Wednesday 19th June all the girls in year 6 took part in a National Women in Engineering Day at Leonardo. The girls were split up in to four groups and participated in 2 science experiments. The first science experiment was to create a parachute for an egg and the egg had to survive being dropped from a 3 storey high building. The second was to create a rocket that would be launched by a rocket launcher and we had to try and make it go as high as it could. All the materials used cost money so we had to keep the budget as low as possible. One group's rocket launched 100ft high. The food was delicious and we all really enjoyed ourselves. We had a great time!"

Written by Amy and Vilte.



Year 6 Crucial Crew

"On Tuesday 13th June, year 6 went on a trip to Crucial Crew at Chelmsford fire station where we learnt how to stay safe and what the effect of alcohol and drugs does and about fire safety. We had a really fun time. Our favourite part was when we had to put on drunk goggles and it made us all have headaches. We all had a great time, we were lucky to go."

Written by Isaac & Sidney

Learning Council News

Our new Learning Ambassadors for September were announced in assembly this week. Congratulations to Cerys M, Fareeha O, Daisy T, Brandon W, Kieran W, Dolcie M, Oliver P, Emma M, Maddie JB, Ethan W, Isobelle P, Luca S, Isabella N and Millie-Mae B who were chosen by staff for being excellent role models at all times. Your first meeting with Mrs Bruce will be next Friday.

The Learning Council are delighted that following a survey that they completed, the new playtime equipment has now arrived and will be ready to use after half term. They would like to say on behalf of the whole school a big 'THANK YOU' to the P.T.A. who donated the funding for the equipment.

Sports News

Well done to all of our pupils who took part in District Sports at William De Ferrers this month. You were a credit to Collingwood and your determination and skills earned you 1st Place for Years 5 and 6 and 2nd place for Years 3 and 4. Overall Collingwood came 2nd at only 4 points behind the winners!



Mrs J Hardwick - PE Lead

B Kinder Day Photos



Fun in the Sun

Is your child Sun-safe at school? With sunshine on the way, we urge you to do three things to keep your child "sun safe". These are:

1. to wear a **named** hat at all times when outside (this does not have to be a Collingwood hat but should provide shade for the neck and not bear any slogans or writing)
2. to have a **named** water bottle in school every day (drinks are made available to children throughout the day but a bottle on a table in front of you is far more tempting. Add ice cubes or part freeze if you wish.)
3. to apply a high factor sun cream **before** school. (Unfortunately staff are not able to apply sun cream.)

We teach children to "**Slip** on clothing · **Slop** on sunscreen · **Slap** on a hat". Further information can be found on www.sunsafe.co.uk We do encourage children to stay in the shade and drink regularly at playtimes and lunchtimes but with 235 pupils desperate to run around and play it is not possible to ensure that they all do!

When using sunscreen you should:

- Check the use by date - most sunscreens have a shelf life of 2 to 3 years, and last about 12 to 18 months after opening
- Put your sunscreen on before you go out in the sun so it can be absorbed into your skin
- Apply another layer to make sure you haven't missed any parts of the body
- Reapply regularly.

Policies Being Reviewed by staff, pupils and Governors this month

- Safeguarding and Child Protection

Most of our policies can be found on the school website but are also available on request (a charge may be made for printing). We would welcome any comments you wish to make on these. Please put these in writing and hand to our office staff. Thank you.

7 'til 7 Club News

We have been busy updating and amending next year's contract for the 7 til 7 Club. It is essential that parents/carers complete and return the new contract by the last day of term (19th July), if your child/children will be joining us in September please.

Our Lego and toy cars have mysteriously dwindled recently! We would be grateful if you have any you no longer need. The children would really appreciate them. Thank you.

We plan to spend more time now outside enjoying picnics and games, weather permitting.

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

Breakfast Club Update

During February and March our reception children, with the help from some older children, planted carrot seeds, lettuce seeds and lots of tomato seeds. We did this in our demountable, lots of mess but a small price to pay.

This month our vegetables were ready to be planted in our African Garden. The carrots have been planted in our spiral garden, along with marigolds and nasturtium which protects them from carrot fly and other bugs. In our Key Hole garden we have planted our lettuce and onions, also along with marigolds and nasturtium. Lots of potatoes have been planted in the African Garden you will find them in black plastic potato bags near our compost bins.

Reception children also planted lots of flower seeds, herbs and different poppy seeds.

The beautiful orange flowers in our Spiral garden are 'California Poppy', we have also planted 'Double Tangerine Gem' Poppy and 'Flanders Red' Poppy. Now we have to wait to see if we have been successful. Flowers have been planted in pots at the front office and in the boat.

Our apple tree is growing well, the flowers have now turned into tiny apples and our fruit bushes are looking strong, we are hoping they also produce fruit this year.

Breakfast club are hoping to supply Mrs Chettur with salad throughout the year for the schools lunch time salad bar. The children love to deliver whatever they have harvested that morning to the kitchen.

If you look in our new 'Rosie and Jim's' area you can see our strawberries growing and turning red. The children were delighted when they picked a strawberry each and ate them, they were so sweet. Children look carefully in 'Rosie and Jim's' garden, see if you can find the Frog, Tortoise, 2 tiny gnomes, 2 butterflies, cherries. Keep watching because other things could appear.

Mrs. S. Peek

School Meals

I asked some of the children who regularly eat school dinners at lunchtime what they say about the meals served to them.

- 'I enjoy eating jacket potato with salad', James. 'I like school dinners because they are healthy', reception class pupil.
- 'Really nice food', year 1 pupil. 'Lovely birthday lunch with a cake', year 1 child.
- 'The dinners are yummy', Scarlett year 2. 'I love your school dinners', year 2 pupil.
- 'Delicious 'all day' breakfast', Finley year 2.
- 'I like the days artic roll is on the menu', year 3 pupil. 'The pizza is delicious', year 3 child
- 'Desserts better than most schools', year 4. 'Meals are fabulous', year 4.
- 'My favourite is roast dinner', year 5. 'Tasty meals', year 5. 'I think the dinners are great'.
- 'I love sausage in a roll' year 6 child. 'The burgers are really good', year 6.

Our school meal menu consists of a selection of a daily hot meal, jacket potato with a variety of toppings, vegetarian choice or a filled baguette served with either vegetables or salad items from our cart along with a dessert, yogurt or fresh fruit and a drink. Come and join the other children who enjoy having school meals.

Mrs Chettur - Catering Manager



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

The next event is End of Year Entertainer / Disco - Friday 12th July 19

Informal Coffee Afternoons

Following on from their recent "Meet the Governors Coffee Afternoon", Governors will be available for a chat and a cup of tea in the large hall, during our open evening. Please pop along.

Messages from other Organisations

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.

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

Gymnastics Club The club runs after school on Wednesdays, 3.20pm to 4.15pm. 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 **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!

2019

Fri 28 th June	Sports Day - 1 st Choice
Fri 5 th July	Sports Day - 2 nd Choice
Fri 12 th July	FOCUS Event - Summer Disco's
Fri 19 th July	60 Leaver's Assembly
Fri 19 th July	Last day of Term
Mon 22 nd - Wed 24 th July	Non Pupil Day
Tues 3 rd Sept	Non Pupil Day
Wed 4 th Sept	First Day of Term
Mon 28 th Oct - Fri 1 st Nov	Half Term
Mon 4 th Nov	Non Pupil Day
Thurs 19 th Dec	Last day of Term
Fri 20 th Dec - Fri 3 rd Jan 20	Christmas Break

2020

Mon 17 th Feb - Fri 21 st	Feb half Term
Mon 6 th Apr - Fri 17 th Apr	Easter Break
Mon 4 th May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 25 th - Fri 29 th	May Half Term
Fri 17 th July	Last day of Term
Mon 20 th - 22 nd July	Non Pupil Days

Leave of Absence for pupils:

Please be aware that no term time holidays are authorised at Collingwood unless a signed employer's letter is provided stating that the dates are the ONLY ones that can be taken. In this event, only one term time holiday will be authorised in any academic year and not during or in the term leading up to national assessment periods.

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

- where there have been at least 10 consecutive sessions (1 day = 2 sessions) of unauthorised absence for the purpose of a holiday, whereby a parent made an application to the School which the Head Teacher has deemed not for exceptional circumstances.

- *whereby the parent did not submit a leave of absence request, however the school have reason to believe the absence was for the purpose of a holiday*
- *if there have been at least 6 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence during the first two weeks of September due to a term-time holiday.*
- *where there has been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence during the previous 10 school weeks.*

Following discussions with parents who have taken term time holidays, we have recently added information about Penalty notices to the back of our Leave of Absence form.