

Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



November 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 reviewing our Privacy Notices, their Statement of Behaviour Principles, staff wellbeing, the teaching of History and Geography and Collingwood's Self-Assessment against the new Ofsted Framework.

Hello & Goodbye

Goodbye to Mrs Mason, one of our sports coaches who will be leaving us at Christmas. We wish you luck and will continue to enjoy the performances by Genesis Theatre Arts (Tuesday evenings at Champions Manor) which include many of our pupils.

Hello to Luke, Harry and Simon who have joined 4C.

Attendance

Congratulations, this month to 1st 4C 97.75%, 2nd 6M 97.49% and 3rd 3O'K 96.43%. (see school development priorities below).

All schools are required to monitor all pupil attendance closely as it is one of the measures Ofsted use to "rank" the school. At Collingwood we recognise that most pupils have good attendance and are only absent if unwell however, we *do* still have a duty to inform parents if their child is a "persistent absentee" (ie attendance <90%), regardless of the reason, and *do* send out letters notifying parents if this is the case. **Information about Penalty Notice criteria for irregular attendance can be found on the back of our Leave of Absence form.**

Our Current School Development Priorities

- **To work with our Primary and Secondary School colleagues in improving life opportunities for all pupils in the town.** *We are pleased that so many parents from all 6 schools in the town attended the e-safety roadshow by "The 2 Johns" this month. Staff, Governors and KS2 pupils all found the workshops useful. Further workshops for Years 1 and 2 will be organised for later in the year.*
- **To maintain high levels of progress in reading and maths for all pupils by the end of Year 6.** *SATs for Year 6 take place in May but the results are not known until July. We have been very pleased with the % of pupils attaining "greater depth" in reading and maths in recent years.*
- **To encourage all pupils to read daily so that inference and deduction skills are well developed.** *In school, we tell pupils of all ages that they should be reading at least 3 times per week and that reading aloud to an adult is just as important at Year 6 as it is in EYFS! Please do the same. We hope those parents who came to our recent reading coffee afternoon led by Mrs Minister and Mr Russell found it useful.*
- **To develop "Maths Mastery" teaching across Collingwood.** *Congratulations to Mrs Macartney who has been successful in her application to become a Maths Mastery Specialist. This recognition of her fantastic teaching skills and something that all staff from Collingwood will benefit from over the coming year.*
- **To continue to resource Collingwood's re-designed curriculum to meet the needs and interests of our pupils** *On 15th November colleagues from other schools came in to conduct a "Deep Dive" Ofsted style review into the teaching of History and Geography. We were delighted with the final report which states "There is a commitment to engage and motivate children and this was achieved with great success", "teachers were able to continuously challenge children's thinking with carefully focussed questioning", "misconceptions were quickly addressed", "what emerged strongly was the consistency and coherence of teaching across KS1 and KS2", "complex problems are not avoided but rather relished and addressed with children directly", which "leads to highly stimulating lessons which both teachers and children enjoy."*

- **To give our pupils a greater voice in school development.** *Our Learning Ambassadors (2 pupils from each class) meet weekly with Mrs Buckland-Garnett to discuss whole school issues, make decisions and bring their class suggestions. They carry out lots of responsibilities around the school such as lunch duties, assembly and playground monitors and are upheld as good role models. Please ask your child about this.*
- **For attendance to be in line with the national average for schools with a similar level of deprivation.** *(96.22% in 2018-2019) Our attendance was 94.9% in 2018-2019 and whilst much of this was due to illness some was due to unauthorised term time holidays. Attendance is monitored closely and parents are contacted if attendance is a concern and penalty notices have been issued to Collingwood parents.*

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

Open Day at Collingwood School

Pupils from all age groups explained their work brilliantly to visitors during our Open Day on Thursday 14th November. Our Year 6 pupils were excellent tour guides and EYFS showed the new Mums and Dads how they learn phonics. There were lots of positive comments from visitors, particularly about how articulate and well-mannered our children are. Well done everyone, you are a credit to Collingwood! Mrs Buckland-Garnett



Maths

I am delighted to see that so many of our pupils are using Times Tables Rock Stars so regularly at home and at school. In recent 'Battle of the Bands' competitions, I have seen some of the highest scores Collingwood has ever recorded!

Y5 and Y6 took part in an epic battle at the beginning of November with Year 5 scoring a combined total of 58,064 points and Y6 narrowly beating them with a combined score of 62,974! Special mention must also go to James Brierly in Y5 who scored over 18,000 points by himself for his team!

Regular practice on TTRS at home will help your child to retain multiplication facts. This skill is fundamental to success in maths, as so many mathematical concepts rely on children recalling multiplication facts quickly, confidently and accurately. If you are unsure of how to access TTRS, or have any other questions, please speak to your child's teacher.

Mrs Macartney - Maths Subject Leader

Sports News

Well done to the year 5 and 6 children who took part in the Sports Hall Athletics. The team worked exceptionally hard in all of the activities and their efforts paid off as they gained 2nd place and are through to the next round on December 12th.

Event photos/fundraising

£143.82 was raised for Children in Need - thank you everyone for your yellow and spotty support.

Policies Being Reviewed by staff, pupils and Governors this month

Pay and Performance Management, Visiting Speaker, Staff Code of Conduct, Privacy Notices, PREVENT Action plan, Children Missing in Education due to Health Needs.

7 'til 7 Club News

How quickly this time of year appears, it doesn't seem that long ago that we were enjoying the summer! The children are busy preparing the club for Christmas. We have decorations to put up, paper chains and cards to make. Although it is an

exciting time for children, we know that parents/carers often feel they don't have enough hours in the day. **Don't forget if you need extra time tagged onto the school day to go shopping, wrap presents etc., just book your child into the 7til 7 club.** Having a toy clear out?...We would welcome any outside play equipment, craft supplies, toys or old computer consoles, DVDs etc. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

School Meals and Birthday Lunches

At our school we are lucky to be able to offer birthday lunches to our pupils (by virtue of the additional work undertaken by our lovely Midday Assistants). Children can invite their friends to have a Birthday School Lunch with them, sit at a special table during lunchtime and enjoy a choice of school meal followed by a piece of birthday cake, specially made by our Catering Manager. Unfortunately, pupils are not able to have a packed lunch at the birthday table. The sole reason for these lunches is to increase the number of children taking school meals, encouraging those children who may be fussy eaters to try new things by eating with their friends - there is always a choice of food options, even a baguette! Don't forget, there is no charge for the lunch if your child is in Reception or years 1 & 2. To book a Birthday School Lunch for your child, please speak to Mrs De'Ath or Mrs Wraight in the school office.

Special Lunches

During the academic year there are many special meals arranged for the pupils to enjoy and enhance their eating experience at lunchtime. These include food calendar events, theme days and pupils being able to enter different food related competitions. In addition to this, parents are invited to join their child/ren for class lunches and mothers, fathers or special person days. Coming up in December we have year 4 class lunch & Christmas Dinner for the whole school (please use the booking system for these meals). I look forward to seeing your child/ren attending these special occasions.

Mrs Chettur - Catering Manager



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

F.O.C.U.S. Windfall

The lucky winners for November were: 1st Mr Perry £26.75, 2nd Michelle Lincoln £16.05 & 3rd Helen Clarke £10.70. Well done to all of our winners and to all of our members for your ongoing support 😊.

The next event is the Christmas Fair

The next event is our **Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.** There will be a non-uniform day on the Friday for pupils, in exchange for donations for the fair. We also thought we'd save you all the bother of dinner that evening and have a barbeque and refreshments on sale!

Informal Coffee Afternoons

A chance to meet other parents and have questions answered on a given theme. All welcome to some or all of the dates. Come to the main entrance at 2:30pm. Younger children and friends, even if they do not have a child at Collingwood, are welcome! Let us know if there are any themes you would like us to cover.

Date	Theme	Staff present
Friday 24 th January	Supporting your child with spelling	Mrs Outhwaite and Mrs Minister
Friday 28 th February	Supporting your child with maths	Mrs Macartney and Mrs Buckland-Garnett
Friday 24 th April	Question and Answer Session with the school nurse	School Nurse
Friday 22 nd May	Supporting your child's independence	Mrs Minister and Mrs Buckland-Garnett

Messages from other Organisations

Parent Workshops

Mondays

9.30am-10.30am

@ Chelmsford Family Hub, Lower Ground Floor, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

A range of workshops available for parents/ carers of 0-5 year olds.

- Workshop 1: Sleep hygiene 1st Monday of the month
- Workshop 2: Toilet training 2nd Monday of the month
- Workshop 3: Fussy eating 3rd Monday of the month
- Workshop 4: Behaviour 4th Monday of the month

(adult only workshops)
Please call 0300 247 0014 (opt 2) for more information or to book a space.
www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

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.

Dance Club - The club runs after school on Fridays, 3.20pm to 4.15pm. Please see the leaflets in reception for booking information for both clubs

Drop-in sessions for parents with concerns about their 2-5 year old's speech, language and communication development. This service is for children who have a GP in the mid Essex area (Braintree, Halstead, Witham, Maldon, Burnham, South Woodham Ferrers and Chelmsford).

Crouch Vale Medical Centre, Burnham Road, South Woodham Ferrers (on the Sainsbury's site)

Date	Times
Monday 2 December	9.30am-11am 12.30pm-2pm

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

Wed 4 th Dec	Year 4 Class Lunch
Mon 9 th , Tues 10 th Dec	EYFS, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Production - more details to follow
Wed 11 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day - whole school - (Christmas Jumpers/clothes)
Thurs 19 th Dec	Pantomime - 'Beauty & the Beast' - whole school
Thurs 19 th Dec	Last day of Term
Fri 20 th Dec - Fri 3 rd Jan 20	Christmas Break

2020

Mon 6 th Jan	First Day Back
Wed 15 th Jan	3HB Class Lunch
Fri 17 th Jan	4C Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 24 th Jan	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm
Fri 7 th Feb	5O Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 14 th Feb	3OK Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 17 th Feb - Fri 21 st	Feb half Term
Wed 26 th Feb	3OK Class Lunch
Fri 28 th Feb	3HB Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 16 th - Fri 20 th Mar	Mother's Day Lunches
Fri 20 th Mar	2H Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 20 th Mar	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm
Mon 23 rd , Tues 24 th March	Years 3, 4, 5 production
Tues 31 st Mar, Wed 1 st Thurs 2 nd	Termly Learning Conferences
Mon 6 th Apr - Fri 17 th Apr	Easter Break
Mon 20 th Apr	First Day Back
Fri 8 th May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 11 th - Fri 15 th May	SATs Year 6
Wed 13 th May	2H Class Lunch
Fri 22 nd May	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm

Mon 25 th - Fri 29 th	May Half Term
Mon 1 st June	First Day Back
Wed 3 rd June	1H Class Lunch
Fri 12 th June	1H Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 15 th - Fri 19 th June	Father's Day Lunches
Fri 19 th June	EYFS - RR Class Assembly 9.15am
Wed 24 th June	RR Class Lunch
Fri 26 th June	Sports Day (1 st Choice)
Fri 3 rd July	Sports Day (2 nd Choice)
Thurs 16 th July	Leavers Disco
Fri 17 th July	Leavers Assembly 9.15am
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 (3 days) 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.