

# Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



January 2020

*"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

Hello to Mrs Butterworth (and Mrs Dodge) who will be covering Miss Campbell's maternity leave. Both teachers are familiar faces at Collingwood who have worked with us for some time and are well used to working in the Collingwood way. We will let you know when we hear from Miss Campbell.

Hello to Wren (reception), Kaidence and Evie (year 3), Harley and Johnnie (year 4), George (year 1) welcome to our school.

## Attendance

Congratulations, this month to 1<sup>st</sup> 4C - 97.54%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 6M - 97.50% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 3O'K - 97.07%.

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 School Development Priorities

- **To work with our Primary and Secondary School colleagues in improving life opportunities for all pupils in the town.** *Joint Behaviour Management, De-escalation and Restraint training and pupil workshops on Internet Safety took place for staff from all schools in the town during the Autumn term. In Spring our focus will be on children's mental health, providing counselling skills training, reading Subject Leader training and data analysis training for staff and governors.*
- **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. All pupils were assessed in reading, writing, maths and spelling during December.*
- **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. New reading and phonics resources have been purchased this month and children have been assessed on fluency/words per minute (see your child's communication book for their score.) Our daily "3 O'clock Read is aimed at developing pupil's vocabulary beyond words they would normally use.*
- **To develop "Maths Mastery" teaching across Collingwood.** *Mrs Macartney, our Maths Mastery Specialist has continued to visit maths lessons across the school and has led staff in developing their maths teaching following her recent training.*
- **To continue to resource Collingwood's re-designed curriculum to meet the needs and interests of our pupils**
- **Our website** <http://www.collingwoodschool.net/learning-and-teaching/how-we-teach/> has been updated with information how each subject is taught at Collingwood. Teachers are now working on developing the class pages. Governors are reviewing our School Aims and Curriculum Policy this term.
- **To give our pupils a greater voice in school development.** *Our Learning Ambassadors will be organising a fundraising activity for Yung Carers Awareness Day on 31.1.20 and will be involved in Children's Mental Health Week. More information will follow once they have met and decided what they will do.*

- **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.*

### **Chelmsford Foodbank**

Please be aware that Collingwood is a referral agency for Chelmsford foodbank and can issue vouchers to families who meet their criteria. Please contact Mrs Buckland-Garnett, Mrs Minister, Mrs Wraight or Mrs De'Ath for more information.

### **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 13 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 Radio Essex 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.**

Mrs Buckland-Garnett

### **Curriculum Information**

In our recent survey, parents in some year groups felt that they were not given enough information about what pupils are learning although they felt they were well informed about how their child was doing. In response to this, we have now updated our website to include detailed information about every subject. See [www.collingwoodschool.net](http://www.collingwoodschool.net) then click on "learning and teaching" then "curriculum". We have also updated the topic information we send home each term which is on the website and was in your child's homework folder before Christmas. Please ask if there is something you feel is missing.

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

### **Curriculum News**

**Reading/phonics** - The school have successfully bid for funds which have enabled us to purchase new reading books. The new books link directly to how phonics is taught and should help children develop their reading skills from Pink level books through to Green level books. We are very much looking forward to sharing these with the children as soon as all the books have been stamped and categorised. For further information about how reading is taught in school please refer to the school website: <http://www.collingwoodschool.net/learning-and-teaching/how-we-teach/>

Mr Russell (English Lead)

### **Maths**

We have made the decision to purchase an online subscription to Numbots for all KS1 pupils to help develop fluency and to improve number fact recall. Basic number facts, such as knowing and quickly recalling number bonds to 10 and 100, underpins a great deal of mathematics and securing this at an early age will support children as they move into KS2. Numbots is a program, similar to Times Tables Rockstars (used by KS2). I will be sending out further information about the program, and how to get the most out of it in the next few weeks. As we have purchased this new subscription, we will not be renewing our Mathletics subscription when this expires at the end of January.

Mrs Macartney (Maths Lead)

## Foundation Subject

Throughout the school we have now started our spring term topics. Please see a copy of your child's new topic web in their homework folder or on the class pages of the school website. Following the parent survey we have changed the layout and content of the topic webs in order to give more information about the skills and knowledge taught in all foundation subjects. Please talk to your child about what they are learning in school. We always look forward to seeing or hearing about any visits or learning your child has done at home linked to their topic. Please put this in their communication book or print it off if it could go on our Collingwood hundred challenge display in the hall.

Mrs Hammond (Curriculum Manager)

## Learning Ambassador News

The School Development Priorities our Learning Ambassadors are working on between September 2019 and July 2020 are:

1. To encourage all pupils to read daily.
2. For *all* children to be able to explain "How I worked it out." in maths.
3. To ensure that Lessons are interesting for pupils.
4. To give our pupils a greater voice in school development.
5. For attendance to be above 96% for *every* class.

This month we have been asking pupils what stops them from learning. We will let you know the results soon.

The Learning Ambassadors have decided to raise some money to give to Young Carers. We would like every Collingwood pupil to decide at home, one thing each that they can do to care for their family on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. If they carry out that thing, the adult they cared for should give them some money to bring into school by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Learning Ambassadors will count the money and let you know how much we have raised.

Please talk to your family about what you can do. We will be asking you about this in school.

## Sports News

Sophie Cook had a phone call from the Team GB Coach, telling her that she has been selected to join the Team GB development squad for speed skating. She isn't old enough to compete yet but by joining this squad will prepare her to be able to compete in the Euros and Worlds. This is an amazing and well deserved opportunity for Sophie, who you will be aware, has been competing at a very high level for a number of years. We continue to be very proud of you Sophie and look forward to seeing you on TV one day!



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

- Collingwood Aims and Curriculum Policy

## 7 'til 7 Club News

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. 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, games or unwanted Christmas toys 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)

## 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 February we have National Pizza Day, year 3O'K class lunch and Pancake Day! 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 December were: 1st - John Cordery £26.75, 2nd - Karen Aldworth, £16.05, 3rd - Sinead McGurk £10.70. Well done to all of our winners and thank you to all of our members for your continued support. Look out for next months' draw!

### 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 <sup>th</sup> January	Supporting your child with spelling	Mrs Outhwaite and Mrs Minister
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Supporting your child with maths	Mrs Macartney and Mrs Buckland-Garnett
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Question and Answer Session with the school nurse	School Nurse
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Workshop 2: Toilet training 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

Workshop 3: Fussy eating 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

Workshop 4: Behaviour 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk)

### **Token Kai Karate**

Token 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@tokenkai-karate.co.uk](mailto:info@tokenkai-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.

# Harry Potter Book Night

**South Woodham Ferrers Library**  
**Thursday 6 February, 4-5.30pm**

- Become a Triwizard Champion by taking part in our three challenges
- Lead your school to victory and celebrate at the Yule Ball

[libraries.essex.gov.uk/events](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events)

## 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 Radio Essex 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!

### 2020

Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	5O Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3OK Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Feb half Term
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3OK Class Lunch
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3HB Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mother's Day Lunches
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2H Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Years 3, 4, 5 production
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar, Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Termly Learning Conferences
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr - Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Break
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	First Day Back
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Year 6
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> May	2H Class Lunch
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Coffee Afternoon for parents 2.30pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	May Half Term
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	First Day Back
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	1H Class Lunch
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> June	1H Class Assembly 9.15am
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day Lunches
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS - RR Class Assembly 9.15am
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June	RR Class Lunch
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (1 <sup>st</sup> Choice)
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day (2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice)
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Disco
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Assembly 9.15am
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Non Pupil Days

### *Leave of Absence for pupils:*

*Term time holidays are not 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.