

Collingwood Primary School Newsletter



February 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.

This month, Governors have reviewed our Curriculum Policy and Aims, met with Subject Leaders to review the School Development Plan, spot checked Data Protection and Safeguarding procedures and authorised a switch to a new Broadband provider. Prioritising for the April 2020 budget has also begun.

Please be aware that our Privacy Notices have been updated and are available on the school website www.collingwoodschool.net on the data protection page.

Hello & Goodbye

Goodbye to Miss Hiett who left us unexpectedly, following a period of illness. We wish you a speedy recovery. Miss Bains, Mrs Burton and Miss Lee, who are all familiar faces at Collingwood, have all agreed to stay with us until July in order to allow time to employ a new teacher. Farewell to Miss Blewitt who left us at half term...we will miss your smile at lunchtimes! Welcome to Mrs Watts has joined us as our new Kitchen Assistant. Hello also to Mr Minister who joins us as a Learning Support Assistant and welcome back to Mrs Newbert who returns to Year 1 following her maternity leave.

Attendance

Congratulation, this month to 1st 6M 97.47%, 2nd 4C 97.11% and 3rd 3O'K 96.65%.

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" (i.e. 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. Our Headteachers, S.E.N.C.O.s and subject Leaders continue to meet regularly to make plans for all pupils in the town. Our focus this term continues to be on children's mental health, providing counselling skills training, reading Subject Leader training and data analysis training for staff and governors.

A Learning Council Conference has been arranged for pupils from all of the Woodham Partnership of schools focussing on e-safety. Details, from our Year 4, 5 and 6 Learning Ambassadors will follow in April.

To maintain high levels of progress in reading and maths for all pupils by the end of Year 6. Earlier this term, Collingwood teachers had the opportunity to watch a "Maths Mastery Lesson" being taught by our very own Mrs Macartney. 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 are in the process of updating your child's phonic, word and reading records (see the back of their communication book.) 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 plan maths lessons with Collingwood teachers and has led further training. See above.

To continue to resource Collingwood's re-designed curriculum to meet the needs and interests of our pupils. As part of British Science Week (wb 9th March we will be focussing on developing pupils' investigative skills so expect lots of questions at home that week!

Our website <http://www.collingwoodschool.net/learning-and-teaching/how-we-teach/> has been updated with information how each subject is taught at Collingwood. The new EYFS Class page is now "live" and the others will follow soon!

To give our pupils a greater voice in school development. Our Learning Ambassadors² are currently asking their peers "What makes lessons interesting" and are encouraging them to bring in books for our "Book swap." I meet with the Ambassadors every week and have been really impressed with the way they have responded to my requests and the responsibility they have taken for organising their own noticeboard and feeding information back to their teachers and friends.

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

Maths

Multiplication tables check

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, they will be taking the statutory multiplication tables check (MTC) for the first time, in June this year.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify pupils who may need additional support.

What is the MTC?

The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Your child will answer 3 practice questions before moving on to the official check, and will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

MTC has been extensively trialled and tested over its development. In March 2018 we ran a trial with over 1000 pupils to establish an appropriate time limit for year 4 pupils to demonstrate fluent recall and give them the time to input their answers. During the national voluntary pilot in June 2019, just under 400,000 children successfully sat the check with the 6-second time limit.

Learning Council News

The Learning Council did a fantastic job at counting all of the money raised for Young Carers. You raised a massive £113.30 just by carrying out our caring jobs at home.



Annabelle making dinner for Nanny and Grandad.



Oscar playing with his brothers so that Mummy could make dinner.

See School Development Priorities above for information about the Learning Ambassadors' current projects.

Well-being Day

On Monday 3rd February, the children took part in a 'Well-being Day' to mark the start of Children's Mental Health Week. During the day, the children took part in different activities to support their well-being. The activities involved some Cosmic Yoga, mindfulness colouring, Zen Den breathing activities, plus many more.

Speaking to the children, they told me that they would like to do these activities every day. A child in year 2 told me, 'I didn't know you could use your fingers when breathing.' A child in year 5 told me, 'The mindfulness colouring is to calm and relax you and you do not need to stress about anything.'

Please ask your child about the different activities they tried and which one they preferred. Encourage your child to show you and try and have a go yourself.



Miss O'Keeffe, PSHE Lead

Sports News

Well done to Sienna, Emily, Maisie, Lewis, Fareeha, Macie, Luke, Marley, Grace and Liam in year six who took part in the Tag Rugby at William de Ferrers. Working together as a team and supporting each other they learned new skills and the rules of this game, as well as having great fun. You were all a credit to the school, displaying good sportsmanship and perseverance.

Mrs J Hardwick, Sports Lead

Policies Being Reviewed by staff, pupils and Governors this month

Policy for Looked After Children and Newly Qualified Teacher Policy,

7 'til 7 Club News

Hope everyone had an enjoyable half term. It's lovely to see the children back. We have started to play outside (weather permitting), now that the lighter evenings are here. Everyone has fun playing football, hoola hooping, blowing bubbles, chalking pictures on the ground, or just chasing around. Hopefully in the Spring we can have picnics again as the children all really enjoy them.

We were wondering if anyone had any dolls that were no longer needed. Some of the children would like to play 'families' and would be very grateful.

Don't forget if you want your child/children to come to the 7 til 7 Club, please give as much notice as possible and ensure we have an up to date contract as well as sufficient funds in advance. Many thanks.

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

School Meals

Chunky Flapjack 12 Portions

This is a new sugar reduced recipe which has added dates to naturally sweeten this favourite tray bake. Well worth a try. It is easier to use an electric mixer to blend the ingredients together.

Ingredients 200g Margarine, 75g sugar, 50g golden syrup, 300g porridge oats, 200g chopped dates.

Method

1. Line a 37cm x 27cm tin with parchment paper and set the oven at 165c/gas 3.
2. In a saucepan, gently melt the margarine then add sugar and golden syrup.
3. Add the dates and gently cook for approximately 10 minutes until they are soft and syrupy. **Do not allow to boil.**
4. Place the oats in a large bowl, using the beater attachment, carefully add the syrupy date mixture and mix on a slow speed for 1 minute. **Do not over mix.**
5. Place the sticky flapjack mix into the tin and press down firmly using a palette knife.
6. Cook in the oven for 20-25 minutes until golden and set. **Do not overcook.**
7. Allow to cool completely - preferably overnight.
8. When cold turn upside down on a chopping board and cut into 12 pieces.

Cooks Tips: Try adding other ingredients to this flapjack - ginger, chopped apple, banana, sultanas. By cutting this flapjack when cold, you get a lovely crisp edge. Pile high for a 'coffee shop' look. Mrs Chettur - Catering Manager

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 March we have Mother's Day Lunches (closing date 8th March). 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 February were: 1st Place Karen Aldworth £26.75, 2nd Place Simon Trice £16.05, 3rd Place Simon Trice £10.70

Well done to all of our winners and to all of our members for your ongoing support 😊.

The next event is Quiz Night on Friday 13th March - Adult only event.

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 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

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

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

South Woodham Ferrers Library

Reading Well for Children is a collection of 33 titles selected to provide children with advice, information and support to help them understand their mental health and wellbeing. The booklist is targeted at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11), but includes a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and carers.



The collection is grouped into topics covering healthy minds, feelings and worries, the world around you, dealing with tough times and living well with a condition. The books have been chosen by a panel of health professionals and co-produced with children and families and are available from South Woodham Ferrers Library. <https://reading-well.org.uk/news/announcing-reading-well-for-children>

Sally Grant Senior Customer Services Assistant, South Woodham Ferrers Library

Danztek - New Club

New street dance and drama club runs after school each Thursday from 3.20pm - 4.20pm all year groups. £5 per session.

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.

CSSE (Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex) - 11+ 2021 Entry

Registration for the 11+ exam will be from 19th May to 1st July 2020 inclusive. The tests will take place on Saturday 19th September 2020. Free past papers are available to download from the CSSE website (most current past papers will go on sale from 11th May 2020). Please visit the website, www.csse.org.uk for more 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!

2020

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
Thurs 7th May	School Closed for Polling Station
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:

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.