



CLARE COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday, October 17th

# Newsletter



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# Learning to Learn!

It's been another action-packed half-term, and I will regale you with a class by class account of what we have been up to on the next page! First of all though, I'd like to thank you for attending the **Information Evening** in September, which had a brilliant turn-out this year. It was really useful to get parents and carers' feedback from this regarding the information you would find useful in the future— watch this space for other events concerning our foci for the year.

I am very proud to say that we are at the largest the school has ever been— over 200 pupils and counting. This is very good news for the school as our funding should increase significantly next year as a result, and it further future-proofs our structure and viability.

Way back in September we once again took all of Key Stage 2 to take part in the **Archaeological Dig** in Clare Country Park. How lucky we are to have this amazing resource on our doorstep to really make our history curriculum come alive— the children were so enthusiastic, and are really building up their knowledge of this career path— I think we definitely have some budding archaeologists out there!

I would also like to thank the loyal team of parents who have helped again to transport our Footballers to their fixtures which began a

few weeks ago— with wins in two out of three matches, we are feeling confident but not complacent!

This week, I was thrilled to welcome one of our parents, Mrs Vater, to end our half-term of assemblies on the school value, **Learning to Learn**, with a highly engaging assembly on Dyslexia. She began the assembly by playing this short film from the British Dyslexia association, which I would really encourage you to view even if you don't have personal experience of dyslexia

[www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexia/about-dyslexia/what-is-dyslexia](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexia/about-dyslexia/what-is-dyslexia).

All too often, parents can be overwhelmed with negative preconceptions when their child is diagnosed with a neurological difference, but the reality is rarely so clear-cut. We all have special needs in our own unique way, and what I like about this film is the way it celebrates these. Did you know Richard Bransom and Keira Knightly are dyslexic?

**Aiming High** is the value for next term and we have more thought-provoking assemblies and events coming up connected to this such as our World of Work Week and Pens Down Day!

There will be auditions held after half-term for a pantomime that I am going to be rehearsing for a performance in January, led by members of the Drama Club. However, we do need some extra parts, so I will be inviting children in KS2 to try

out for a part if they would like to get involved with this. Rehearsals will be held at lunchtimes and after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays— this will be an opportunity to raise money for our Gazebo fund too.

Also, expect to hear more about the **World of Work week** running during the week of November 4th, where we are hoping to run a dress up as your future career day amongst other things. Please note that we will be holding a Parent Share Event on the Wednesday of that week.

Don't forget to make your appointments for **Parents' Evenings** which are in the week beginning 29th October (remember no children at school on the PD Day!) to catch up with how your children have settled into their new year group expectations.

For now, I would like to wish you a relaxing and peaceful half-term, a chance to refuel before we enter the rigours of the run-up to Christmas— gulp! it hardly seems possible, and not to forget a massive thank you for the staff who make it all possible!

**Rebecca Loader**  
Headteacher



**HARVEST ASSEMBLY TOMORROW Friday, 18th October, 9am** Tomorrow is our annual Harvest Festival in school for the first time (we will be using the Baptist Church at Christmas, and the Parish Church at Easter) where the children will be performing an eclectic seasonal mix of thought-provoking songs and poems. Please send your child/ren in with a tin or dried food donation for Haverhill Foodbank, from which a representative will be visiting us at 9.45am to say a few words to hopefully, collect lots of food. We are looking forward to also welcoming Paul Graham, the Baptist Minister, and one of our Governors, to say a few words. It should be a joyful celebration on which to end a half-term, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

A Stour Valley Educational Trust Academy

Well, what fun we are having, but.....just in case your children don't answer or say 'Nothing!' when they get home from school and you ask them what they have done all day....!

**Acorns** have been enjoying their first venture into whole-school assemblies, and their first Gold Value certificates as well as some bracing Welly Walks round the school pond and in the Wildlife area. 'In the moment' learning has included parties, ..... and more!

**Beech and Cedar classes** loved their trip to Colchester Zoo– the weather was dismal but it didn't keep the animals in or us out, with the baby tigers probably the most popular beast! It has also been amazing to see the quality of their writing and art around their topic– the Rain Forest has always thoroughly entertained our animal-mad children, and it has been enhanced beautifully this year by the book 'The Snail and the Whale' .

**Elm and Hazel class** have entered into the Battle of the Taj Mahal– seven models at the last count as well as some lego elephants and a papier mache leopard– their home learning is fantastic. In addition to this, we have been hearing some interesting sounds from **Hazel class** as they take on the challenge of learning the clarinet– they are doing very well with their sound-making– it really is much more difficult than you think (I should know as I had a go myself and failed miserably!) **Elm class** have been wowing the rest of the school with their superior times table knowledge and weekly time totals on Accelerated Reader– they have won the whole-school award for two weeks in a row, with an average of 46 minutes per day...now that's commitment!

Talking of Home Learning, **Larch class** is on a culinary roll with solar systems made out of biscuits, cake, posters and a colourful hanna bead model. We were all impressed when we saw the big black Planetarium tent that they entered last week– it almost filled the school hall! Their general knowledge about Earth and Space is really impressive, and I know Mrs Beers was very impressed by the questions they were asking during the Planetarium experience!

Last but not least, **Oak class** have been developing skills as Young Leaders, organising playground games for younger children with a generous new trolley of games equipment. They have also been excited to attend Open Evenings and tours of secondary schools (it seems a long way away still, but don't forget to apply for their secondary place before 31st October). Home Learning has been of an extremely high standard this year, with the children really rising to the challenge of going the extra mile in their last year of primary school.

## Eco Council

Our new Eco Council have been up and running for a few weeks and are already thinking how we can be eco-savvy and save money around the school– their first target is to try and reduce the amount of electricity we use around the school, checking that everyone has turned their lights and projectors off when they leave classrooms.



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## School Council

We are very pleased to announce that we have raised over £2000 now for our 'Gazebo', and have several events planned for this term, including a day nearer the end of term where house teams will make items to sell at our Christmas Fair.

## Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019

### Clare Baptist Church & “Link To Hope”

Like last year we are joining with a UK-based charity, to pack and send shoeboxes to people in Eastern Europe. “Link To Hope” are based in Worthing and have been delivering shoebox presents since 1992, initially to Romania, but now also to Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine. They are a Christian charity who believe in “distributing love to those in need regardless of background, colour, creed or religion.”

The leaflet in your child’s Book Bag gives all the information you need to pack and wrap a shoebox that will be received with love and gratitude. The key elements to remember are:

1. Choose who your shoebox is going to – they are either for a family or an elderly person
2. Use the list in the leaflet to ensure that you include the correct items before you wrap up your shoebox – they are not checked and will only be opened by the family or elderly person you have sent it to
3. Please donate £2 with your shoebox if you can – this purely covers the cost of transportation and distribution

There will also be a large box in Reception for you to drop off any items from the list of “Essential” or “Extra Items” if you are unable to pack a complete shoebox. We will make up extra shoeboxes with these gifts.

If you want more information, please contact me on the details below or visit the “Link To Hope” website: [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk). Not only does this website tell you everything you need to know about this year’s appeal, it also includes a lot of photos and lovely stories from last year’s distribution.



Many thanks,

Rev Paul Graham – Minister, Clare Baptist Church

### ATTENDANCE

**We normally ask parents or carers to send their children in with a minor cough or cold, as children often forget about their symptoms in the course of the school day. If a child has been sick at home or at school, or has a stomach upset, however, we ask that they are kept off school for forty-eight hours after the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea in case of contagion.**

**We will always contact the parent or carer if we feel that the child is too ill to benefit from being at school– this is why it is so important that we have three sets of contact details. With parents working sometimes a while from the school, your second or third contact could be the person who is called upon to pick your child up from school.**

The attendance team meet regularly to monitor attendance and parents will receive notification by email (or letter if they are not online) when attendance drops below 93% without a valid health reason. If a pupil’s attendance falls below 90%, and to try and avoid the involvement of the Educational Welfare Officer, parents will be invited to discuss ways to improve attendance at school.

**Lastly, I would like to thank the vast majority of parents who support us in ensuring that their children attend school regularly, even when they have a cough or cold; and take their holidays during holiday periods and not in term-time. Ultimately, you are ensuring that your child is accessing the best possible education they can.**

**Needed– parents or carers or any relations really, with a career built upon Maths to speak at a Careers Fair. It would entail speaking to small groups of pupils and other parents about your career route and how you arrived there, and**



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KEY DATES	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 9 – 10	Harvest Assembly
	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	PD Day (No children)
	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 3.30-5.30pm	EARLY PARENTS' EVENING
	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 5-7.30pm	LATE PARENTS' EVENING
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	World of Work Week
	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 1-3pm	Careers Afternoon- Parents/Carers welcome
	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 9-9.30am	Larch Class Assembly
	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 9-9.30am	Hazel Class Assembly
	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 9-9.30am	Elm Class Assembly
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Pens Down Day
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Willy Wonka Day (Chocolate Donations)
	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30-10.15am	EYFS Nativity Performance
	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Pavillion Day (Inter-house teams raising money)
	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	PTFA Xmas Fayre 2:30-4:30
	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December-Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Last week of clubs
	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 1.30-2.30pm	Beech and Cedar Play Dress Rehearsal
	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30-10.30am	Beech and Cedar Performance
	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 11-2pm	Christmas Dinner
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 1.15-2.15pm	Carol Service Parents and Carers may take their children home straight after our return to school

DSC

## OCTOBER HALF-TERM CAMP

DSC

## CLARE MULTI-SPORTS CAMP



**Location** - Clare Community Primary School - C010 8PZ

**Date** - Wednesday 23rd October

**Time** - 9:00am - 5:15pm (free 8:30 drop off)

**Ages** - Reception - Year 6

**Bring** - Packed lunch, water, appropriate clothing & footwear required!

**Cost** - £15.00 per child

To book please contact us via  
telephone on: 07903 853143 or 07771  
567564, alternatively email:  
dellar.sports.coaching@gmail.com

## Clare Community Primary School Football Team!







Dear Parents and Carers

The Summer Holidays seem but a distant memory and yet this is the first PTFA newsletter of the year. Firstly a big welcome to all the new Acorn children and their parents, we hope you have all settled in and are enjoying your first term here at Clare. We hope everyone else has settled in to their new classes and are enjoying the new school year.

We wanted to let you know that we raised a huge £4350.00 last year for our children's school, thank you so much to everyone that contributed, whether it be big or small. As always we could do with an extra pair of hands so please do get in contact if you have some spare time, even if it's just for the events, we are always very grateful.

You will no doubt have seen how we spent the money raised, the fantastic library furniture for one at the cost of £1055. It will no doubt be a fixture for many years and has allowed the space to become a wonderful feature of the school. Our other large spend was £1500 towards dining tables in the hall. We also paid for Acorn book bags, Oak leaver's hoodies, and £100 contribution to each class to name a few.

Thank you to all the parents who completed the PTFA survey. We have had the results back and option two which was the '£2.50 per child per term or £7.50 per year plus 1 event per term or 3 events per year' came out as the most popular option.

We will now be trialling this out this school year and hope it will be a huge success, allowing all us parents the opportunity to donate to the school without the faff. Whilst the termly donations are voluntary it must be stressed that without them we will be unable to carry on funding vital projects for the school and our children. You will be able to make this term's £2.50 contribution via Parentpay shortly. Every term the PTFA will then donate that money to a specific cause.

This term it has already been decided that the money raised plus £1000 from the PTFA budget will go towards a new interactive white board for Oak Class. Oak class' current one is on the blink and it is in our opinion vital that it is replaced as soon as possible due to it being a necessary piece of equipment for their learning.

This term our event will be the Christmas fair. We will be holding it on 6th December between 2.30pm and 4.30pm in the school hall and classrooms. In preparation for this we will be holding our Willy Wonka Day on Tuesday 22nd November. This will be our only donation day for the fair so we will no longer be asking parents for the decorated jars or 'whine or wine' stall donations.

Willy Wonka Day: Children bring their chocolate donations on Willy Wonka Day and in return they are entered into a prize draw to win one of Willy Wonka's Seven Golden Tickets (one per class). Donations can be anything chocolate - bars/boxes/figures/packs. On the morning of 22nd November the children will hand in the donations to their teacher to gain entry into the draw. The Golden Ticket winners for each class will be revealed by the end of the day with the winners then able to claim their prize.

We will still be recycling through 'bags 2 school' so please look out for our next collection date and we will still be benefiting from parents purchasing name tags from 'stitkins', information on these can be found in the office.

Kind regards

PTFA

# FREE School MEALS



## Free School Meals could save you up to £450 a year

What's more, if you sign up, your child's school receives extra funding from the Government, up to £1,320 a year. Even if your child is getting Universal Infant Free School meals in Key Stage 1, your school will still benefit if you are entitled.

Applying online only takes a few minutes and, if eligible, you will receive free meals until March 2022. Visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

### To get free school meals you need to be receiving one of the following:

- o Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- o Income Support
- o Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- o Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- o Working Tax Credit run on
- o Child Tax Credit **but no element of Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190



**If you need more information you can call 0345 606 6067**



# Pumpkins in the Park 2019

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October

1pm – 4pm at Clare Country Park



Start at the Old Goods Shed, follow the map (£2) through the Country Park and finish at the Social Club.

Fancy dress optional. Competition. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and bar.  
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**NEW THIS YEAR .....PUMPKIN CARVING AT THE  
SOCIAL CLUB AFTER THE TRAIL**