



Happy Half-term!

Newsletter



This is going to be a shorter newsletter than usual, just to update you with a few outstanding issues before the half-term break.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended Parents' Evenings this week– I hope you now have a very clear idea of how your children are progressing and where you can support their learning. We will be arranging appointments after half-term for any parents who couldn't attend, as this is such an important part of our home-school partnership.

Please have a relaxing, happy and safe half-term, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday, October 30th, for an action-packed few weeks as we move nearer to the C word!



Win a Fantastic, Top of the Range Electric Piano

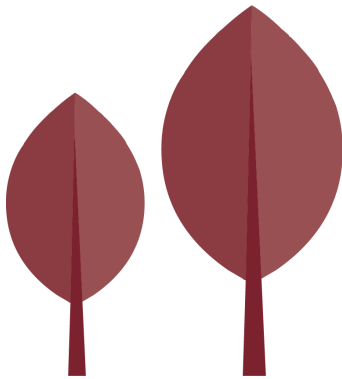
We have had kindly donated to us a large electric piano, complete with stool. It is in immaculate condition and would be amazing for any budding pianists or anyone keen to learn. We are going to raffle this item in aid of school funds, and the raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Fayre. The piano has a very realistic tone– it really would make a fantastic Christmas present. Raffle tickets will be on sale after half-term for £2.50 a ticket or 5 for £10 (please send money in named envelopes to the school office).

School Day Timings...

We only had three responses to our consultation on the proposed change to the school day timings and two out of three of these were positive, so we are going to press ahead with our proposed changes, which we feel will mean that we can accommodate the curriculum much more satisfactorily.

As from January, Acorn class will be dismissed at 3pm each day, KS1 (Beech and Cedar classes) at 3.05pm and KS2 (Elm, Hazel, Larch and Oak classes) at 3.15pm.

Staggering the timings of the children exiting from school will also make the procedure safer for children; you have probably noticed the bottleneck we get at times when several classes exit at once, and it can be challenging for teachers making sure that children are reunited with the correct parents or carers. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Please contact Jenny Sibley to get involved in our PTFA. We want one representative per class per term! Many thanks!



CLARE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

clareprimary.org

I hope you have all had a chance to look at our new website which was launched last month.

We are adding regular updates and aim to start tweeting, and updating our galleries very soon.



Clare Primary Football Team Report

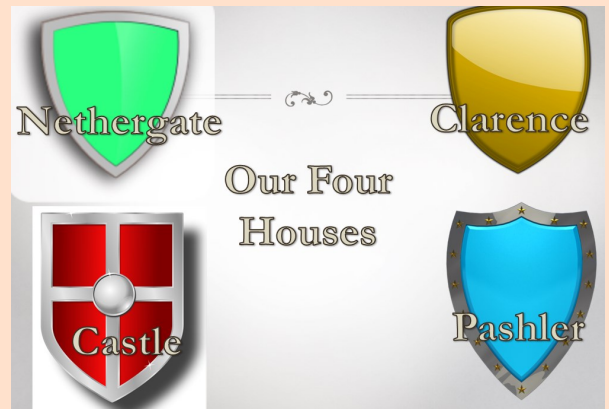
Clare FC entertained Glemsford Primary in a friendly this Tuesday, coming out on top as 2-0 winners in a very close battle. Glemsford were a well organised team and both teams came close, Jack Gibbs producing a fine save from a deflected shot to keep the score level in the early stages. With the last kick of the first half Alfie Grant once again made the score sheet, finishing a fine team effort after some good work from Toby Stanbury-Jones on the left hand side. The second half saw a much changed squad with five substitutions. Once settled, Clare again looked comfortable on the ball and began to pass and move and are showing real signs of improvement from the start of the year. Captain for the day, Jamie Noakes scored the second which capped a fine display. Unfortunately we say goodbye to Jamie who is moving school after half term. We wish you all the best of luck in your new school and I'm sure you will settle in straight away! You will be missed! As the boys wrote in your card, 'I hope we don't have to play your team!' I thank the parents for your support and look forward to our next fixture against St Felix on Tuesday 31st October 2017.

Mr Bareham



House News...

The children are in the process of designing shields for the new School Houses, Nethergate, Pashler, Castle and Clarence. Mrs Stranger organised a very successful afternoon, led by the House Captains, where the children worked across the key stages to design some shields to act as their logos. The winning designs will go on display early in the new half-term.



Accelerated Reader Update



Many thanks for your support for this new initiative which is proven to increase children's reading ability by ensuring that they are reading at exactly the right language and comprehension level. We are really getting into the swing of it now and I hope you have found the information shared with you at parents' evening useful.

All the children in Years 3-6 have recently taken another Star Assessment test which gives us a reading age and shows us how the children are progressing with their reading abilities. This gives us another ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development), in other words, a range from which to select the children's books.

The children will always start off by selecting books at the lower end of their ZPD, and then will move up to a higher number as they get quiz scores of 90% or higher. If the longer books at the end of the ZPD are tackled too soon, then the children will not be getting into the swing of completing as many quizzes as possible, and the level of vocabulary could be too challenging and so slow progress.

90% as an average quiz score combined with 30 minutes of reading is the magic combination which evidence shows ensures the optimum amount of progress, and that is why we run our daily reading session for all of Key Stage Two, where the majority of the class are reading to themselves, whilst the teacher is hearing readers, talking through quiz results with individual children or working with groups on guided comprehension work.

The children will re-take the Star Assessment Test at the end of December, so that their ZPD is constantly kept accurate and relevant. This also enables us to quickly pick up and act on children whose reading ages are below their chronological ages. It becomes most useful when you start looking at the progression over several terms; occasionally children's progress isn't a straight line up and sometimes they will either have a dip or not make progress on half-term for various reasons.

After half-term, we will be giving out passwords so that the children can access their Reading Dashboards at home. They will be able to see the books they have read, the quiz scores obtained with each of them and their word counts so far.