



CLARE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

Newsletter



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More than a Score!

SATS FRENZY

A resounding 'Well Done!' to our amazing Year 6 children, who tackled their SATs papers with positive attitudes and resilience. It was a demanding week, not for the faint of heart, but Oak Class gave their all, just as we would expect, and we made it through to Friday still smiling!

As a reward, the children voted to have a Pyjama day on Friday, plus some decidedly unhealthy treats, plus their tents up on the school field, and why not...!

They had a thoroughly enjoyable day which they will probably remember more than all their SATs preparation put together and I'm pleased to say that the classroom has survived unscathed...just about! Now for other more important things!

PARKING

It has been brought to my attention that a vehicle has been spotted parking on the yellow zig-zag lines nearby the school entrance at the start of school.

Coincidentally, I have received a letter from the Suffolk Highways only this morning which states that they are planning to introduce Traffic Regulation Orders for school entrance markings. These will make it an offence to stop on them; they propose that this restriction will be effective on Mondays to Fridays and between 8am and 4.30pm.

Please let me know any comments you have on this, and I will feed them back to Suffolk Highways.

Walk to School Week



It is actually Walk to School Week again this week, which makes it a perfect time to discard your four wheels and focus on your two legs instead! Children who walk at least 10 minutes to school (including those who have to drive but park at least 10 minutes away from the school site) will be given a sticker each day— try and collect all 5!

There will also be some curriculum activities and reward badges available— why not have a go and get our children fit and healthy whilst eschewing those car exhausts.

You will notice that lots of our classes this term are trying also to do a daily mile at some point in the school day. We definitely notice that there is a link between fresh air and exercise and improved concentration.

Homework

You might have noticed that several classes are changing the way they are approaching homework for the summer term. Instead of setting a different piece per week, we are getting a little more creative.

Children have been given a list of choices over the whole term, and the freedom to choose what they work on each week. We have had a very positive response so far, with parents reporting that children have been very keen to work independently with no prompting in

a lot of cases so keen are they to start! Please let me know your experiences, as this may well be something we adopt throughout the school.



In-

Inspiration Station

As part of the work she is doing in applying for an Arts-mark for the school, Mrs. Linnane has set up an Inspiration Station in the Library Area, along with a display parallel to this.

She has invited anyone in the school (including adults) to submit their creative thoughts and questions in response to a different stimulus that she will change every few weeks. She will then choose a piece every week to show in assembly. The first stimuli are some shells, and we have had some beautiful pieces of artwork and even a lego sculpture brought in.

Why don't you get thinking and see what you can produce? Please note, that this will replace a piece of homework if you produce a response.

Rebecca Loader
Headteacher

HOLIDAY CLUB

We are once again offering a Half-term Holiday Sports Club on Tuesday, 28th May, from 9-5.15pm for the extremely reasonable price of £10. There was a great take-up last time, so make sure you book your place via Parentpay.



A **Stour Valley Educational Trust** Academy

Parent Survey



A big thank you to all the parents who used the Survey Monkey to respond to our latest survey. We were extremely encouraged by the positive responses we received with 94% of 61 parents and carers stating that their children enjoyed school; 97% happy that their children were safe in school and 95% saying that they would recommend the school to another parent.

A key question was about whether or not we continue to rate attainment in all subjects in the annual school report. We had 46 responses to this question, and they were evenly split, so we will continue as we are as there was no clear favourite.

A number of parents have mentioned that they would like specific comments in Science which we will accommodate and we will be using bullet points to make comments about the foundation subjects in order to be more specific about individual strengths and weaknesses.

MID-DAY SUPERVISOR WANTED!



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Midday Supervisor Clare Community Primary School

We are seeking to appoint a member of staff to join our friendly and professional lunchtime supervisory team, Monday to Friday 12pm – 1pm, term time only

You will:

- be responsible for the safety, welfare and good conduct of the pupils during lunchtimes
- supervise the pupils in the dining hall and playground areas
- maintain good order and discipline during the lunchtime period by following the school behaviour policy and procedures
- oversee minor incidents and accidents

Duties will also include setting up and clearing away the hall, cleaning up spillages, cleaning tables etc.

We are seeking to appoint someone who can demonstrate patience and confidentiality. You will have the ability to listen, and communicate effectively with adults and children.

For further details about this post please contact Gemma Rule on 01787 326940. Prospective candidates are very welcome to arrange a visit to the school.

Completed application forms should be emailed to Gemma Rule, HR Assistant at grule@stourvalley.org.

Stour Valley Educational Trust is an equal opportunities multi-academy trust and we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students. Successful candidates will be offered the position subject to successful pre-employment checks.

Holiday Requests

We are receiving a worryingly large number of requests for absence for holidays during term time. As of September 2013 the Headteacher can no longer legally authorise any holiday during term time. Leave in term time will not be agreed by us at any time unless circumstances surrounding the request can be evidenced, by parents, to be exceptional.

When children are absent from school, they miss key learning opportunities in lessons and children often find it difficult to catch up fully when they return. There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Therefore every school day counts!

Attendance Policy

I would like to draw your attention to some changes to our updated Attendance Policy which has been amended to be in line with the Stour Valley Community School Attendance Policy. In particular, the following section lists specific actions that will take place should a child's attendance fall below 90%. See the whole policy on our website.

The category of Persistent Absentee is applicable to any pupil whose attendance, for whatever reason, falls below 90%. When this happens the school is legally obliged to discuss the case with the Education Welfare Officer to agree a plan of action.

The attendance team will 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 pupils attendance falls below 90%, and to try and avoid the involvement of the Education Welfare Officer, parents will be invited to discuss ways to improve attendance at school.

Should the pupil's attendance then drop below 85% the Education Welfare Officer will insist that we request medical evidence to support all future absences relating to illness. Failure to provide documentation will result in an unauthorised absence mark being recorded.*

A referral will be made to the Education Welfare Officer for either a Prevention meeting or a Fast Track Referral if attendance does not improve. In this case, parents will be invited to a meeting by letter.

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.



School Uniform

Some parents have asked for clarification on whether or not older children can wear the maroon polo shirts in the summer and the answer is a definite yes, however, please make sure that if your child wears a short sleeved conventional shirt, they are also wearing the school tie if they are in KS2– we will be dealing with this vigilantly after half-term, so please ensure that children come to school with a tie if they wish to wear short-sleeve shirts.



Shakespeare Workshops

Years 5 and 6 have started preparation for their theatre debut in July – we have started to prepare the scenes we are involved in of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Parents will be invited along to an hour-long performance at the New Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich. Today we have had a workshop with an actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the children have had a brilliant time re-familiarising themselves with the play.

The Gazebo fund is standing at over £1000 now! Many thanks to parents and carers who have supported events and especially those who have made direct donations through Parentpay. We are on our way to our target– watch out for more events coming up!



*****Free online safety workshop for parents and carers*****

Muddled by Minecraft or rattled by Roblox? NSPCC and O2 are running hour-long interactive workshops with tips, tools and advice on how to keep your child safe online. Talking about online safety with your child doesn't need to be difficult – build your confidence to have those important conversations and learn where to go for help and advice.

Come along at **9am on Wednesday 22nd May**. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Important Dates

20 th – 24 th May	Walk to School Week
22 nd May	NSPCC Parent Workshop 9am
23 rd May	KWIK Cricket Mixed, Cavendish - by invitation
24 th May	Drum Workshop
27th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – HALF TERM WEEK – BACK TO SCHOOL 4th June
3rd June	PD DAY (No pupils in school)
4 th June	Visit by Author James Campbell
5 th June	Mini Tennis Haverhill TBC
7 th June	Beech & Acorn Fathers Day Café after school
12 th June	Yr2 Trip TBC
13 th June	Yr2 Assembly 9am
12 th - 14 th June	Holt Hall Year 6
14 th June	PTFA Fashion Show Clare Town Hall 7pm
20 th June	Yr3 Assembly 9am
20 th June	Quad kids Athletics Castle Manor - by invitation
21 st June	Group School Photos
27 th June	Yr4 Assembly 9am
27 th June	Yr5 Trip to Kentwell Hall
3/4 th July	Bikeability Yr 5
4 th July	Reception class Assembly 9am
5 th July	Outdoor Learning Day
5 th July	Summer Concert 9:15
8 th July	Sports Week
8 th July	Year 6 transition days begin
8/9 th July	Bikeability Yr 5
12 th July	SPORTS DAY
15 th July	Induction Day / Open evening 4:00-6:00
16 th July	Yr5 & 6 New Wolsey Theatre (Romeo and Juliet)
18 th July	Year 5-6 Talent Show to parents 6:00-7:00
18/19 th July	Bikeability Yr 5
22 nd July	Year 6 leavers Assembly 2:00-2:30
22 nd July	Leavers Family Barbeque 6:00-7:00
23rd July	LAST DAY OF TERM
24th July	PD DAY (No pupils in school)