



CLARE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday, January 25th

Newsletter



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What have you done today to make you feel proud?!

Welcome back to the new year! We are a few weeks into the new term now and children are fully settling in to what we always think of as the 'work' term, where children know now what is expected of their year group, and by their teachers, and are fully immersed in their classes and the learning culture of the school.

The lunchtimes appear to be going well, with several children commenting that they prefer the mix of longer breaktime and shorter lunch. We will review this properly at the end of term, and it could be that we have this arrangement for the cold winter months and then revert to the longer lunchtime again in the summer.

Topics are well underway in each class with WWII, the Ancient Greeks and Treasure being studied in KS2, whilst Inventions and Toys are the topics for KS1. Look out for a STEM (Science, Technology and Maths) Parent Share event later in the term!

Our Value this term is Respect, both for ourselves, others and also in the wider sense of the word— for our environment and the other creatures that share it with us. Our assemblies so far have focused on tolerance and kindness towards other

humans but also politeness and ways of showing respect.

I must mention all those children who are collecting their Gold Values certificates each week— we are challenging them to collect one each of our values before the end of the year in order to appear on a special roll of honour at the front of the school. I also want to give a special mention to Lillia Bennett, our first pupil to read a million words on Accelerated Reader this year. Nethergate House are in the lead after a term of housepoints but, who knows...it could all be different by half-term which is when we will offer a mid-year treat for the leading house.

Our House Captains have been tasked with the important job of organising our play list for assemblies this term, and we have had some brilliant choices so far – MPeople 'Proud' was a great way to start and really sums up how we want our pupils to feel about themselves and their school.

Speaking of which, I was delighted to find out that a letter I wrote at the end of last term to Nick Gibb, the School Standards Minister, following the disgraceful way in which the media interpreted the DFE Performance Tables, has been taken up by the Times Educational

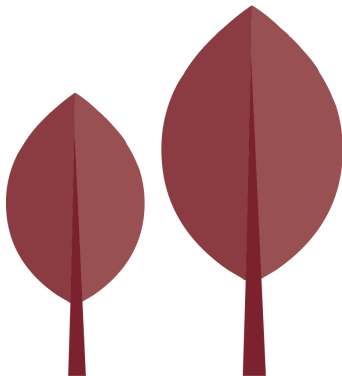
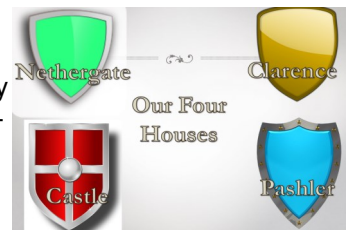
Supplement and reported on their online site: <https://www.tes.com/news/exclusive-angry-head-says-ministers-must-stop-humiliating-schools>.

Sometimes I feel that you need to stand up and be counted and I was incensed by the effect of this adverse (and untrue) publicity on my team of dedicated and hard-working staff.

Because of this article I have been approached by a coalition group of parents, teachers, heads and education experts, entitled 'More than a Score', working together to call for better assessment and fairer accountability in English primary schools. This is particularly pertinent given the plans to introduce a baseline Reception test with pilots next year. This will be an exciting opportunity to exchange ideas and be at the cutting edge of new ideas and approaches to assessment in our schools.

Rebecca Loader

Headteacher



We were so pleased to come fourth out of eight schools, a real improvement on our placing last year, and one which we feel is due in part to our swimming club for Years 3 and 4 in the summer term, and the supervision and encouragement of Joey from Dellar Sports. Well done, team Clare!

Playground Pick-ups

I'd like to politely remind parents of younger siblings that allowing children to scoot or ride their bikes round the playground is potentially hazardous for other children and adults.



Once a child has been handed over to your care, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are adequately supervised and leave the school premises safely.

We do have buses and taxis as well as staff cars leaving and accessing the site at pick-up time, so please ensure that young children are walking with you as you exit the playground.

Earlier in the week, we again had the situation that a dog tied up on the school railings was observed barking at a child who had tried to stroke it. **DOGS ARE PROHIBITED ON THE SCHOOL SITE, INCLUDING THE CAR-PARK.** Please do not bring them to school with you.

Thank you for your co operation in these matters and helping us to ensure that the end of the day is stress-free for all.



Reading Champion Challenge

(KS1)

1 point for reading per day
(Home or school)

Termly awards:

- 25 reads - Bronze**
- 50 reads - Silver**
- 100 reads - Gold**

How many points can you get?

Can you be a reading Champion?

ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you ring the school office before 9.30am with a specified reason for their absence. If a reason is not given, we are obliged to phone you back so that our records are correct. If we do not hear from you and still cannot get hold of you before 12pm, then we will be forced to follow our Safeguarding Procedure and notify the police as the child is technically missing from school, this is to ensure that the child is safe; so please ensure that you keep us informed on each day of a child's absence.

If a child has been sick or had diarrhea, then they should be away from school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness unless you feel that your child has been sick for another reason such as coughing or reflux. We encourage parents to send children in with coughs or colds, or a temperature. If we feel that a child is too ill to be in school, then we will always contact you, but they often perk up during the day, once they are into their normal routine.

Playtime Pointers

We continue to run the lunchtime programme below, and it has been really good to see children trying different sports, particularly hockey. In response to demand, we are also letting Year 4, 5 and 6 children bring a change of footwear and bottoms, and play football on the field at break on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday.



We already have a smart new set of goals on the playground which we are going to use at breaktimes, and a third of the playground will be reserved for football at breaktimes at from 12.45-1pm.

Our netball hoops have also been replaced so we are up and running for a range of sports! The Netball club has been really popular; it's lovely to see so many children enjoying themselves on the pitch and we are lucky enough to have an ex-county player as a coach so watch this space!

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WARM COAT SO THAT PLAYING OUTSIDE IS PLEASUREABLE FOR THEM!

Too many `Electronics`?

I am very concerned about a number of children in our school who seem to be affected by exposure to unsuitable or excessive ICT use. I am very aware of the pressures on parents to let children fit in with `peers` and I absolutely recognise the occasions when sometimes children need to just `chill` and relax on the computer for half an hour. However.....is it necessary for young children to have a television in their bedrooms? Do you know what you child is able to access, particularly if it is a SmartTV and youtube can be played? Children can be made very fearful if they don't understand something, and there is some very disturbing material that can be accessed on [youtube](#).



It has been brought to my attention that a number of children have been playing `Fortnite` and have been playing or are aware of games such as `Five Nights at Freddie's`. Fortnite has been classed as a 12 because a range of experts believe that its effect on children below the age of 12 is detrimental. PEGI ratings state that 12 games are appropriate for children aged 12 years old or more– there is a massive difference in psychological, physiological and cognitive development between a child of say 8 or 9 and a 12 year old. We have noticed language, aggressive behaviour and inappropriate interaction with peers which clearly has been influenced by gaming. Younger children are often highly imaginative and can be very frightened by things that an older child on the cusp of teenagehood would take in their stride. Please think very carefully about what you allow your child to access because it is more difficult to remove something once it has become normalised. This includes younger children watching other people play games on [youtube](#). *Did you know that youtube kids allows children to watch older children and adults playing age-inappropriate games such as `Fortnite`?*

Please consider also the time you are allowing children to access laptops or smartphones. Paediatricians seem to have a general consensus that more than two hours of screen time a day is bad for children, and this includes television. Too much can lead to children struggling to focus and sleep, and that can disrupt family life as well as lead to anxiety and poor mental health.

Please do not think I am telling you how to bring up your children. However, as a school, the staff are concerned about the growing effect this issue is having on our pupils. Parenting can be very isolating, especially when you have concerns, and it is sometimes important to air issues and share problems that I know we all have in this day and age, of how much technology is right for our families.





We are pleased to announce Dellar Sports Coaches are now offering a Lunchtime club designed for all ages, please see the timetable below, no booking necessary.

Day	Activity
Monday	Football
Tuesday	Hockey
Wednesday	Cricket
Thursday	Tennis
Friday	Basketball

The PTFA are on the look out for members from Acorn and Beech class...please contact the school office for more details!

Please take a moment to double check your child has not inadvertently picked up another child's uniform and that all items of clothing are clearly labelled.

Louise and Oliver in Larch Class are planning to hold several events to raise money for the British Heart Foundation during the week before half-term...Watch this space for more details!



If you are interested in Guitar Lessons please contact the school office. Up-beat offers fun and friendly music tuition on Friday afternoon's.

Important Dates (including Christmas Events)

7 th February	Hockey Tournament Leisure Centre Selected students from Yr5/6
18TH – 22ND Feb	HALF TERM
26 th February	Parents Evening 3:30 – 5:30
28 th February	Parents Evening 5:00 – 7:30
13 th March	Maths Workshop Acorn class 9:00-10:00
15 th March	Cedar Class Café after school
27 th March	Crucial Crew Yr6
28 th March	Farmers Market after school
29 th March	Greek Day Yr 3/4
1 st April	Year 3 -4 play to school 1:30
3 rd April	Year 3 – 4 play to parents (1:30pm)
4 th April	Year 3 – 4 play to parents (6-7pm)
4 th April	Parent Share 1:30-3:00
5 th April	Easter Assembly 2:00-3:00
8th – 22nd April	EASTER BREAK (BACK TO SCHOOL Tuesday 23rd APRIL)
24 th April	Netball Castle Manor TBC
6th May	BANK HOLIDAY
13 th —16 th May	Yr 6 SAT's
17 th May	Beech & Acorn Café after school
23 rd May	KWIK Cricket Mixed, Cavendish - by invitation
27th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – HALF TERM WEEK – BACK TO SCHOOL 4th June
3rd June	PD DAY (No pupils in school)
5 th June	Mini Tennis Haverhill TBC
12 th - 14 th June	Holt Hall Year 6
20 th June	Quad kids Athletics Castle Manor - by invitation
12 th July	SPORTS DAY (Change of Day)
15 th July	Induction Day / Open evening 4:00-6:00
16 th July	Year 5-6 play to school 1:30-2:30
17 th July	Year 5-6 play to parents 1:30-2:30
18 th July	Year 5-6 play to parents 6:00-7:00
18 th & 19 th July	Bikeability Yr 5
22 nd July	Provisional Year 6 leavers assembly & Tea Party 2:00 TBC
22 nd July	(Leavers Barbeque and Disco KS2) 6:00-7:00
23rd July	LAST DAY OF TERM
24th July	PD DAY (No pupils in school)

WiDderShiNs

Family Theatre & Storytelling



Treasure Chest Tales: Granny Dumpling

DYNAMIC STORYTELLING WITH QUIRKY PROPS

The amazing Theatre of Widdershins will be here telling their stories from all over the world - folk tales, fairy tales and myths - told with the gusto of a live theatrical show. This time, it's the Granny Dumpling story waiting to be told!

Adult and child tickets £5 each available at Clare Library

Saturday 9th February

Show starts 2pm and lasts up to one hour.

Clare Library

Guildhall, High St, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8NY. 01787-277702