



CLARE COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday, January 26th, 2018

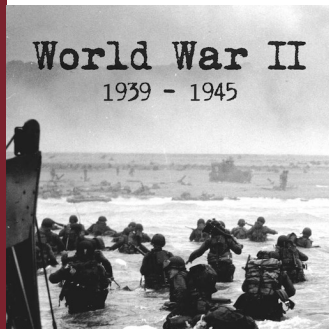
# Assembly Antics!

# Newsletter



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**We kicked off Assembly Season with a fantastic World War II assembly by Oak class yesterday. It was particularly pleasing to see that all the class had learnt their lines off by heart, had put together costumes, learnt dances and songs, and even done some cooking in preparation for this. Many thanks to all the parents who came to watch the children; I bet they didn't think they would end up eating 'mock-banana'**



## **sandwiches at 9.20am on a Thursday morning!**

Larch class have also braved the inclement weather this week to visit West Stow, the Anglo-Saxon village. The children all enjoyed the experience, especially exploring the actual huts which even had real fires burning.

Elsewhere, we have junk modelling in Cedar with some truly awesome robots being built, Acorn lions cavorting around the school hall and Hazel class creating their own Mount Olympuses out of card and lego. Elm class have been spotted carrying some very impressive volcano models and Beech class have been making collages of Medieval houses. Phew!

The clubs are now all up and running, and it is su-

per to see the children pursuing such a diverse range of interests as well as being motivated to consolidate their basic skills.

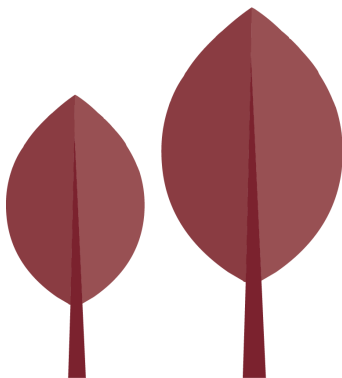
Working particularly well are the lunchtime clubs— I am really enjoying playing Board Games with the children— Dobble, Banagrams and Uno are the favourites at the moment, all well worth getting at home if you want to encourage interaction and less time on the tablets!

Rebecca Loader-  
*Headteacher*

## **Maths Open-Morning** We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school on Wednesday 31st January from 9-11am in order to hear about the ways in which we teach Maths in school and also to experience a Maths lesson.

Our aim is to familiarise parents with not only the principles behind our teaching methods but also the strategies and methods we are using, so that you can support children with their home-learning. It should be very useful, and we hope to see as many parents as possible.

The morning focuses on the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Mathematics curriculum, but Acorn class parents are very welcome to come and learn about the next steps for their children. We will, however, be offering another morning after half-term, solely for this class where Mrs McIvor will demonstrate how Maths teaching is being taught in the Early Years. We will inform you of this date next week.



# Accelerated Reader Update

This intervention is going from strength to strength at school with an average of 10 months progress per pupil over the last 4 months. It is important to note that, as with all tools, the results that our pupils achieve with AR depend on what we do with it. When used casually, AR helps pupils reading abilities grow; when used thoughtfully and with proven techniques, it leads to tremendous gains and a lifelong love of reading. We continue to teach reading in school in a variety of different ways: through challenging, high-interest class readers which are linked to cross-curricular topics, through designated comprehension sessions where we explicitly teach reading skills, and through buddied reading sessions with pupils from several classes.

I would like to address some common questions I have been asked by a few parents in order to clarify the system and explain why it is successful.

## Why is my child on an `easier book` than before?

AR works by testing your child on their reading comprehension half-termly. This means that the child is not simply saying the words in the book, but that they have a thorough understanding of the language and the plot. They are then given a ZPD range based on their reading level. Children initially will be selecting from the lower range to ensure that they are able to get 100% on the quizzes they take on these books. If they do well on these first 2-3 quizzes, then they can work up the range and select from up to a couple of points above.

Example: **A child's ZPD is 3.5-5.7. They should initially be picking books from 3.5-8; if they get above 85-100% on several occasions, then they can start moving up to 3.8-4.0, and so on.**

We retest children half-termly so that we get the most accurate assessment of their comprehension skills.

## How is this going to improve their reading ability?



Research from thousands of schools world-wide shows that this method of improving reading works as long as children are reading for at least 30 minutes a day and getting at least 85% correct when quizzed on books. Basically, the more they read at their level of comprehension, the more that their reading ability will increase. This is why everyone in Years 2-6 begins every day with half an hour of individual reading.

## What if my child wants to read a series of books and the books are on different ZPDs?

That is fine. Of course the child will want to read the whole series and there is no issue with occasionally dotting about the ZPD if a child wants to read a sequel to a book.

## Can my child still read their own books at home?

Of course they can and, if the book has a quiz on it (you can check this at home through [ARbookfinder.co.uk](http://ARbookfinder.co.uk)), they can then complete a quiz for the book in school. Obviously, we would like them to read as many of their ZPD books as possible, as this is how they will improve their reading age, but we also want them to love reading! We have just invested £1300 in new books, and will be replenishing our stock on a regular basis to keep up to date and expand our selection of titles.

## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club, which runs from 7.45-8.45am each morning is thriving, and we are delighted with the response from children and parents.

Do log on to ParentPay if you would like to book your children in for some repeat sessions, or simply use it for a one-off if you have an early start, making sure you book your child/children into the club before 3.00pm the preceding day.

A choice of sporting and craft activities are offered in the spacious school hall, before a nutritious breakfast is offered. The atmosphere is organised yet relaxed and the children attending transition very smoothly into the school day.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The School Council have rewritten the Parentview questionnaire for pupils in order to collect their views on a whole range of issues such as homework, bullying, do they feel safe, how the school is run etc.

We will be asking parents to complete the same questionnaire at the Parents' Evening after half-term and it will be very interesting to collate and compare the results.



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### Important Dates

**ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW WEEK** 29th January—2nd February 2018

**MATHS PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS** Wednesday 31st January 2018

**YEAR 5 ASSEMBLY (PARENTS WELCOME)** Thursday 8th February 2018 9.00 am

**PTFA VALENTINE DISCO** Friday 9th February 2018 (times to be confirmed)

**HALF TERM** 12th February—16th February 2018

**PARENTS' EVENING** Tuesday 20th February 2018 5.00 pm— 7.30 pm

**PARENTS' EVENING** Thursday 22nd February 2018 3.30 pm—5.30 pm

**STAFF & PARENT INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING** Tuesday 27th February 2018 (times to be confirmed)

**YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY (PARENTS WELCOME)** Thursday 1st March 2018 at 9.00 am

**YEAR 4 GREEK DAY** Monday 5th March 2018

**YEAR 6 DUXFORD TRIP** Wednesday 7th March 2018

**YEAR 1 ASSEMBLY (PARENTS WELCOME)** Thursday 8th March 2018 at 9.00 am

**ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW WEEK** 12th March—16th March 2018

**RECEPTION CLASS ASSEMBLY (PARENTS WELCOME)** Thursday 15th March 2018 at 9.00 am

**YEAR 3 & 4 PERFORMANCE** Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 1.30 pm

**YEAR 3 & 4 PERFORMANCE** Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 6.00 pm

**ELM CLASS ROMAN DAY** Monday 26th March 2018

**WHOLE SCHOOL INTERACTIVE MUSEUM AFTERNOON** Tuesday 27th March 2018 at 1.30 pm

**EASTER ASSEMBLY AT SCHOOL** Thursday 29th March 2018 at 2.00 pm





