



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Our Rights Respecting thought for this newsletter is Article 29 - 'Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.'



MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Afternoon - Friday 25th September

This will be a challenge! Many of you will know that our first event of the new academic year is our MacMillan coffee morning. How on earth can we do that this year? Our school hall is usually packed out with parents, grandparents and friends, enjoying delicious cakes and a tea/coffee. But we can't just let it go without at least trying...

We are aiming to hold a 'virtual' coffee morning - with some subtle differences. Firstly, it will be on the afternoon - at 2.45pm. Secondly, we can't invite you into school in person, but we can invite you to join a video call with your child's class and enjoy a cake and coffee 'with us'.

We can also encourage those of you who are amazing - or even just imaginative - cake-makers, to pull out all of the stops and enter our MacMillan Cake Bake competition. Bake a cake - send us a photo - and we will vote for our favourite. One winner in every class and your child/grandchild/nominated pupils will receive a prize from school - and you will win a mention and our thanks on social media.

We are setting up a donation page and will share the details with you before and on the day so that we can pull out all of the stops and make this year's event just as successful as it has been in previous years. After all, those in need of support from MacMillan are still just as in need, if not more in need, than ever before.

Phonics and Early Reading guidance - Reception Class Parents

We usually offer a meeting with our Reception class parents early this term to introduce our Phonics and Early Reading teaching plans but...! This year we are hoping to hold a virtual meeting, where Mrs Richardson will share an information PowerPoint with you and then provide an opportunity for a live question and answer session. The information presented will help you to support your child at home with these key early skills. Look out for a proposed date and time over the coming week and we look forward to 'meeting' you all again. We will also post the presentation on our website for your reference.



Start and finish times

Thank you again for your support in following our guidance to stagger start and finish times. Please keep this going as much as you can. Some adults do seem to be arriving early for collections - can we ask that you avoid arriving too early, as once your children spot you - especially the younger ones, it is hard for them to keep focussed on the session. Thank you.



Supporting children emotionally and academically

It certainly has been lovely to have the noise and laughter of children all around school and they have very quickly settled into their new routines and class bubbles. As well as supporting the children with the timetable and playtime changes, staff have been working with all children in order to determine their next steps in learning. Alongside this, many of our class activities have been planned to support children with the emotions and attitudes towards learning. Over the coming weeks, where needed, children will be working on specific areas of the core curriculum where gaps may have developed. As parents you can help and support your child by encouraging them to complete any homework tasks that are allocated - especially any online learning. It is so important that we continue to develop the access to online activities and that we understand where children may have difficulty with access. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, through the class email, should you have any issues in supporting the work children have been asked to complete. We are planning to still manage parent/teacher discussion sessions in early November to update you on your child's progress, but please don't feel you need to leave any questions or concerns you may have until then. Although direct, face to face contact is difficult, we are still here!

Coronavirus - advice and guidance

Accompanying this newsletter is one of the latest advice leaflets to hopefully support you and your family in keeping safe and well during the current situation. It is guidance on whether or not to send your child to school. I hope that you find it useful in what is such a challenging and changeable situation.



Parent Governor Vacancy

Are you interested in becoming a school governor? We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor here at school. School governors make a positive contribution to children's education by offering supportive challenge to help raise standards and monitor resources effectively. School Governors work as a team and come from a wide variety of backgrounds to add value to school life by offering their skills, expertise and time. Cleves Cross Primary School is committed to raising educational standards and we are looking for a dedicated individual who wants to make a difference in the lives of children and is willing to share their experience in an educational environment. If you have a passion for improving the life chances of children and can offer supportive challenge to the leadership of our school to help us to fulfil our vision, please complete and return a letter of interest, explaining why you would like to fulfil the role of Parent Governor. Letters of interest need to be emailed to clevescross@durhamlearning.net by the closing date of Friday 2nd October (3.15pm). A discussion with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors would be offered to any interested parent. Governors do not need any formal qualifications but must be aged 18 years and over.

Packed lunches, healthy snacks and waterbottles

I'm really pleased with how our new lunchtime system is working - thanks to the staff working so well as a team and also the children catching on quickly to the new routine. The vast majority of children do have a school lunch, with only a few bringing a packed lunch from home. Children do all sit together and I do want to remind you that our Packed Lunch Policy is available on our website. Please ensure that if your child does bring a packed lunch, the contents are in-line with this. The biggest mistakes are with crisps - where they need to be low in salt and in fat (details are in the policy). Please don't include chocolate coated items such as cake bars or chocolate biscuits. Always include at least one portion of fruit and/or vegetables please and national guidance also advises to avoid 'healthy looking' items that are really high in salt or sugar - fruit winders and pre-packed processed foods are typical of this. Fruit is provided for Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils free each day and older children are able to bring a healthy snack - fruit or vegetables are ideal. Every child is also asked to bring along a water bottle to use throughout the day. Please ensure that it is only **plain water** that is brought to school.

