



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 19th December

Dear Parents,

Right of the Fortnight

With Christmas and New Year upon us, our Rights Respecting references this time is aptly Article 30 '*Children have the right to learn and use customs of their families*' and Article 31 - '*Children have the right to join in a wide range of activities.*'

It is difficult to believe that this is our final newsletter of 2025. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our pupils, staff, parents, governors and directors for the support and commitment they give, making Cleves Cross such a special place.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break with your families and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year! We all return to school on Monday 5th January 2026

Please keep a close eye on our app and website and newsletters to make sure you are fully up to date with events.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to Mrs Malkin and the school kitchen team for providing us all with a wonderful Christmas lunch last Friday. Almost everyone joined in with crackers and party hats too. Some very colourful Christmas jumpers added to the festive spirit.



Tub2Pub

This year we will again be taking part in 'Tub2Pub' with Greene King. Please bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery, cracker and biscuit tubs to school before Friday 6th February to be recycled. All tubs collected will be dropped off at a Greene King pub then taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they'll be shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Last year we managed to collect 208 tubs altogether, let's see if we can beat that this year!

A reminder about applying for a school place

If your child is due to start school in **September 2026**, please make sure you have applied for their school place before **midnight on the 15th January 2026**. Please note that if your child attends our nursery, they do not automatically get a place in our Reception class.

Parking and Speeding Concerns

Despite regular reminders, we have seen an increase in the number of cars parking in the clearway. I know the weather has not been kind but this does not mean that we can stop there to drop off. **This includes the grassed area opposite the school car park.** Please be respectful and considerate when parking. We do encourage walking to school and this is a good way to get some extra steps in, if we parked a little further away.

Please do not continue with this practice in the New Year as you will leave me with no choice but to report vehicles that are parked to the police. Thank you for your support with this.



Return to school

Just a reminder that we all return to school (children as well) on **Monday 5th January**. It is a good time to remind ourselves of the importance of attending school every day as we do not want to miss learning time and, being punctual. Children can come into school from 8.35am and should be in class by 8.45am. If being on time is an issue, then please try using our breakfast club which starts at 8.15am. This would ensure that children are in on time and ready to learn.

Dates to remember so far:

January

Monday 5th - return to school

Thursday 15th - Y4 Ferryhill library visit

Tuesday 20th - Y4 Parent Storytime in our library 2.45pm

Thursday 22nd - Y6 Ferryhill library visit

Thursday 22nd - Y1/Y2 Virtual Author visit Jane Riordan

Thursday 22nd - Y6 Parent Storytime in our library 2.45pm

Tuesday 27th - Y2 visit to Captain Cook Museum

Wednesday 28th - Ferryhill Carrs visit

Wednesday 28th - Y5/6 Participate Festival (Invited children)

Thursday 29th - Reception Parent Storytime in our library 2.45pm

Friday 30th - Y2 Parent Storytime in our library 2.45pm

February

Monday 9th - Reception Ferryhill library visit

Tuesday 10th - Y2 Multiskills Festival

Friday 13th - Y4 Multiskills Festival

Monday 16th - Blaze Pod taster day (Whole School)

**** Half-Term - Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th February****

These dates will be added to the calendar on Compass as soon as possible.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



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