



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2009

- 17th PTA Shopping Evening
- 18th Y6 Heathside Science Day
- 19th Y6 Heathside Science Day
- 20th Y6 Heathside Science Day
- 21st Y6 Christmas Production rehearsal 1.00-3.00pm
- 23rd PTA Meeting Y6 Block 8.00pm
- 25th Governors Meeting 5.00pm
- 26th School Council Meeting 3.30pm
- 28th Discos
- 29th Y6 Christmas Production rehearsal 9.30-11.30am

December 2009

- 6th Christmas Fayre 2.00-4.00pm
- 9th Christmas Production 7.30pm Performance Hall
- 10th Christmas Production 7.30pm Performance Hall
- 11th Christmas Production 7.30pm Performance Hall
- 12th Christmas Music Concert St. Mary's Church 7.30pm
- 13th Christingle Service St. Mary's Church 4.00pm
- 17th Carol Service St. Mary's Church 7.30pm
- 18th Carol Service (Pupils only) St. Mary's Church 7.30am
- 18th **END OF TERM 1.45pm**

Dear Parent

Several pieces of important news to cover this time. The most important piece of news is that the Sports Hall project is very firmly on the agenda once more and this time it is a certainty not just a possibility. Berkeley Homes have purchased the piece of land that was up for sale and Durnells will begin work on the Sports Hall on Monday November 23rd.

I have put the plans in the Studio for the children to see and they are dated 2004. The planning permission for the Sports Hall expires in February so we shall be in by the skin of our teeth.

The plan shows a four badminton court Sports Hall with an ancillary gym, classroom and viewing gallery. There is a foyer – hopefully to double as an Internet Café, changing facilities and showers. The facility will be a great asset for the Cleves children and the community as well. I can't wait!

PTA

The Bonfire Night was a great success. The weather was kind to us and nearly 4000 people attended. The Mayor of Elmbridge and his wife attended and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to Mr. Petchey for organising and to all who helped on the night and at other times. Initial indications are that we raised £11,000. Yipee! The next PTA events are the Christmas Shopping Evening on Tuesday November 17th and the Children's discos on Saturday November 28th. These will be closely followed by the Christmas Fayre on Sunday December 6th – which I am hoping will go ahead.

These events are so valuable not only because they raise much needed funds for the school but also because they foster a social interaction and appreciation between parents and staff of the school.

STAFF TRAINING

This is an important part of the Cleves ethos – one of our vision statements is around the concept of ‘Learning Together’. All staff identify personal training needs through performance management and we also identify whole school training needs. A big focus is the development of a skills based curriculum- delivering that curriculum in a creative and progressive way and engaging and motivating the children through active involvement in their learning at all levels. That is why we have been teaching the 5Rs core skills and multiple intelligences. The children can now discuss their learning in a sophisticated way and can learn ‘how to learn’. We gauge students opinions and listen to their input – What do they want to learn about a particular topic? And ‘Did this lesson meet your needs?’ Is there anything I could have done that would have made it better for you?

Differentiation is a constant focus – how to give all children access to learning through inclusion of all abilities and learning styles. To this end we have recently had a consultant called Mike Fleetham in for a day. This was not one of the five allocated ‘INSET’ days because Mike’s brief was to work with children all day and demonstrate how he would differentiate his teaching with all year groups in the school.

Mrs Earl organised the day so that Mike worked with one class from each year group but all teachers from that year group observed him to see his methods. He held two assemblies with the children at the beginning and end of the day and managed to fit in a briefing session for staff at 8.00am and a twilight INSET session and a leadership meeting.

It was a good benchmarking exercise for us as well because he visits lots of schools across the country. He was very positive about Cleves:

‘Cleves from inside:

1. Each lesson was like settling into a favourite chair – the children knew how to learn and expected to. But they weren’t passively faking interest. They were alert like rabbits, eager to engage and find out, eager to discover and learn.
2. Working up the age group I noticed the best progression of thinking skills in 5 years. Actual skills similar to other schools BUT at Cleves it’s mapped and therefore ensured. Quality is not hit and miss. It’s planned and delivered.
3. Facilitating staff (4:30, early Nov, remember) – equally engaged. Best professional dialogue I’ve heard. Most professional progress I’ve seen in a 55 minute session.

What’s your secret? I asked HT Sue Croft.... Her answer was not rocket science...go visit if you want a bottle of it! ‘

On 2nd November, as you will be aware, we had a closure for an INSET day. As a Trust School, CFBT (Centre for British Teachers) has offered us high quality training at greatly discounted rates. Cleves staff attended training on Gifted and Talented, Philosophy, Learning Outside the Classroom and Coaching and Mentoring. All groups feedback to the whole staff so that everyone gains maximum benefit.

SAFEGUARDING

Schools are subject to OFSTED inspections and a new framework was introduced in September. Initial feedback leads us to believe that this framework is very rigid and inflexible in several aspects and that there are limiters – if one does not do well in a certain aspect the overall judgement is downgraded as a result. One of those aspects is safeguarding. Safeguarding covers several different areas of school life.

- We have to ensure that we observe correct procedures and protocols when recruiting staff
- We need to ensure that all staff are trained in child protection and that we have a Child Protection Structure in place. E.g. Mrs Flaxman, Miss Innes and Mrs Tickner have all completed the Child Protection Officer training and Mr. Russ will complete it when dates become available
- We have to document all incidents in detail and monitor children whom we consider to be 'at risk' in any way. We have regular minuted Pastoral meetings, which perform this function.
- We need to work effectively with other agencies. Mrs Grafton ensures we do this but other agencies suffer from staff shortages etc which can cause difficulties.
- CRB checks – obviously all staff have to be CRB checked. Advice is that, even if a staff member has been in continuous service for a number of years they should be rechecked every 3 years. This costs us £50 a time so is a considerable expense. Parents who help on trips also need to be checked and we may need, therefore, a bank of parents in each year group who can help at short notice. We do not always know six weeks in advance that an event is going to happen – that is how long it takes for a check to be processed.

Parents can help with Health and Safety too. At Cleves we allow children into school from 8.30am onwards. This is a privilege – many schools only allow children onto school premises as the bell goes. With privileges comes responsibility – parents should ensure they do not drop children off before 8.30am who are not going to Early Risers. There is no-one taking responsibility for them because they should not be there and the Health and Safety issue is self evident. Yet despite frequent reminders, Mr. Cope is about to embark on a 'sweep up' from 8.00-8.30am in an effort to deal with the situation. Any children found will be sent to Early Risers and parents will be sent an appropriate invoice.

GAP

In September we brought the GAP club under the management of the school. Previous to that, it was run separately from the school and was not inspected as part of a school inspection.

I have been meeting regularly with a group of GAP children and occasionally with all GAP children to discuss how they can take a more active role in the running of the club. At present they are making up a GAP Code of Conduct based on Every Child Matters strands and planning a stall at the Christmas Fayre. The GAP staff are planning to take the children to the pantomime in Woking on January 6th and the children will write the letter for this. There is a GAP competition to make up a logo for the GAP club which closes on Friday November 20th – please encourage your child to take part.

Again as part of the safeguarding procedures GAP staff have to register all children as they come into GAP and, if a child does not attend, they need to know where they are. Endless hours are wasted chasing around to see whether children are in clubs, have gone home with a friend etc. Please keep us informed!

CURRICULUM

As I am writing there are lots of exciting things that have happened or have been planned.

Year 3 – had an Immersion Day on November 3rd where they looked at Reptiles class by class and were very excited by the prospect. Monday 9th November also saw the arrival of the Living Eggs Project – and as of midday on Wednesday we have five newly hatched chicks! Year 3 classes visit these daily and are updating their Chick Diaries at the same time.

Year 4 – have been busy making Moving Books – a Design Technology project related to the Iron Man. We have seen several examples in Good Work Assembly.

Year 5 – held their Tudor Day on Tuesday 10th November – and the children immersed themselves in Tudor activities – staff too!

Year 6 – children have been allowed to follow their own interest on an aspect of World War II and I have just seen some of their 'creative outcomes' in 6E – beautiful work!

Parents should have received a letter about a visit to the Royal Opera House to see 'The Tsarina's Slippers' an opera for children. This is a change from our usual 'Ballet Experience' – Year 6 children recently went to see a children's version of 'The Magic Flute' performed by the Glyndebourne Opera Company and had a wonderful experience.

AFRO FRENCH

Afro French Dancers Performing at Heathside - www.afrofrenhdance.co.uk

On Tuesday 10th November – The Afro French Dancers (advanced group) performed at Heathside at a Year 7 Assembly – Madame Duriez started by presenting the "Afro French Dance Project" which includes the French Musical Club, The French Music Academy and the Afro French Dance. She was then followed by Laura Fontaine (our new French assistant working with Cleves and Heathside) who talked about La Reunion where our pen pal partner school is – two children talked about their pen pals and finally the Afro French Dancers performed – It was a great atmosphere and lots of Yr7 who attended Cleves last year joined in, singing and clapping – What a great start to the day!



COMING SOON - on 9th, 10th and 11th December

7.30pm – Tickets £5.00

All children now have their song words and we would like to remind them that they need to learn their words. We are trying to source costumes at the moment and would be really grateful if anyone can help us or has contacts in this area – if you can please contact Ruth Butcher at rbutcher@cleves.co.uk

SPORT

Year 6 Seven-a-side Tournament at Cardinal Newman

The Year 6 football team came equal third in the seven-a-side tournament held at Cardinal Newman. The team was knocked out on penalties in the semi-final by the team that went on to win the final. The Cleves team made hard work of qualification, only progressing based on their superior goal difference. The superior goal difference had only been achieved with a 4-0 victory over St. Charles – in 6 minutes!

In the semi-final, against St Anne's Heath, the eventual winners, Cleves played well and attacked with purpose. The short, 6 minute, game length, played into the tactics of the more defensive team and after 4 minutes of extra-time the scores were still tied. The penalty loss was hard to take, but the team stayed on to watch the final and wonder what might have been.

Home School Link Worker

The Elmbridge Schools Partnership, to which our school is a member, have recently appointed four Home School Link Workers to work across the Partnership's Infant, Junior and Primary schools, to support families.

This a new role and our Home School Link Worker Jo Carroll-Smart is working with families at Oatlands, Manby Lodge, St James, St Charles, Cleves and Walton Oak schools.

Jo's role is to be a friendly face and listening ear to parents and carers and to support families who may be experiencing difficulties. She is someone whose job it is to listen and she has time to talk as well as an understanding of the ups and downs of family life.

Jo can visit parents and carers at home or at school. She has a wealth of knowledge and can help families access services, resources and local community information whilst offering all assistance within a confidential framework.

Jo is a Mum herself and has worked as a childminder, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and part of the Behavioural Support Team in a local senior school.

If you are interested in finding out more or would like to arrange a meeting with Jo, please contact jcarroll@elmbridgeschoolspartnership.org

Book Promotion - Saturday 21st November – The Heart – Walton on Thames.

The event takes place between 11am and 2pm. The event is to promote a set of childrens educational books on endangered animals. There will be readings, signings and a colouring competition for all of the children and will have prizes for different age groups. 3-5, 6-7, 8-10. We allow all children to take part regardless of age.

The colouring competition will run for a week and will need to be handed into Waterstone's Walton to be collected on 28th November.

The books are designed to educate young children on the endangerment of animals worldwide and includes geography and flags. They are aimed at Keystage 1.



News from the Weybridge Sure Start Children's Centre

During the past weeks the team has been busy with all the usual services such as young parents and twin groups, parenting groups, Play and Art and baby massage as well as with organising the first centre Christmas party. All places for the party were booked within moments! Now we just have to keep our fingers crossed that Santa can fit a visit to the children into his hectic schedule.

During the Summer term the 10 week 'Parenting Puzzle' Family Links programme, which runs from 7.30 to 9.30PM Wednesday evenings at Cleves school, will be available again. If you are interested in this course, which helps parents and carers to get the most out of family life, then please ring Yvette on the number below.

The Centre Adviser, Yvette Stephens and the Outreach Worker, Sarah Kroner attend relevant training, such as first aid and group facilitation, to be able to offer the best service to the local families and please note that centre services are universal- and all families with children under 5 can use any centre's activities.

All parents who speak English as an additional language are welcome to attend the workshops which are held at Cleves on Saturday mornings, please ring Yvette on 0782 4995202 for more information.

Please contact us with any feedback, for more information or to book on a course. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yvette Stephens Children's Centre Adviser 0782 4995202

Daphne Sohl Children's Centre Coordinator 07525 725670

Sarah Kroner Children's Centre Outreach Worker 0782 4995250

MUSIC

There is a great deal of music happening at Cleves this half term. Steel pans will play to the school next week; practice for the Christmas concert on the 17th December. We will also be having a Music Assembly on 1st December where instrumentalists are invited to play. The peripatetic teachers have all been told the date and will have spoken to you about whether you can play. If not please come and see me.

I am sure parents understand that there is not much room to move during our regular assembly time and be happy to wait until the Spring Term when we will have a full music concert with instrumentalists and steel pans.

The Christmas concert mentioned above will be at 7.30pm on 17th December at St Mary's Church. The Steel Pans will be playing beforehand, and choir and recorders will perform during the evening. All parents, children and their families are welcome.

We will have our school Christmas Service at 9.30am the following morning so if your children are looking forward to singing Carols but are not free on 17th they will have not missed their chance.

Our Christmas production is well underway and performances will be on 9th, 10th and 11th December. What a fabulous and festive term it will be.

REMINDERS

From the **Welfare Room**... we are desperate for boxes of tissues – if you are able to donate a box or two we would be very grateful.

Packed Lunches – we have had a number of children complaining to lunch time supervisors that they are hungry and there isn't enough food in their boxes! Clearly there is little we can do about this but would ask parents to check that there is enough food in the box and maybe that they aren't giving it/swapping it with other children!

Street Move Dance Classes – we would like to point out that although children attending this class are collected from Cleves – the classes are not the responsibility of the school. Likewise should the classes be cancelled – Cleves is not responsible for making contact with parents or supervising children left behind.

Uniform – our winter order of sweatshirts is now in and we also have a small number of second hand sweatshirts available. Order forms are available on our website at: <http://www.cleves.co.uk/AboutUs/prospectus.php> or collect a form from reception.

Year 3 Parents – please return your Induction Surveys – we've only received about 50 to date.

Traffic continues to be a problem – please be considerate of other road users. Consideration is one of our Core values!

Many thanks to Mrs Earl and all staff for their hard work during Writing Week. We had some great examples of writing in an assembly last week and a booklet is to be produced!

Shoe Boxes – the deadline for these to be handed in is this Friday 13th November.

Congratulations to Josh Reynolds, Thomas Philpot, Samuel Jones, Ben Cox, Rebecca Shantry All took part in the Surrey Hundreds Chess Competition at Hinchley Wood School on Saturday. All worked hard and Ben Cox received a rosette for achieving a great points score.

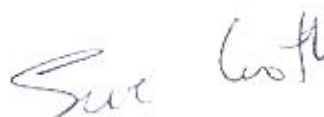
And finally.....

Cleves is full of exciting opportunities for children and one must remember that the curriculum is not just what happens in the classroom – it is a whole package. I quote Mick Waters, Professor of Education at Wolverhampton University and President of the Curriculum Foundation:

“Good Schools know that the curriculum is everything we do; from planned lessons and assembly to dining, the library, the school garden, the link via ICT to a partner school overseas, the visiting artist and the band”

Not all schools offer these opportunities. They only happen because staff are willing to 'go the extra mile'. Please take them, make the most of them and appreciate them!

Best Wishes



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

Tuesday 17th November

7.30-9.30PM



- ❄ Jewellery
- ❄ Photographs
- ❄ Books and Toys
- ❄ Handbags and Accessories
- ❄ Christmas cards and wrap
- ❄ Glassware
- ❄ Kitchenware and spices
- ❄ Cosmetics & Toiletries
- ❄ Christmas Decorations
- ❄ Christmas Flowers
- ❄ Hand-made Cards
- ❄ Christmas gifts
- ❄ Calendars
- ❄ And much more...

ALL WELCOME

£1.00 Entrance Fee (includes a glass of mulled wine)

MUFTI DAY

Friday 4th December

Contributions for the Christmas Fayre to be held on

Sunday 6th December

❄ Year 3 – Christmas Items =
Decorations, wrapping paper, cards etc

❄ Year 4 - Chocolate*

❄ Year 5 - Cakes *

❄ Year 6 - Bottles

(*please remember no nuts)



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS

We are looking for help at lunchtime
to supervise children in the hall
and after lunch in the playground.

Hours are Monday – Friday 12.05 – 1.25pm

Rate of pay £6.90 per hour

Free Lunch

If you can't help
Do you have a friend or neighbour who can?
For more information please contact
Annette Tickner on 01932 224300

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

