



NEWSLETTER

September 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 24th School Council Meeting
- 25th PTA Welcome Meeting
- 28th Y6 War Museum
- 28th PTA AGM 8.00pm
- 29th Y6 War Museum
- 29th Prospective Parents Eve
- 30th Prospective Parents Eve

OCTOBER 2009

- 1st Year 6 War Museum
- 2nd Year 6 War Museum
- 3rd PTA Discos
- 4th Chamber Choir – Harvest Svc
St. Mary's Oatlands
- 6th Year 5 Hampton Court
- 6th Harvest Tea for Snr Citizens
- 7th Governors Meeting
- 8th Year 5 Hampton Court
- 12th PTA Meeting Y6 Block
- 12th Writing week starts
- 16th Writing week finishes
- 20th Parent Consultations
- 21st Parent Consultations
- 22nd School Council Meeting
- 26th HALF TERM STARTS

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Dear Parent

If you are new to Cleves, WELCOME; if you are an existing member of the Cleves community, Welcome Back! We seem to be as busy as ever and the Summer Break is just a distant memory. It was lovely to see Miss Haydon and Mrs Bishop back in their classrooms and we welcome Mr. Ingleby and Ms Tao as Year 4 Classteachers, Mrs Bennett as Year 3 Teaching Assistant and Mrs Baxter-Kennedy as our new Music Teacher. I attach a year group structure so that you can see which teacher is in which year group.

PTA

Mr. Petchey, who is organising the Bonfire Night, has been to all of the Information Evenings asking for support for the Bonfire event and for support for the PTA generally. The PTA is an extremely important organisation in the school, not just because it raises funds, but because it is a social conduit between the parent body and teaching staff. One would think in a large successful school such as ours that support would be easy to come by, but it isn't. The PTA has purchased many essentials for the school in recent times – books, interactive whiteboards, Apple Mac computers and has contributed towards the cost of building projects such as the Atrium. Please contact Mr. Petchey at petchlaw@yahoo.co.uk and do come along to the PTA AGM next Monday 28th September at 8.00pm in the Year 6 block.

CURRICULUM

As you know, the school is committed to the Every Child Matters agenda – Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Well being. I shall talk a little about these aspects.

Be Healthy, Stay Safe

Mr. Russ is the teacher responsible for these aspects. He has talked to the children about some of his ideas – an active lifestyle, plenty of sleep, healthy diet. We translate some of his ideas into action through our cycling proficiency programme, strong emphasis on sport, high profile Personal, Social and Health Education and the teaching of appropriate life skills and qualities. With the introduction of our Learning Platform, internet safety will become critically important even though the platform itself is a 'safe' environment.

Enjoy and Achieve

Lots of exciting things things happening here. You should have all received your curriculum overviews by now and I hope that most of you attended the Information evenings which give you an overview of the year in all its aspects. One of the good things about the teachers at Cleves is that they are always evaluating and tweaking and adjusting the curriculum that is on offer. For example Mrs Flaxman has organised a Year 4 trip to the Science Museum. This fits exactly with the curriculum on offer.

This year, too, we have decided to book tickets to the Opera instead of a Ballet and will be going to see The Tsarinas Slippers at the end of November.

Our Special Weeks this year will be a Writing Week from which we will produce a booklet of work; a Science Week which will result in a Website presentation and a Take One Picture Week. The artist under focus is Renoir. The Upper school will study 'The Umbrellas', the Lower school 'Lunch on a Boat'. Take One Picture week will result in a performance on Tuesday 9th March.

Positive Contribution

The new School Council is elected, the mentors are doing a splendid job with Year 3 and Associate Governor Meetings are planned. Mr. Fraine has introduced Play Leaders this year – their job is obviously to promote 'play' in the playground and to pick up and support any lost souls.

We have our Harvest Service for Senior Citizens coming up and I know that many of you will support that. I hope that choir members will support Mrs Baxter Kennedy in her extra curricular endeavours – it is quite daunting taking on music at Cleves!

Achieve Economic Well Being

A large part of this strand is the teaching of 5Rs, skills and multiple intelligences. These are qualities that the children can take with them through a secondary school, university and on into adult life. Another part is the entitlement to a sound academic grounding – enabling one to function effectively in the society of the future.

All of these aspects are 'rights' for the children. However with every right there comes a responsibility and we shall be discussing this connection much more in the coming months.

LEARNING PLATFORM

You will have read about this exciting development at the Information Evenings. Year 6 are able to use the Learning Platform at present and there is a discussion forum on there as well as the facility to set homework, inform children of rehearsal schedules etc. The Learning Platform will gradually be rolled out to Years 5, 4 and 3 over the coming term. We will have the facility to interact with other schools with the Learning Platform and we therefore have potentially the ability to communicate worldwide!

All staff are just beginning to get to grips with the Learning Platform as well and are using it for planning and communication. The world is our oyster!

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Cleves is a large school and, if you have a concern, you need to know whom to approach. We have clear line management structures as follows:

	Curriculum	Pastoral	Residential	Behaviour
Year 3	Mrs Reynolds	Mrs Morling	Mrs Cummins/Mr. Hudson	Mrs Reynolds
Year 4	Mrs Flaxman	Mrs Owen/Mr. Ingleby	Miss Haydon	Mrs Flaxman
Year 5	Mrs Roberts	Mrs Bishop	Mrs Ronay	Mrs Roberts
Year 6	Mrs Driver	Miss Innes	Mrs Driver	Mrs Earl

LEAVERS QUESTIONNAIRE

We seek feedback from parents and children at regular intervals. One of the channels through which we do this is a questionnaire for Leavers. On the whole feedback is very positive as are individual comments, but I propose to take a couple of comments which are not so positive and deal with those.

"...One comment would be that school events and performances are held too late in the evening. As a result the children are sent to school exhausted the next day"

This is a difficult one. I am sure that many teachers would like to run events earlier but unfortunately, parents are often unable to attend if we hold events before 7.30pm and these events are designed for them. It is perhaps significant that the PTA choose to start their meetings at 8.00pm.

"...I think that it is a pity that Cleves did not embrace the values programme that other schools in the area have done so successfully"

We have four core values at Cleves – Tolerance, Honesty, High Aspiration and Consideration. These were adopted after consultation with both staff and pupils and provide a framework for the 5Rs, skills and multiple intelligences that we teach. We believe that the values system that is part of our ethos gives children the best possible chance to succeed at secondary school and beyond.

WELFARE

Congratulations to Year 3 who have settled in well and quickly. Can we remind all children and parents to be extremely vigilant and not bring food in to school containing nuts as we have a child with a very severe allergy to nuts.

Contacting Mrs Tickner by phone – if you leave a message for Mrs Tickner on her voice mail – you will get an announcement that says “Annette Tickner” and then is silent – this is when you leave a message.

If you have lost a Blue Motorola Mobile phone please contact Mrs Tickner.

Footballs – if children bring them to school – please make sure they are the small ones.

Tissues – if you can spare a box or add to your shopping list we would much appreciate it.

Toys in school – Children should not bring in toys to school as they are a distraction from learning.

PARKING

As usual traffic is becoming an issue again and some parents are making matters worse by taking it upon themselves to open the gate of the Church Car Park and parking in there. We have a very good relationship with the Church but this sort of action strains the relationship.

Cleves Car Park – is available for you to drive in and drop off in the morning. If you are dropping off you need to pull up as far along the kerb as possible so as not to block the rest of the Car Park and traffic flow. Parents should not be parking in parking bays as you are preventing staff from parking and getting to their classrooms.

Cleves Car Park – is not the place to enter or leave the school if you are on foot, particularly with younger siblings. We are seeing far too many parents with young children walking/cycling/scootering in and out of the Car Park gates – it is far too dangerous. Could we also please ask that scooters are not brought inside the building or reception but left outside thank you.

ARRIVING AT AND LEAVING SCHOOL

Children are allowed in the school grounds from 8.30am onwards. If you wish to drop children off before 8.30am they need to attend the Early Risers Club and pay the appropriate fee. There are no adults on duty before 8.30am to supervise or assist if there is a problem. We have been asked to clarify the ‘Bells’ in the morning and afternoon – particularly for new parents. The first bell at 8.45am is to signify your child should be in class getting ready for registration – the gate will close at this time. The second bell at 8.50am is registration time. The final bell of the day is rung at 3.15pm and the gates will be opened at this time. Please do not attempt to enter the school and wait by classrooms before this time unless absolutely necessary as this is very distracting for the children – especially Year 3.

MISCELLANEOUS

RECEPTION – We have a new prospectus with banners in reception to match – there has been much positive comment about both. Many thanks to Eglenick and Webb graphic designers who produce the brochure for us at a vastly discounted rate – www.eglenickandwebb.com and also to Rachel Talibart for such great photography.

SHOE BOX APPEAL – We will be taking part in the Shoe Box appeal again this year so please hang on to those boxes!

HELP – PROSPECTIVE PARENTS EVENINGS – You may remember as prospective parents yourselves that we run a 'crèche' for parents to leave their younger children at whilst attending the talk by Mrs Croft at this event. We desperately need parents to help at this – timings approx 7.30-8.30pm. Please contact Michelle Horrocks at michele.horrocks1@btinternet.com

The Primary Graduate teacher Programme Information Event – 15th October 2009 Surrey County Council are planning their recruitment campaign for graduates wishing to train as teachers with the Surrey Primary Graduate Teacher programme, commencing September 2010. The main information event this year will be held at Reigate Priory School, Reigate on Thursday 15th October, with sessions at 2pm and 6pm. Full details can be found at: www.vtfours.co.uk/gtpevent

VACANCY – Cleves School Kitchen – are looking for someone to join their team. Full training will be given. Paid school holidays and uniform provided. £5.85/hr – 11.30am – 2.30pm 15 hours per week. Sense of humour required! Please contact Maz on 01932 253264

DYNAMO DANCE CLASSES – A reminder that there are still spaces available on these courses.

Monday	– 4.30-6.00pm (7-11yrs) 6.00-7.30pm (12-16yrs)	£6 per session
Thursday	- 3.30-4.30pm (8-11yrs)	£4 per session
Thursday	- 5.15-6.30pm (10-14yrs Boys only)	£4 per session

Please contact Mrs Earl for further information at earl@cleves.co.uk Cheques payable to DYNAMO DANCE AT CLEVES

CONGRATULATIONS – Gareth Littlewood on passing his Grade 2 Piano Exam and Jessica Cooper and Georgie O'Neil Grade 1 Piano – with Distinction

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING – 17th November 2009 - Stalls available – priority given to Cleves parents. Please contact Sue Jackman at suejackman@aol.com or 01932 843539

HELP NEEDED IN OUR LIBRARY – Tuesday afternoon 1.15-2.45pm and Friday morning 10.00-12.15 – parents from any year group please contact Mrs Cassidy via Reception or Email: lcassidy@cleves.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM MR. TAYLOR

"...I would like to thank everybody for the wonderful send off which I received upon my retirement. The assembly concert on the Friday was a total surprise – how so many pupils managed to keep a secret is a mystery – no doubt to others as well as to me. Also, many thanks to all parents for their kind words, cards and gifts. The money that you so generously gave has gone towards the latest Sibelius music composing program and a new recording mixing desk."

DISCOS – Lower School is now sold out there are still spaces at the Upper School Disco. Tickets will be on sale after school on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October.



News from the Weybridge Sure Start Children's Centre

The Children's Centre activities have continued through the summer break and the highlight was a picnic followed by a boat trip on the river. This outing will be a regular feature as it was very much enjoyed by all.

Next we will start organising a trip to Brooklands museum-watch this space!

The centre's schedule has expanded to include social meeting opportunities for lone parents, young parents, parents with under 2 year olds and parents of twins.

We organise cookery and parenting classes and Brooklands college tutors support the centre by teaching English to speakers of other languages. The next language course starts on the 19th of September at 9.30AM. The sessions last 2 hours and will be held at Cleves school.

The Outreach Worker, Sarah, supports families at home and this is a universal service.

The weekly 'Play and Art' session is very well attended and open to all parents with children aged 0-5.

Currently we are setting up our website which is very exciting but meanwhile please find us on www.cleves.co.uk, go to 'partners' select 'wraparound care' and up to date information about the centre can be viewed there. Of course, you are always welcome to call us for an update on our services.

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 Information Officer 0782 4995202

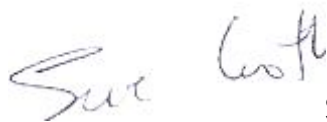
Daphne Sohl Children's Centre Coordinator 07525 725670

Sarah Kroner Children's centre Outreach Worker 0782 4995250

And finally.....

I hope that your child continues to settle well into their new class and that they are looking forward to the rest of the year. If you have any concerns, no matter how trivial, please do not hesitate to let us know. I will be in touch again shortly.

With best wishes



Sue Croft

