



NEWSLETTER

March 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 2010

- 19th Parent Consultation day
School Closed
- 23rd Yr 4 Residential Trip
Evening 7.30pm
- 30th Easter Service – St. Mary's
Church 9.30am
- 31st INSET

APRIL 2010

- 1st Easter Holidays begin
- 16th Easter Holidays End
- 19th Summer Term starts
- 21st School Photographer
- 22nd School Council Meeting
3.30-4.30pm
- 23rd Spring Concert 7.30pm
Performance Hall
- 26th PTA Meeting 8.00pm
- 27th Yr 4 Dorset Trip 1 Starts
- 30th Yr 4 Dorset Trip 1 Ends

**School finishes on
March 30th at 1.45pm**

Dear Parent

Well, at last the weather seems to be improving after a long cold grey winter. Life at Cleves continues to be very busy despite the weather and the very short term means that we are trying to fit the usual number of activities into a shorter space of time.

SPORTS HALL

The building work is going very well and we are keeping to schedule with October as the proposed completion date. We have been looking at finishes for the Sports Hall and the rest of the building so I am learning much about the infrastructure of such buildings. The Hall will consist of a four badminton court Sports Hall, ancillary hall, viewing gallery, changing rooms, foyer, office, classroom and lots of storage space. We shall have markings for badminton, basketball, netball, tennis, volleyball and 5 a side football. We shall have cricket nets and will be able to cater for trampolining clubs. If you are a member of a club that would be interested in hiring any part of the Hall after school hours please contact Mrs Wright on 01932 224300.

PTA

The Quiz Night was a great success and raised about £1000 for the school. The Fashion Show due to take place March 26th is in danger of being cancelled due to lack of interest. If you are interested and haven't managed to book a ticket you can do so pta@cleves.co.uk. I would really like to attend this but it is my daughter's birthday and I will be travelling to Wales on that evening. I normally try to attend all school events but my mother died just before Christmas and we are busy at present dealing with the aftermath of this – clearing out houses etc very time consuming. Plans are afoot for the Fete in the Field – so we hope for fine weather there.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

As you may know we run 6 sometimes 7 residential visits at Cleves and regard each one of these visits as a high quality learning experience for the children involved. We have a very high take up for the Year Group curriculum visits and children who wish to go on the Music Tour when it runs, or the Football Trip must have booked on the curriculum trip for their year group.

We have had issues with a parent over the payment for these visits because the DCSF guidance states that schools can legally only charge for board and lodging at the venue for the visits. All other payments e.g. coach travel, tuition at the centre, have to be a voluntary contribution. This is obviously impractical. I assume that most of you would not be happy to transport your child to and from the Isle of Wight, Shropshire, France etc.

Each residential visit has to pay for itself. We therefore include in the cost that you pay – board and lodging, coach travel, tuition at the centre, admin Costs – a very small amount, supply cover – if applicable. We allow a small contingency in case of rising costs or unforeseen circumstances and divide that by the number of children attending. If a parent has financial difficulty, the school will support the child, although we like the parent to pay part of the cost if possible.

We shall be changing, therefore, the wording of our Charges and Remissions Policy. More importantly, we shall have to have a commitment from parents before we book the trip that they are willing to pay the full amount. If we don't receive this commitment from all we shall have to cancel the visit because we have no resource to pay for children whose parents are unwilling rather than unable to pay. We would be pleased to hear your views on this – you can feedback by going to our website to the Media – News page where there will be a link to a feedback form.

TRUST NEWS

The Voice Education Trust has just run its second residency with Sakoba on the theme of High Aspirations. The residency culminated in a performance on March 5th which was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The schools will shortly be addressing the Rights respecting Agenda promoted by UNICEF with other Surrey Schools. This will be a really exciting initiative because it will deal with international issues and will teach the children that, with every right, comes a responsibility. We have already conducted several assemblies on this theme.

The business partners are proving to be a real asset to the Trust and, with their input, we have refined our vision and have identified some core values for the four schools. Other schools are expressing an interest in joining the Trust and we have also articulated entry requirements and procedures for these schools so that we grow in a planned way.

TAKE ONE PICTURE

I hope that you all enjoyed the Take One Picture evening. Other curriculum activities include.

Year 3 – are studying rocks and soils – I saw a lesson the other day which was talking about permeable, impermeable and the properties relating to these words. They are making up leaflets about the Brazilian Rainforest and are covering the skills of invasion games – hockey, football, rugby and netball.

Year 4 – are still involved with their studies about India. They are making waistcoats having printed their own material, are now involved with using their Design Technology skills to make templates and patterns. They are already involved in the Rights respecting Work because they are writing persuasive texts as part of the 'Send my friend to school' campaign – a campaign to encourage every child to know their right to go to school. On a lighter note, they are dancing Bollywood and Bangra.

Year 5 – are studying the USA. They are looking at the various states, the National Flag and the differences in language between the American and us. They are making up 'Tall Tales' and will be telling an American Myth to someone from another class who had not heard the myth. The class make tepees in the classroom to make the story telling more authentic!

Year 6 – are still doing lots of character work based on their visit to the Lion king. Each class had a visit from KOJO, an African Ceramic artist, and made masks which they are now painting. They are studying Growth in Science and are studying classic poems such as Daffodils by Wordsworth and Hiawatha by Longfellow.

LEARNING PLATFORM

The Learning Platform is going well in Years 5 and 6 and will be rolled out to Year 4 after the Easter break. We shall be arranging an Internet Safety Seminar (watered down version) for the Lower School.

We hope to be holding an evening for parents on Tuesday April 20th at 7.30pm at which we shall outline our plans for ICT in the future at Cleves. If we are to bring a high ICT capability into the classroom, then the computer becomes a tool for learning in the same way as a pencil, ruler or rubber. Parents would be asked to support the cost for their child and the evening will explain the form that this would take, together with the schools contribution. If enough parents sign up ICT provision at Cleves will take a huge step forward.

WELFARE

School Lunches – it is becoming apparent that many children are filling up on Carbs – bread rolls, pasta etc when choosing from the Salad Bar and ignoring vegetables, salad, tuna cheese etc. Can we ask parents to help us to encourage children to widen their selection of choices – which are available every day as a healthy, balanced selection.

Socks, tights, skirts – if anyone has any spares that have been grown out of – we would love to have them in the Welfare Room.

Alternative contacts – if your child is staying with a friend or relative whilst you are away – please can you as the parent inform us instead of the child or the person they are staying with – for obvious reasons – Thank you

MUSIC

I am writing this still feeling the glow of the children's musical achievements this last week! On Tuesday we had an awesome number of individual children ready to sing and play for the whole school at the March Music Assembly, as well as the debut of both the Boys Choir AND the Orchestra. I am delighted that about 10 people have already signed up for the next one, which will be on 11th May, as they have been inspired!

In addition to the Music Assembly on Tuesday, those of the choir and orchestra that could make it played and sang while Tuesday's Take One Picture evening was in full swing. The choir sang songs from the piece commissioned by Surrey Arts as well as some old favourites. Isabella Bartlett and Hannah Bartholomew treated us to two lovely duets and reminded us with their Vivaldi 'Spring' piece that Spring is indeed almost here, have you seen all the daffodils? And Isabella also played a beautiful recorder solo. The orchestra played a lovely Handel piece and well as the more contemporary Home on the Range. Well done and thank you to all those who came – you did a great job.

On Sunday over at St Mary's Oatlands about 20 of the choir took part in the Mothering Sunday Service. They lead the whole church in an action packed 'Our God is a Great Big God' and got everybody moving, as well as singing 2 other solo pieces.

Also last week was the brilliant Samba workshop over at St Bede's Secondary School in Redhill. About 20 children went and played this brilliant South American carnival music with lots of drums, percussion and memorizing different rhythms and signals whilst marching about in their performance hall.

3 children have already been to a Big Sing event and came back enthusing about the experience and want to teach the whole school one of the fun songs they learnt. Two more children are going next week and will enjoy it just as much I'm sure.

On Wednesday this week, part of the choir sang again for the residents of Mayfield house, the old folks home just by the station and the full choir will benefit on Thursday morning from a choral session by Christopher Goldsack –so don't be late! His promenade choir is putting on a concert on Sunday 21st and there are posters up about it around the school if you would like to go.

It seems like ages ago but we had a very successful Cleves Electric Performance workshop at the end of February. Nine children took advantage of the opportunity to sing and play with electric instruments in a full rock band line up. Picture below. A parent has already asked me about running one for adults!

MUSIC Cont.....



A yellow letter went out on Friday about the Spring Concert, which will be on Friday 23rd April at 7.30. Children will need to pass an audition to be a soloist and everyone involved needs to return a reply slip indicating y or n to availability.

Another concert I would like to tell you about, again - posters up around school, is a fund raising concert over at St Mary's Oatlands on Saturday 24th April at 7.30. Fauré's requiem is on the programme as well as music by Byrd, Gibbons and Brahms.

Last but not least is a musical opportunity at Hampton School on Sunday 25th April. It is the 14th annual Music Workshop and is put on for local junior schools free of charge. There will be courses for string and woodwind players as well as singers, AND if there is enough interest for electric bass and guitar. If you are interested you need to either email them music@HamptonSchool.org.uk or collect a form from me and return it to Hampton school by 1st April. Mrs Baxter Kennedy

SPORT – SPORT RELIEF DAY

At 9:00 am on Tuesday 16th March, in bright sunshine, the first kick of the epic, six and one quarter hour football match began. By 3:15, after 589 substitutions and over 70 goals, the final score stood at Blues 44 - Reds 38.

The Sport Relief football match began tentatively with neither side willing to give in. Soon though the Blues took a commanding lead and were six goals up. 8 classes later and Blues had extended their lead to 11 goals. Lunch time saw the teachers substituted into the game, and with pride and passion at stake the 6 willing volunteers put in at least 8 minutes worth of effort. In the afternoon, the Reds clawed their way back and were able to close the gap to just 5 goals, but the Blues had built up an unassailable lead and would not be caught. Most importantly though, the sportsmanship between players and their peers was incredibly high, with lots of fine encouragement and shaking of hands. Football was the winner and Sport Relief will see the benefits.

If this wasn't enough, simultaneously, classes were coming out to run their 1 mile event in a 3 lap jog around the field. Having seen the celebrities on TV having a go, the pupils were more than happy to play their part. Many even went on to record greater distances, with some pupils getting into double figures for the number of laps completed.

It has been suggested that the number of calories burnt during the day would be enough to lift a rocket into space (this has not been confirmed).

Please remember that donations for Sport Relief can still come in until Monday 22nd March. Thank you to everyone who donated!

SPORT – 5 A SIDE FOOTBALL

On Friday 12th March, the Year 5 football team set off from Cleves at 2.45, hoping for a good result at the Xcel indoor 5-a-side tournament. We were secretly confident as Cleves had won eight of the thirteen Xcel competitions which the school had entered!

The team of seven consisted of: George Frise (5F), Joonas Hartikainen (5Z), Daniel Jackman (5B), Taylor Munroe (5K, Captain), Sam Payne (5B), Matthew Ridland (5B) and Tyler Tracey (5C). We played really well winning all our matches, proceeding to the semi-finals against a team we had drawn against in an earlier league match, St Paul's. Luckily we beat them 3-0 which meant we had made it to the final once again! We were playing a team that were also wearing yellow. Ashley C of E Primary School were a good side but Taylor (our captain) scored a hat-trick against them! What a way to finish a tournament. We had managed to get our name on the shield once more.

Written by Joonas Hartikainen 5Z

FETE IN THE FIELD – 18TH MAY 2010

The PTA are beginning to plan for one of Cleves' most enjoyable and profitable fund raising events. They are looking for some new Fete committee members to take on the organisation of a small and manageable part of the event. Areas include organising the barbecue, the events arena, the publicity, helping with the flyers and leaflets for book bags and helping set up the fair on the day.

A meeting is planned for the end of March to which we will invite class reps, staff and anyone offering to help organise the Fete.

If you think you can help, please contact Sylvie Kent on sylviekent49@aol.com so that we can contact you with details of the meeting.

Next meeting for the Fete in the Field will be: Monday 29th March-8 - 9pm-Y6 Block

Wine and nibbles will be provided!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Maggie Talibart (4I) recently passed with distinction the LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Acting Solo exam (entry level).

Omid Alavi (3H) has won two Gold medals (for both sparring and technical competitions) at the 14th British Taekwon Do Masters Open Championships at the K2 Crawley.

And finally.... I hope that you all have a restful Easter break – hopefully with pleasant spring weather. Best wishes

Sue Cook









