



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2010

- 10th SATs week starts
- 12th Governors Meeting 5.00pm
- 13th SATs week ends
- 14th MUFTI Day – Fete in the Field donations
- 17th Yrs 3, 4, 5 QCA tests start
- 18th Fete in the Field
- 19th Upper School Sports Day
- 20th Lower School Sports Day
- 21st Yrs 3, 4, 5 QCA tests end
- 21st Football Tour starts
- 24th Science Week starts
- 24th Football Tour returns
- 25th Yr 5 Presentation Eve Performance Hall 7.30pm
- 27th School Council Meeting 3.30-4.30pm
- 28th Science Week ends
- 31st HALF TERM starts

JUNE 2010

- 4th HALF TERM ends
- 9th Yr 3 Borders Music Festival
- 10th School Council Meeting 3.30-4.30pm
- 12th Yr 3 Sayers Croft trips start
- 14th PTA Meeting 8.00pm Yr 6 Block
- 14th Yr 6 Shropshire/France trips start
- 16th Yr3 Sayers Croft trip ends
- 18th Yr6 trips end
- 29th Yr 3 Presentation Eve Performance Hall 7.30pm
- 30th Governors Meeting 5.00pm

Dear Parent

Well, at last we are back to a full complement of staff again. Having been stranded in Sicily, it is amazing how a location of choice can very quickly become a prison. However driving from the bottom of Italy to the top and across Europe in 3 days wasn't a pleasant experience either, but it was an experience.

RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Our annual series of residential visits has started with a successful first visit to Dorset for Year 4. The second Year 4 visit and the Year 5 visit to the Isle of Wight have gone this week.

Our Charging and Remissions Policy is on the website and we may have to ask you to commit to next years residential visit before the end of this term so that we know whether the visit will run or not. To recap, if you are unable to pay and fulfil certain criteria we may be able to support your child; if you are unwilling to pay, we cannot support you and would have to cancel the trip for all.

The benefits of the visits are enormous particularly for the social development of the children. They promote independence and self reliance and encourage inter personal skills. Teachers see children in a different light and vice versa with relationships being enhanced and consolidated.

PTA

There was a PTA meeting on 26th April with a healthy attendance. The main focus is the Fete in the Field on Tuesday May 18th. Children can organise their own stalls under the supervision of Mr. Cope. The arena is timetabled throughout the evening and the Mayor will be attending. We are raising money to equip the Sports Hall so come along and support us.

MUSIC – Mrs Baxter Kennedy

Well a disappointing start to the summer term for me and many children with the postponement of the Spring Concert. But what can you do against an Icelandic ash cloud! The new date for the concert is Monday July 5th - there are parent consultations later in the week but being such a busy school it seems to be the least worst date!

The **choir** will be singing at the HG Wells Suite the week we come back after half term – we have been preparing the music since the January term and any choir member has been encouraged to learn all the words off by heart and needs to make sure they can now do that AND to practice with their CD. (Anyone needing a copy please come and ask me).

We are also invited to take part in a concert of the same numbers on **Sunday June 27th** at 12.45, if you are interested please let me know.

The next **Music Assembly** will be on **Tuesday 11th May**, which is during SATS week and should be a bit of welcome relief for our hard-working Year 6 children. The list of people involved is up on my door if you would like to check if your name is on it.

Concert at **Yehudi Menuhin** School on **Tuesday July 13th**

This is a **free** concert for a limited number of Year 5 and 6 students, we only have to cover the cost of the bus! Watch out for a letter with all the details.

Master Classes for violin (with Nicola Benedetti), cello, piano and trumpet (with the Sitkovetsky trio) Anyone interested? They are part of the Surrey Hills Music Festival and will take place at St Teresa's School, Dorking. Participating performer's fee is £30 and please contacts t.caister@stteresas.surrey.sch.uk if you would like to book a place or find out more. There are also concert events as part of the festival. If interested re concerts contact surreyhillsfestivaltickets@stteresas.surrey.sch.uk

Piano exam results hot off the press – April 2010

Vanessa Boc (4I)	Grade 1
Chloe Lock (5C)	Step 2 - Distinction
Charlie Cox (5F)	Step 1 - Distinction
Nicole Dawes (6D)	Grade 2
Fred Dixon (5B)	Grade 2 - Distinction
Bethany Watkins (5C)	Grade 1 -Distinction
Nancy Scott	Grade 3 – Merit
Amy Wickham	Grade 1 – Merit

Well done to you all.

FRENCH – MME DURIEZ

FRENCH MUSICAL PERFORMANCE MARCH 2010:

On Wednesday 24th March 120 children from all Year groups gave a double performance– Here are some comments from our audience:

“I thought the performance was slick, professional, entertaining and uplifting. Both my children love the French Clubs and never want to miss a lesson! These Clubs have been a positive experience for my children and have boosted their confidence enormously.”

“It was totally brilliant and amazing!” “It was a really refreshing, vibrant and well-executed performance and added a totally new strand to the musical event at Cleves.”

“The children oozed with enthusiasm and it was wonderful to watch them giving such an accomplished performance.”

“I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the children and how such a large number of children managed not just to participate but to visibly and fully engage in quite complicated dance routines. There was a wonderful energy in the whole show!”

“I enjoyed the show, the energy and enthusiasm was so good! Cleves offers all the children such a great opportunity to learn a language, and make it fun too! I’m sure Madame Duriez; you will have sparked off a whole generation of linguist!! and dancers!!”

NEWS: A DVD of the performance is being done at the moment – A letter will be sent out to let you know when it is ready. For those of you who missed the performance – Children will be performing again in the Fete in the Field on Tuesday 18th May – COME ALONG!

AFRO FRENCH DANCE WEBSITE: www.afrofrenchdance.co.uk

SPORT - Lacrosse Tournament – Dharma Carlin & Tessa Hibbert

On Sunday 7th of March 9 girls from Cleves (Lauren O, Tessa H, Natalie L, Nancy S, Dharma C, Orin C, Camille M, Emma E and Rebekah S) were chosen to represent Cleves at a lacrosse tournament at Felton Fleet School. We were very nervous because we had only been playing for two weeks! Our coach was Lindsay McDonald. She also organised the event. Ten schools attended the tournament.

In our first match, it was very close but despite our best efforts Royal Kent won- 4-3. Although we still picked up one point. In our second match although we tried our best Felton Fleet had been playing lacrosse for a long time therefore we lost 6-0. Sadly we didn’t receive any points.

Our third match was the one we were most proud of as we drew 4-4 with Cobham who had been playing for many years, collecting three points. We won against St Charles 5-0 in our final match! We were very pleased with the result as we tried really hard and received five points.

In the medal ceremony we each got a medal and we got to keep our t-shirts. In total we collected nine points. Sadly we didn’t pick up enough points to get to the final but we really enjoyed playing in the tournament and had lots of fun. Also it was a great experience. Cobham and St Charles got to the final with St Charles going on to win. They are now going to play in the London Pop Lacrosse Tournament.

GAP

The GAP club will be organising stalls for the Fete in the Field as they did for the Christmas Fair. I hope that some of you have visited the Cleves café – this was Hannah Bartholomew's idea a while ago in an Associate Governor meeting and now it has come to fruition. The café runs on Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00-5.30pm in the little room by the Library. You can buy Coffee or Tea (50p), Cake (50p), Biscuits (20p) and Squash (10p). If you are watching your child play in a match, for instance, pop in for a cup of tea. You can even earn yourself a free drink if you visit the Café several times!

We desperately need new GAP helpers in order to cope with increased numbers. If you are able to work 3.00-6.00pm on any days in the week – please call Linda Wright on 01932 224300. Hourly rates are about £7.30 per hour and training will be given. The Club is structured around the Every Child Matters strands.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Having worked from Cleves for a while now the Weybridge Children's Centre staff will have their own premises at the pavilion in Weybridge from May 6th. We are hoping to hold an official launch in July. The Centre is very busy meeting the needs of children aged 0-5 and having premises of its own will bring great benefits.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Be Healthy

We make every effort to monitor the quality of our meals and also keep an eye on the packed lunches that children bring. Healthy snacks are allowed at break time and only healthy snacks are provided at the GAP club. We teach the children about the different types of food through the curriculum.

We offer a wide range of sports in school both within and outside of the curriculum and include 'alternative' sports amongst these. The Sports Hall will enable us to extend our variety of Sports still further and will mean that lessons can go ahead even if the weather is poor.

Stay Safe

We have done a huge amount of work on safeguarding recently. All schools have to have a single central list in which CRB checks are held. It is considered to be good practice to renew checks every three years even if a member of staff has worked at the school all that time. The cost to schools is considerable, £48 for every check undertaken.

We have a robust Child Protection structure in place with Mr. Russ at the helm and ongoing training taking place. We have held several Internet Safety seminars for parents and children and I am trying at present to arrange a date for Years 3 & 4.

Events such as the Junior Citizens programme for Year 6 emphasise safety and our commitment to the Every Child Matters Agenda.

The crossing has been referred to the School Travel Committee which will include staff and parents from Cleves and representatives from Surrey.

Enjoy and Achieve

Year 3 have been doing glass sculpture as part of their Design Technology programme. Each class has chosen a theme eg: Egyptians, Creation, and Animals and will produce a panel.

Year 3 are just starting to study poetry and are having a focus on Science and Electricity with their Light and Sound work.

Year 4 are using a laser cutter from Heathside to design and make a healthy snack of some sort. All Year 4 staff have been trained in the laser cutter but Heathside staff and children have also been in to assist. Other children from year 4 have been making pod casts and blogs to advertise their healthy snack – a mini Young Enterprise Project!

Year 5 are in the Isle of Wight doing all sorts of exciting things.

Year 6 are looking at journalistic writing and covering bio diversity and forces in Science. They are making Cam Toys in DT.

Make a Positive Contribution

This area is making good progress at present with children taking responsibility in GAP and throughout the school in a variety of ways – Play Leader, Peer Mediator, Mentor, Associate Governors and a new role to evaluate the curriculum – name not given yet.

New mentors, Peer Mediators and Play Leaders have just been nominated from year 5. They are as follows:

Mentors	Peer Mediators	Play Leaders
Isla Franklin	Emma Elrington	Millie Northover-Smith
Georgia White	Izzy Schulte	Olivia Smith
Georgia Milbourne	Annabel Niven	Freya Haslam
Scarlett Gogol Sicklen	Rachel Hurst	Joonas Hartikainen
Jirada Wareensornlap	Alice Fraser	Katie Ford
Aysha Gilmore	Annabel Hipson	Cameron Harp
Abie Cheung	Georgia Lousada	Amber Hughes
Izzy Elder	Roz Evans	Charlie Cox
Chloe Lock	Amy Tilley	Stella Neill
Beth Watkins	Rosie Turner	Sophia Burke
Morgan Class-Kirtley	William Hamilton	Matthew Galvin
Jason Marshall	George Quest	Sam Wells
George Frise	Tomas Thornton	Seb Ingram
Edward Medcalf	Matthew Ridland	Peter McNamara
Daniel Jackman	James Webster	Tyler Tracey
Milyan Brewer	Ben Smith	Bailey Weedon
Henry Edwards	Josh Schofield	Saul Astin
Callum Greenaway	Max Robertson	Harry Thompson
Charlotte Edgar	Serena West	Hannah Warren
Rosie Butcher	Pixie Shay	Isobel Truett

Mr. Cope has just arranged our annual visit to the House of Commons on Monday June 28th – I wonder who will be in power then!

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

The Sports Hall will contribute to this to a large extent because it will give the school an independent financial stream along with the Performance Hall. This has been a long term aim which is being achieved at last.

We operate the Young Enterprise programme throughout the school and this teaches children about the wider world. Our Smoothies project in Year 6, whereby the children have to create and market their own Smoothie also plays a significant contribution to awareness of different roles in business.

Associate Governors attend financial meetings about the budget along with the Business Manager and Finance Governor. Associate Governors as a whole discuss the budget in Strategy meetings with Mr. Nicholson. Our whole emphasis on life skills will prepare the children for the world of work.

LAPTOP PROPOSAL

We will be writing to all of you with more details of this in due course, but about 100 people attended the recent meeting and feedback was broadly positive.

The purpose of the meeting was to gauge feedback on a proposal to provide each child in the school with a laptop – for which parents would pay on a monthly basis.

Children need to be using ICT as a tool, which means that they have to make informed choices about when it is best to use ICT and when it isn't. ICT is very motivating and engaging for children and they will use it extensively in their daily lives and at work. An ICT suite, which children only access for an hour a week, is no longer appropriate for their needs and the provision of a laptop for each child seems to be a viable option.

We have no allocated funding for ICT next year. We have to maintain and renew teachers' laptops, interactive whiteboards and projectors, AppleMacs and the Year 6 laptops. We have to administer, manage and develop the Learning Platform, all on fresh air it seems.

We would make an undertaking on our part to make our wireless network more robust and other adjustments. The expected cost for parents monthly would be about £12.

HERSHAM LIBRARY

The planned closure of Hersham Library for 6 weeks for a refit was cancelled just two days before the work was due to start on February 6th, when the contractor went bust.

Surrey County Council has pulled out all the stops and has succeeded in getting the refurbishment reinstated. The library will now be closed from 20th March to 6th May 2010. Just 6 weeks to reorganise this project is a great achievement.

The Friends of Hersham Library is a voluntary group of residents and enthusiastic users of our library. With the agreement of SCC, we are able to organise children's events and the occasional event for adults, too.

At present, we have not been able to plan anything for half term or Easter, but we hope to have some events in place for the summer. We will begin to organise these as soon as the library has reopened, when we know how much space there is.

We are all very pleased that the library is seen as such a great local asset that money is being spent on updating the interior. We hope that all Hersham Residents will come along and inspect it, and hopefully be inspired to borrow more books, thus ensuring its continuing success. From Susan Mealor, Secretary of Friends of Hersham Library.

FEEDBACK FROM SKILLS EVENING – Evaluation Questionnaires

Thank you to all parents who completed the evaluation sheet and sent it back! I have put together the main points which became evident from your feedback.

- All those who attended the evening found it most enjoyable as most of it was practically based. Many commented that it now made sense of what their children came home and talked about. It put our Skills based curriculum in context, and they could understand why we taught in this way.
- There were a few concerns that the children didn't seem to be working their way through text books or were being 'drilled' in times tables, comprehension or punctuation. We believe that children learn better doing things in context hence our topic based curriculum. The skills would still be taught.
- The comments about homework were, as usual, diverse from 'not enough' to 'too much' and 'more open ended, creative tasks', 'we want more formal work'. Some wanted it set at weekends, some didn't; some wanted it during the week. So taking all of that into account I think Cleves manages to strike a balance!
- What came across very clearly was that your children enjoy school
- There were some worries about Maths being taught differently now. You should have received a leaflet dealing with this. We have held Numeracy Evenings in the past where our Maths co-ordinators practically demonstrated strategies, and we plan another soon. Watch out for it.
- Some parents commented that not enough information about what the children were going to learn or were learning was given. Please refer to this list as this is given from every year group and comes home as paper copy, by email and is on the Learning Platform and website. Many information evenings tell you or show you what is happening and also provide written information to take home.
 - Prospective Parent Evenings
 - Year Group Information Evenings in September
 - Termly Curriculum Maps
 - Home School Liaison Books
 - Reading records
 - Three Parent Consultations annually
 - Written report with target setting
 - Attributes database
 - Cleves Website
 - Learning Platform
 - Curriculum Evenings
 - Skills Evenings
 - Performance/Sharing evenings
 - Newsletters (electronic and paper)
 - Club lists termly
 - Residential Information Evenings
 - Open door policy – you can see your child's teacher at any mutually convenient time

REMINDERS

Our Spring Concert is about to become the Summer Concert with a new date of July 5th.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Surrey Hundreds Chess Tournament held at Hinchley Wood School in March, Imogen Cox (6M) and Benedict Cox (4I) were both Elmbridge Champions in the Under 11s and Under 9s age groups respectively.

And finally.....

I've just heard that the year 5s are having a great time after a shaky start with coaches! Let' hope that all the other visits are just as successful!

Best wishes

Sue Cook





