

A big hello and welcome to Cleves School from **Cleves PTA!**

Who are we?

We are a small group of parent volunteers who organise and manage the PTA. But every parent at Cleves is automatically a member of the PTA and you are all very welcome to be involved. In fact, we need you!

We currently have vacancies for the secretary, class rep co-ordinator and also for members of the Fireworks 2023 committee. Why not start your time off at Cleves with a bang and join us!

Please do email us (pta@cleves.co.uk) if you ever have any questions, suggestions or wish to volunteer. Once you know who we are you are always welcome to catch us at school too!

What have we been up to this year?

It's been wonderful to finally run a full calendar of events!

Discos, fireworks, Christmas Fair, quiz, Fete in the Field, class fundraising, mufti days and a summer ball. It's been busy! Not only does all of this raise important funds for the school but it's a great way for families to nurture friendships within our school community.

Fundraising

Obviously, one of the roles of the PTA is to raise money for the school. We are so grateful for the parental involvement and the children's eagerness for our events this year. A fantastic £42,000 has been raised for the school so far since September.

Where did the money come from and how has it been spent?

Fireworks £22,000, Fete £4,700, Class Fundraising £4,600, Christmas Fair £4,200, Discos £2,100, Raffles £1,900, Quiz £1,100, Mufti Day £800, Uniform £600.....

The main spend this for this year (£44,000) was for the exciting playground development which was completed in October 2022 and saw a largely unused space transformed into a multi-use area.

Meetings

We hold a face-to-face meeting approximately twice a term. Everyone is welcome to attend. It's the best way to keep up to date with what's happening but also to have your say! Past meeting minutes, and other PTA info, can be found on the school website (click Parents/PTA).

Volunteers

Events cannot run without you! We need volunteers to help organise events but also to help out on the day. If you aren't able to offer your time for a full PTA role please do consider joining a single event organising committee. It's a great way to meet people and to get involved.

Provisional Calendar of Events for 2023/24

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Discos Fri 13th Oct Fireworks Sun 5th Nov Christmas Fair Sat 2nd Dec	 Quiz TBC	 Fete in the Field May Discos July
<u>PTA Meetings:</u> September AGM November	<u>PTA Meetings:</u> January March	<u>PTA Meetings:</u> April June

Class Reps

Each class has 1-2 parent reps and they are a vital link for communication between the school, PTA and parents. Please consider volunteering. It's very rewarding and a wonderful way to get to know the other parents in your child's class.

Emails

You will receive daily 'Evening News' emails from the school (at about 6.30pm) which will include up-to-date information about events, trips, clubs etc. On a Friday you will receive a weekly newsletter and local community info emails instead. If you have a query about something, it's always worth checking in past Evening News emails / newsletters as, more often than not, the info is in there. It may feel a little overwhelming at first but they are extremely useful so do take a moment to read them.

Second hand uniform

Donations of all good quality uniform, not just branded items, are accepted. We aim to run a sale at least every term but will accept ad hoc orders via email (uniform@cleves.co.uk). These sales can obviously help you save money but they are also there to encourage us to 'reduce, reuse and recycle'.

What's App Groups

Yes, more what's app groups! This will be the main way the class reps will communicate with the class parents and it's a really helpful way to keep up to date with what is happening at school. It's very easy for the groups to become inundated with messages so they should only be used for school-related discussions. What's App groups are usually set up by the parents very soon after finding out class groups. Ask around if you haven't seen a link for your class.

Parent to Parent Tips and Info

We asked our current year 3 parents what things they wanted you to know before your time at Cleves began. This is just a little snapshot of information and you will be able to gather a more detailed picture from the other info you're given and also in September. Don't forget to check emails and the school website too.

Cleves Hub

In September, your child will receive a Cleves email address along with a password which will allow them to access the online Cleves Hub. This is where the weekly homework will be posted. It is a google-based system which uses gmail, drive and classroom. If you wish to access this on your phone you can download the relevant apps (gmail, classroom etc) for an easier interface. If you're ever struggling to log in just double check you're using your child's info and not your own by mistake! You will receive detailed information about the Hub once your child starts in September.

Homework

In year 3, homework is set every Friday which is to be completed and returned the following Tuesday. Spellings will also be set on a Friday ready for a test on the Monday. This will all be shared within Classroom on the Cleves Hub. As well as the Friday homework, your child will receive maths homework on a Tuesday which needs to be returned on Thursday.

Clubs

Many of the after school clubs can be booked the term before. Considering GAP club places might be limited it is worthwhile being aware of what clubs you might 'need' before the end of the summer term. Information on all clubs can be found on the school website (Our School/Clubs). You can use childcare vouchers for the breakfast club (Early Risers) and GAP but not for other after school activities. As well as after school clubs, there are a wide range of lunchtime clubs - information on these will be shared in September.

Independence

Cleves definitely has a greater expectation of independence and personal responsibility than the infant schools. It's very easy for the children to lose items in those first weeks so do label everything and make sure your child know what's in their stuff - PE kit, pencil case etc. It'll be up to your child to let you know if they're running out of stationery items, for example. It's worthwhile practising the tie over the summer holidays and whilst you might think they'll never get it, they will! A new school, new routines, new friends - great but exhausting. Do expect more tiredness a few weeks in. It all may seem a lot at first but it's wonderful watching them mature and meet the expectations set for them.

School lunches

There's a good choice of meals each day and these can be booked online via the Scopay website or on the Scopay app. You do need to order the meals 72 hours in advance. Try to order at least half a term in one go to lessen the risk of forgetting!

Drop off and pick up

It's busy! Especially in the first week of term when clubs haven't started yet. There can be queues at the gates and it can be slow moving within the school grounds. Parking is extremely limited on the nearby roads so please try to walk/scoot/cycle. There's plenty of space to park bikes and scooters on site. If that's really impossible, try to leave as much time as you can and park the car further away from school and walk the rest of the way. Please be respectful of the parking restrictions in place outside the school to ensure children are safe. Whilst the Oatlands and Manby 'dash' seems daunting, it is manageable and gets easier once you're in the routine.

Dropping at the gates

During the first week of term in September you will be able to walk with your child to their classroom in the mornings. From the second week onwards you are encouraged to say goodbye to them at the gates and leave them to walk to the classroom by themselves. They look so little as they walk off with their big backpacks but they are able to do it (and so can you)! Throughout the whole of year 3 you can collect from directly outside the classroom at 3.15pm.

Speaking to teachers

Teachers are approachable and very happy to be emailed with queries and concerns. It's the easiest way to get in touch with them but can feel a little strange at first as it's so different to infant school! Just do bear in mind that they likely won't be able to check emails during the day so for anything urgent do still contact reception. Staff email addresses can be found on the school website (Our School/Staff List).

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to meeting you and your child in September!