

We find ourselves half way through the school year and once again there is lots to report in this latest edition of our sports newsletter. January can typically be a quiet time with the weather often curtailing fixtures and competitions, however we've been somewhat lucky this year. Uptake for our extra curricular clubs remain exceptionally high and this is particularly pleasing given that there is now an equally impressive arts offer in place. We have over 300 children attending one of our staff run extra curricular sports clubs and many more that take up the offer provided by our external providers.

Furthermore, this half term, an additional 96 children have represented the school in a competition or festival for the first time making it a total of 459 who have done so in this academic year. These are really impressive figures and I would like to congratulate all these pupils. You have conducted yourselves exceptionally well and I continue to be impressed with the passion, effort and commitment you display. I hope you have all enjoyed the opportunities on offer.

If you've not yet had the opportunity to take part in a competition or festival, there are lots more planned for the remainder of the year so we hope you will want to get involved.

### **RUNNING CLUB - MARATHON CHALLENGE**

I am pleased to share the medal design for this year's challenge. Some pupils are already very close to achieving their marathon distance and we will start awarding these medals in achievement assemblies before Easter. Remember, that you need to attend our running club 18 times during the year in order to have run the distance of a marathon.



### **BADMINTON FESTIVAL**

As recently as last Monday, ten year 5 children attended a badminton festival at Cleves where they were joined by 6 other local schools. They played a variety of fun games and drills where the skills could be transferred to a badminton match. They represented Cleves impeccably and demonstrated excellent badminton skills. We were delighted to be awarded runners up.

Well done also to the year 6 Sports Crew who helped with the running of the event.

This was an event that was led by Active Surrey with the school offering the use of our sports hall. We work closely with Active Surrey not only to benefit the participation of our pupils but also other local schools.

After half term, we are hosting a panathlon and I look forward to reporting on this in the next newsletter.

## SWIMMING GALA

I am pleased to report that our newly formed swimming squad have had their first training session and only yesterday, their first gala. The squad is made up of 28 pupils from years 3 - 6 with hopefully the opportunity to grow this further as we look to enter additional galas later in the year. Thursday's gala took place at ACS Cobham as Cleves continues to benefit from the partnership with the international school. Having been able to use their facility free of charge for training last week, they hosted a 'friendly' gala between the schools last night. I was extremely proud and impressed with the Cleves swimmers. Many were nervous having not competed before but their bravery, swimming ability and overall commitment were extremely impressive. Their behaviour was exemplary too. Well done!



## NETBALL UPDATE

Our year 6 team have played their first official league game of the season whilst the year 5 team continue to train hard and prepare for their forthcoming league games.

### Year 6 Netball Match Report

On Tuesday this week, the Year 6 Netball team faced their first league match of the season with excitement and a little nervousness too. Luckily it was a home match so they had great support from parents and they were up against Ashley School. The team started very positively with a 4-0 lead at the end of the first quarter with goals from Belle and Macie. With their confidence building they raced ahead to a 10-0 lead by half time with the team intercepting and moving around the court with great footwork and speed. The match finished 12-1 to Cleves so a fantastic win to start the season with more goals from Amy, Martha, Abi & Lucy.

Congratulations to the whole team: Amy, Belle, Lucy, Rachel, Martha, Macie & Abi.

## **DODGEBALL COMPETITION**

Early January saw the final dodgeball festival of the academic year take place with the district tournament. This was hosted and led by Cleves which saw us enter two teams into the competition. It was a great afternoon of dodgeball with the values of honesty and respect clearly upheld by all the schools that took part. The Cleves teams did really well finishing in 2nd and 3rd place. They were only just beaten by St Cuthberts school who have now won the tournament for the last 6 years. Well done to everyone who took part.



## **SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

I have recently written a leadership in sport program, aimed at our Year 5/6 pupils at Cleves. At the beginning of February, I began trialing this with 16 pupils and early signs are that it will be very beneficial indeed. There are a total of six sessions planned which look at topics such as effective communication, problem solving and decision making, mental toughness and leading by example. Throughout the program it will examine and study what makes effective leadership in sport, making links to real life examples and experiences. I have already been impressed with the insightful, mature and reflective responses made by the pupils trialing the program and I look forward to seeing it hopefully transfer to their performances when they represent the school, their local clubs/teams as well as everyday life. Assuming that the remainder of the trial is successful, I will look to roll this out to other pupils in Year 5/6 later on in the term and year.

## **SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS**

As you may have read in our recent weekly newsletter our Year 6 Sportshall Athletics team achieved considerable success in the district competition at ACS Cobham. This is now a competition we have won for the last 13 years but this year was probably our biggest and most comprehensive victory of them all. It is fair to say they deserve the success given they have attended training at Cleves every Thursday morning before school since the end of October. The team now progress to the Surrey county finals at the Guildford Spectrum in March. This will indeed be a much tougher competition so the team is continuing to train hard.

There is also another sportshall competition at Cleves at the end of this month which Cleves are hosting as part of the WWHSP Sports Partnership. This gives the opportunity for all the pupils who have attended the morning club to take part in a competition and this group of children have



been training equally hard to prepare. I look forward to sharing their success in the next newsletter.



## **FOOTBALL MATCH REPORTS**

It's been another really busy half term of football at Cleves with lots of children representing the school across our many teams. The staff members who look after these teams have written a short summary of their achievements.

### Year 4 Indoor Football Festival (Mr Jerrard)

On Monday 29th January, a team of ten year 4 pupils took part in the district indoor football festival. This was a great afternoon of football where the team managed to win three of their five games. Well done to James, Freddie, Rocco, Jack, Leo, Jacob, Bert, Oliver and Kaan.

### Year 5 A Team Boys Football (Mr Mulea)

What a fantastic season the Cleves Year 5 A team are having so far! At the start of the year I mentioned what a determined and competitive team we have in Year 5 this year and at this stage into the season, I can confidently say that is a big understatement. Looking at the league, Cleves have gone from strength to strength and have won 5/5 fixtures since early December and with an incredible goal difference too. In the County Cup, Cleves have excelled and have made some strong statement wins in the early rounds and now find themselves at the Semi-Finals of the competition and one step closer to a huge achievement of lifting the County Cup trophy. As a Year 5 team in the league cup, we have shown fantastic effort and desire and incredibly, we have knocked out two Year 6 A teams on route to the Quarter Final, which is now set up for a gruelling battle against the Cleves Year 6 B Team. What has been most notable about the team this season is their work ethic. Whether we are training or playing in a fixture, the boys have shown what a hard working and competitive unit they are. As we move into the final phase of the season, we are most excited about how the season will end and what trophies will be out on show in Year 5!  
Mr Mulea

### Year 5/6 A Team Girls Football (Mr Woods and Mrs Flaherty)

Once again, the Girls football teams have had a busy half term. The Yr 5/6 team have played 3 league games and not only won them all but are yet to concede a goal. Poor Rachel (our goalie) has had a few cold and boring games! We are currently sitting at the top of our half of the league but have a crucial match against Ashley this Friday who are also unbeaten. The girls also played



in the Surrey County FA tournament at Dorking FC which was a great experience for them. In the County Cup, the Year 6 team progressed to the semi-finals after a 5-0 victory over Hurst Park.

The Year 5 team played their first fixture of the year in the quarter finals of the County Cup against Barrow Hedges last Friday. It was a competitive match with end to end play. Cleves went up a goal after a sustained period of pressure led to a goalkeeping error and quickly scored another goal as their confidence increased. Barrow Hedges started the second half with determination and scored but our girls dug in in defence and held off the opposition for a final score of 2-1. We look forward to a semi final match against St George's in the coming weeks. Well done to Betsy, Emily, Megan, Maddie, Mia, Rajna, Bella, Ella-Rose and Sylvie.

### Year 6 A Team Boys Football (Mr Smith)

This half term has seen the boys involved in a number of matches across four competitions. I am pleased to report that they have been unbeaten in every fixture, winning some games more comfortably than others though. In the league they have beaten St Paul's and Grovelands, the latter through a last minute goal. In the league cup, they saw off Manorcroft in extra time in another very close game. In the Surrey County cup, which is 9 aside, they saw off a spirited Brookfield side which saw them progress to the semi finals of the cup.

Finally, in the next stage of the AFC Wimbledon tournament, the team were joined by three year 5 team members in a very exciting morning of football at the club's training ground. The boys were magnificent, winning every game which included a very tense and tight 2 v 1 win in the semis and a much more comfortable 4 v 0 win in the final. They now progress to the South of England finals in Swindon on 12th March. If they win that, then they get to play at Wembley in May. Good luck boys!



### Year 5/6 B Team Boys Football (Mr Smith)

I am also pleased to report that the Year 5/6 B team are also unbeaten having played two league games. They played out an entertaining 0 v 0 the Stepgates at the beginning of January and then played an equally enthralling fixture against Burhill which they won 3 v 0.



They then played the Year 5 A team in the quarter finals of the league cup and what a game it was, beating them by the narrowest of margins (1 v 0) and securing a semi final spot. It's been a long time since I've seen a team play with such commitment, determination and togetherness and although they rode their luck, they deserved the win purely based on the attitude they demonstrated.

Mr Mulea and I have been really impressed with all the pupils that have represented the school in football this year - a massive 106 in total. Well done to you all!

### WWHSP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

With Cleves taking the lead on the Walton, Weybridge and Hersham Sports Partnership, we have continued to host, organise and lead a number of sporting festivals this half term. This includes a year 4 mini olympics competition which 4L and 4M took part in. Recently, Cleves led on putting together a sportshall athletics team which included more able pupils from the majority of the WWHSP schools. They went on to compete against Surrey Athletic Clubs (not schools) on Sunday 14th January in a hugely enjoyable afternoon of competition. I am delighted to report that the boys were runners up and the girls were overall winners. This is the first time we managed to win the competition and is a fantastic achievement.



# WWHSP

Walton, Weybridge, Hersham Sports Partnership



What's more, I am delighted to share that Martha, Bailey, Olive, Luke, Sam and Daniel have been selected to represent Surrey in the regional sportshall competition taking place at Burgess Hill at the end of half term. Once again, I will share how they get on in the next sports newsletter.

There are many more WWHSP competitions and festivals planned for the second half of this term including a B team football festival, year 2 and 3 mini olympics, a year 3/4 girls football festival and sportshall athletics competitions for years 3/4 and %

## **TRAIL SHOE SWAP SHOP**

Earlier this month a parent approached me with a really good idea of setting up a trail shoe swap shop. These are often expensive items which with growing feet don't last long. To start things rolling, I have a pair of size 2 Peregrine trail shoes available if anyone would like to trade a pair in. Likewise, if you are in a position to donate a pair of shoes, please let me know. If this grows into something popular, I will start taking pictures and putting them on display in school.

## **FIELD IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

I am pleased to report that the field improvement works have started. At the beginning of the month we had the field verti drained. This has a number of benefits and will be shortly followed by a winter feed. After Easter, the field will be completely re-seeded together with a further feed which hopefully will lead to a much better surface from the autumn term.

## **CLUB FOCUS - YEAR 5/6 FITNESS CLUB**

In the autumn term, I started a fitness club for pupils in years 5/6 on a Friday evening. Initially we had just 12 pupils signed up but this term the club has grown to over 35 members who turn up each week and work hard before going to enjoy their weekend. The club is very much focused on strength and conditioning in a safe and fun environment and many that attend do so to help and support the team and individual sports they play. It's circuit based but each session is always slightly different to keep it interesting and varied. We play music and the pupils can contribute towards the playlist.

If it is something that you think your child may be interested in joining, please drop me an email - [csmith@cleves.co.uk](mailto:csmith@cleves.co.uk)

## **LIVE SPORTING EVENTS**

Just a reminder, at Cleves, we would like to keep a record of occasions when children at Cleves get to watch a live sporting event. If your child is lucky enough to see a game or competition of any sport, please can I ask you to complete the following form so we can keep a record. Please [click here](#) to complete the form.

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This rounds up a very busy start to 2024. Congratulations to everyone who has been involved and we look forward to reporting on all the events that take place for the remainder of the school year.

Mr Smith

Sports Coach