

We now find ourselves halfway through the school year and, once again, there is plenty to report in this latest edition of our Sports Newsletter.

January can often be a quieter month, with the weather frequently curtailing fixtures and competitions. This year has been particularly challenging, with continuous wet weather putting our field out of action for several weeks. Despite this, uptake for our extra-curricular clubs remains exceptionally high. This is especially pleasing given the equally impressive arts and music provision available across the school.

Alongside our competitive fixtures, pupils have also benefited from a series of energetic skipping workshops this half term, which were met with huge enthusiasm across the year groups. It has been fantastic to see so many children challenging themselves, developing coordination and resilience, and embracing new skills with such positivity. We were also delighted to welcome Steel, star of the BBC's *Gladiators*, who delivered an inspiring assembly focused on confidence, perseverance and the importance of maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle. His visit created a real buzz around school and provided a memorable sporting experience for our pupils.

Currently, nearly 400 pupils are attending one of our staff-run extra-curricular sports clubs each week, with many more taking part in sessions delivered by our external providers. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our pupils continues to be a real strength of sport at Cleves.

In addition, this half term alone, 112 pupils have represented the school in a competition or festival for the very first time, bringing the total number of pupils who have done so this academic year to 402. These are incredibly impressive figures.

I would like to congratulate every one of these pupils. You have conducted yourselves exceptionally well and I continue to be impressed by the passion, effort and commitment you display whenever you represent Cleves. I hope you have enjoyed the opportunities on offer and feel proud of your contribution.

If your child has not yet had the opportunity to take part in a competition or festival, there are many more planned for the remainder of the year — and we very much hope they will get involved.

### **EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL AWARD**

We are incredibly proud to announce that Cleves has been recognised as an Equal Access School 2025 through the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships, delivered by England Football. This award celebrates schools that provide equal opportunities for girls and boys to play football, and it reflects our ongoing commitment to fairness, inclusion and opportunity for every pupil.

Football at our school is not defined by gender - it is defined by enthusiasm, teamwork and enjoyment.



Achieving Equal Access status means that girls now have the same opportunities as boys to

- Take part in football during curriculum PE
- Access extra-curricular football clubs
- Represent the school in fixtures and competitions

This recognition is the result of sustained effort across the school community. Staff have worked hard to ensure inclusive provision, pupils have embraced opportunities with enthusiasm, and our wider community has supported the growth of football for all. We know that access to sport builds confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging - and this award marks an important step in ensuring those benefits are available to everyone equally. We look forward to continuing to develop our football offer and to seeing even more pupils enjoy the game, grow in confidence, and represent our school with pride. Well done to everyone involved - a fantastic achievement for our school

## **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.



## **NETBALL UPDATE**

The Year 5 netball team had their first ever competitive match on Monday 9th February against Walton Oak. During this hard fought home game, the entire team played brilliantly. All team members defended well and we had many scoring opportunities.

However, despite being 2-0 up after the second quarter the final result was 3-4 to Walton Oak. Well done to all the players: Joseph Lockyer, Alice Mehta, Nia Hodge, Iiyana Adeel, Alba Blackmore and Isla Reed.

The Year 6 netball team played their first league fixture of the year in January against Cobham Free School. In a closely fought match, Cleves took an early lead and showed great movement and passing throughout.

Despite a strong performance, the team were unlucky to lose 6-4, particularly after a long break from competitive play. A positive and encouraging start to the league season.

Then, this week, the year 6 netballers had another netball league game. The match was a fast paced affair with plenty of opportunities for goals from either side. Going into the third quarter the game was at a 0-0 draw but Walton Oak came out victorious overall with a 2-0 win. All of the team should be incredibly proud of the way they played. Well done to Lucas, Ellis, Eloise, Betsy, Nhanda, Chloe, Leah and Elodie.

## PRIMARY PANATHLON

Two weeks ago, sixteen pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Panathlon at Cleves, competing alongside nine other local schools. This multi-skills festival provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop and practise a wide range of skills in a safe yet competitive environment.

The event was split into two sessions, and we entered a team in each. I am delighted to report that our pupils finished as runners-up in the first session and were overall winners in the second. Congratulations to all those who took part for their effort, teamwork and positive attitude throughout the day.

In addition, twenty Year 5 pupils helped to lead the event, and they did an outstanding job. They received praise from both visiting schools and the event organiser for the way they conducted themselves. Their kindness, empathy and excellent communication skills were evident throughout, and they acted with maturity well beyond their years. Well done to everyone involved.



## BADMINTON FESTIVAL

Just this week, we were delighted to welcome our friends from Grovelands for a Year 4/5 Badminton Festival here at Cleves. This was the first time we have hosted such an event, but it will certainly not be the last.

With each school bringing 12 pupils, the afternoon consisted of a series of half-court singles matches, allowing every player plenty of opportunities to compete and develop their skills. The format worked extremely well, creating a fantastic balance between friendly interaction and healthy competition. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part — you represented your schools brilliantly.



## SURREY SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

Athletes from Cleves School produced an impressive set of performances at the Surrey Schools Primary Cross Country Championships, held in Reigate on Saturday 17th January.

There were many standout performances. In the Year 6 Boys' race Jack secured 1st place followed closely by Sebbi in 2nd, giving Cleves an excellent one-two finish. Strong supporting runs from Edward, Bert, Leo, Joe and Oscar rounded off a superb team performance with them all finishing in the top 25.

The Year 5 boys also performed with great determination in a large and competitive field, with Joseph and Osian leading the Cleves runners home and several others finishing strongly to complete a solid team effort.

In the Year 5 Girls' race, Chloe ran a brilliant race finishing in an impressive 4th place. The Year 6 Girls were well represented too, with Erin, Omnia and Blaise all showing resilience and commitment on a challenging course.

Well done to all Cleves athletes who took part: Chloe, Joseph, Osian, Ralph, Emil, Henry, George, Erin, Omnia, Blaise, Jack, Sebbi, Edward, Bert, Leo, Joe, Oscar and Jacob.



## **DODGEBALL COMPETITIONS**

### WWHSP Dodgeball Competition

Back in January, Cleves proudly hosted a WWHSP Dodgeball Competition for both Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6, entering two teams in each event.

The afternoon was full of fast-paced, high-energy matches, with honesty and fairness playing a key role throughout. Pupils showed excellent throwing, catching and teamwork, alongside impressive self-refereeing and respect for opponents.

- Year 5 & 6 teams finished 1st and 3rd
- Year 3 & 4 teams finished 2nd and 3rd

This was a fantastic achievement and a huge well done to the 36 pupils who represented the school with such positivity and pride.



### District Girls Dodgeball Champions

Two weeks later, Cleves also hosted the first ever District Year 5/6 Girls Dodgeball competition, welcoming six schools for an action-packed afternoon of competition.

From the opening games, the standard of play was extremely high, with quick reactions, accurate throws and excellent teamwork on display throughout. The Cleves girls showed outstanding focus and determination in every match and were deservedly crowned District Champions — a superb achievement and a real highlight of the term.

### Leo Academy Trust Dodgeball Festival

On 6th February we teamed up with the Leo Academy Trust to host a dodgeball festival which involved 14 of our pupils who attended the Year 6 dodgeball club in the autumn term. With five other schools attending it was a hugely enjoyable afternoon which included a skills rotation followed by a number of games. Well done to those who took part - I was really impressed that they were able to apply the skills they had learnt from attending the club.

## SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Yesterday afternoon, we held a Year 5/6 sportshall competition at Cleves involving three other local schools. This gave another group of children the opportunity to compete and represent the school. Mrs Hamilton and I were delighted with their performance and how they conducted themselves. It was a hugely enjoyable afternoon of competition with some really close races and high scoring field events. The scores were very close by the end but I am pleased to report that Cleves were announced overall winners. Well done to all involved.



## FOOTBALL MATCH REPORTS

### Year 5/6 Boys – Premier League Primary Stars Finals

At the beginning of January, the Year 5/6 boys travelled to Fulham FC to compete in the finals of the Premier League Primary Stars Tournament, having qualified earlier in the year.

The tournament was played in a straight league format, with eight teams competing. From the first match, the Cleves boys were outstanding, playing with real intensity, commitment and pride. Across seven matches, the team remained unbeaten, recording multiple wins and draws.

Although another team narrowly finished ahead, the boys produced the highest quality football we have seen from them this season and represented Cleves superbly throughout the day.



## Year 5 A Team

What a great half term of football for the Year 5 boys A team! Although some fixtures were called off with the relentless rain, the boys have still got stuck in to several fixtures since returning from the Christmas break. Our first game scheduled was a county cup quarter final, which saw the boys narrowly miss out to a very strong St George's team. It was a well fought battle for the duration of the game, but we struggled to be clinical in the opponents half. Soon after, the boys faced a Burhill team in the league. With some quick movements and high pressing the boys scored and held onto the lead, gaining a vital 3 points in our chase for the league title. To finish off our first half term of Spring, the boys travelled to St James School in Ashford for a round robin tournament. The 5-a-side games saw the boys play some spectacular football and move the ball around the pitch with great speed. Their performances in the group phase saw them score an impressive 9 goals whilst also conceding 0! This put the boys top and into the final where the trophy was then on the line. The final started in a similar fashion to our group games and the boys worked incredibly hard to dominate all areas of the pitch. Showing their clinical side, the boys scored 5 goals and finished the entire tournament still without conceding a single goal. A hugely impressive performance to bring in the half term! With 3 league games and another tournament to go, it's going to be a busy and exciting period for the team!



## Year 6 Boys – Football A Team

The Year 6 A Team have been in excellent form this half term, competing across league, cup and county competitions with real commitment and quality. In league action, a disciplined and hard-working performance secured a 4–0 victory against St James, with the boys showing excellent organisation and composure throughout. This was followed by a convincing 5–0 League Cup win against Grovelands at Walton Xcel, where patient build-up play and clinical finishing saw them score freely. The team now progress to the quarter finals, where they will face St Cuthbert's after half term.

The boys also travelled to Dorking to compete in the Surrey 7-a-side finals known as the Pokemon Cup, where they were outstanding throughout the day. Playing great football and remaining unbeaten they progressed all the way to the semi-final. After a tightly contested match, the game

went to penalties, where they were narrowly edged out. It was a superb performance and a reminder of the fine margins at this level of competition.

In the 9-a-side Surrey Cup, it proved to be a tough afternoon against Banstead Community School. Cleves raced into a commanding 2–0 lead, playing some excellent football in the early stages. However, momentum shifted and despite continued effort and determination, the boys eventually fell to a 5–2 defeat. It was a challenging result, but one that provided valuable learning for the boys.

It's been an excellent half term for the boys with the climax to the season coming after half term with the various leagues and cups coming to a conclusion.

### Girls' Football

It has been another excellent half term for girls' football at Cleves, with the team competing across league, cup and tournament competitions.

The girls travelled to the regional finals of the Premier League competition, representing Fulham FC and playing against seven other strong sides from across London and the South. Across the day, they recorded **four wins, two draws and one loss**, finishing second in their group. Despite narrowly missing out on qualification for the national finals, they played some outstanding football and were extremely impressive in every game

In Surrey Cup action, the girls produced a dominant second-half display away at Manor Park. After a tightly contested first half, they increased the tempo, moved the ball with greater speed and precision, and ran out 5–0 winners, progressing to the quarter finals



They also took part in a 5-a-side tournament at St James Boys School. In a league of other local schools, the girls performed brilliantly winning all their games and scoring 26 goals in the process (without conceding once). They won the group and deservedly brought home the trophy. Congratulations to all the girls who participated.



### Year 5/6 B Team Football

Back at the beginning of January, two Cleves B Teams took part in a friendly mini-tournament hosted by St Cuthbert's. Five teams competed in total, with each side playing four matches. It was a competitive yet friendly afternoon, providing valuable match experience for all involved.

The highlight of the event came when the two Cleves teams faced each other in a hugely entertaining contest, finishing in a 0–0 draw. Both teams showed great effort, commitment and sportsmanship throughout.

Since then, the B Team have continued to impress in competitive fixtures. In league action against Grovelands, many pupils were representing the school for the first time — and they rose to the occasion superbly. A determined and attacking performance, combined with excellent teamwork, saw goals in each half secure a deserved 2–0 victory. The scoreline could easily have been greater were it not for some resolute defending from the opposition. It was a confident display and a thoroughly deserved win.

Finally, the boys also enjoyed a dramatic cup tie against Ashley. In a tightly contested match played at high intensity, Cleves showed real resilience and character. Refusing to give up and continuing to press forward, they eventually secured the victory in dramatic fashion, sparking well-deserved celebrations at the final whistle. They now play Burhill in the next round after half term.

It has been extremely pleasing to see the development of this group, with confidence growing each week and a strong sense of teamwork evident in every performance.

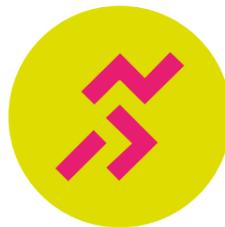
## Year 4 Indoor Football

Last Monday saw us host the local Year 4 Indoor Football Festival at Cleves which was attended by five other schools. The five a side format saw everyone play 10 minute games against everyone else. The Cleves boys played some excellent football winning all their games. Well done to everyone who took part.



## **WWHSP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Cleves continues to play a leading role in the Walton, Weybridge and Hersham Sports Partnership (WWHSP), working closely with local schools to provide inclusive, well-organised and enjoyable sporting opportunities for pupils.



**WWHSP**  
Walton, Weybridge, Hersham Sports Partnership

This term, Cleves has already hosted a number of successful WWHSP events, welcoming schools from across the partnership to events such as mini olympics, sportshall athletics and dodgeball. These events have allowed large numbers of pupils to represent their school in a supportive and competitive environment, while also developing confidence and a love of sport. The mini olympics competition saw 4L finish second and 4E third with St Charles being crowned overall winners.

A particularly pleasing aspect of this work has been the continued leadership shown by Cleves pupils, who continue to support the organisation and smooth running of events, setting a positive example to others.

## COMING UP NEXT HALF TERM

The second half of the Spring Term promises to be another busy and exciting period for sport at Cleves. Our Swimming Team are currently training hard in preparation for their forthcoming gala on 26th February at ACS Cobham. There are also further Cross Country competitions on the horizon as well as the Sportshall Athletics District competitions, which represents a major highlight of the indoor athletics season.

We also approach the climax of the football and netball seasons, with important fixtures and cup games still to be played and plenty to compete for.

In addition, we are looking forward to entering the brand-new Primary Fitness Games, with eleven girls currently working extremely hard in preparation for this exciting competition.

There is certainly plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Congratulations to Charlotte Laws from 5H who plays in goal for the Surbiton U10 team. Recently she took part in the 2026 Canterbury Annual Hockey Tournament.

The team had a fantastic experience and ended up winning the tournament after seven games, with five wins and two draws.



## 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 2026. Congratulations to all our pupils who play such an active role in school sport at Cleves.

Furthermore, a huge thank you to all staff who run clubs, coach teams, referee matches and support fixtures, and to parents for their continued support through transport, encouragement and cheering from the sidelines.

It has been an excellent start to the Spring Term of sport at Cleves, and we look forward to sharing what the rest of the term brings.

Mr Smith - Sports Coach