



Clyst Hydon Primary School, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2ND

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#clysthydonschoolart

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Head of School: Ms Joanna Rousseau

"Love Learning, Love Life"



7th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to another school year at Clyst Hydon Primary School. I am delighted to have joined your lovely school as the new Head of School, working in conjunction with Steve Mellor who is the Executive Headteacher. I am really looking forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks, as well as getting to know all the wonderful children in Puffins and Owls classes. The sun is shining, the classrooms are all set up ready to go, and we have planned lots of exciting learning opportunities for your children to enjoy over the next few weeks of term.

Our new reward system



I met all the children today during our 'Welcome Back' assembly. The children were able to sing together for the first time in a long while, as the Covid restrictions regarding singing and assemblies have been taken away for primary schools, which is great, as singing together in assembly is such a wonderful part of the day. I also talked to the children about a new reward system that I am introducing to Clyst Hydon. I have introduced this system previously in 2 other schools I have worked in and it has always proved motivating and engaging for the children, so I hope that the children here will be motivated by it too. It is a slightly more individualised system than the previous 'House' reward system, although this system will feed into the House points too.

Here's how it works:

Each child will be given a little plastic pot with a lid on to collect STAR tokens in. These STAR tokens can be given out by any member of staff when they see a child doing something really positive either in their learning or in their interactions with others around the school. The children will be told which particular behaviour we are looking out for each week (e.g. being polite to others, really engaging with their learning, showing care for others etc) but they could be rewarded for any positive behaviours they show, not just the target one for the week. They collect their stars in a little pot and then every week or so, the teacher will count and collect these in and add the number of tokens they have got to each child's own 'CLASS DOJO' character, which are housed on a secure Class Dojo webpage and will look a bit like this:



When a child has managed to gain 50 star tokens (which will take quite a few weeks) they will be awarded a BRONZE badge which they can then wear with pride on their school uniform to show that they have gained 50 stars. Children will then continue to work towards gaining star tokens throughout the year. If they manage to reach 100 star tokens they will be awarded the SILVER badge, and then if they are incredible enough to gain another 75 tokens (taking them to 175) this will mean they will be awarded the GOLD badge. There is also a PLATINUM badge for 275 tokens but this is a very hard one to gain – necessarily as we really want these badges to be seen as a real achievement rather than just something they can easily get.

The Class DOJO points will also translate into House Points and a House total will be kept alongside each individual's score. You will be receiving an email over the next few days inviting you to join Class Dojo. This invite enables you to see how many Class Dojo points your child has been awarded, and it also actually is what enables your child's DOJO character to hatch from an egg into a character, so it would be great if you could accept this invite.

Communication

For urgent enquiries and information you need to get to us, please continue to telephone the school office or speak to a member of staff at drop off or pick up. We are pleased to welcome parents back into the playground to drop off at the start of the day and pick up their children at the end of the day, now that more COVID restrictions have been lifted in schools, but please try to still maintain social distancing in order to keep everyone safe.

Email can be used for other enquiries you might have, although please do be aware that all members of staff are entitled to a work-life balance and therefore there is no expectation on staff to check and respond to emails that are sent to them in the evenings or at weekends. If you need a more urgent response, then telephoning or speaking to someone directly will always be preferable. Thank you.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club is back up and running and Mrs Stevens will be pleased to welcome any child whose parent needs to drop them off from 8am. We are really grateful to her for running this really valuable resource for parents and children.

You may be aware that teachers have been providing after school care on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, but this has been quite burdensome with such a small staff group, and has taken time away from planning, meetings and marking activities that teachers usually do after school. After consultation with Mr Mellor, Executive Headteacher, it has been decided that this after school care will not be continuing in its previous form this term. Instead, on Wednesday evenings after school from 3.30 – 4.20, teachers will, across the course of the year, be offering a different range of enrichment clubs that children can come along to. They might include drama, singing, sports, cooking etc. Further details about these will follow in the next week or so. We are really sorry if you have been relying on this after school care to enable you to work later, and the decision to change how we do things after school has not been taken lightly, but with so few staff to cover these sessions, we cannot commit to continuing with after school care as it has been provided recently.

If there are any parents who have a skill or talent, or just an interest, that they would be happy to share with our children in an after-school club for a few weeks we would love to hear from you. Sports, languages, sewing, knitting, woodwork, chess etc – we would really like to use our talented parent group to help enrich our children's lives. You would not need to commit long-term, but if you could lead a club for 5 or 6 weeks initially (we would all be around working in our classrooms to be able to support you if necessary) then we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

IT Upgrade

Over the summer, our classroom PCs and interactive whiteboards have been upgraded. As a result of this work, we have a selection of standalone Computers that are available for parents to have. If you are interested in having one to use at home, our IT technician will be very pleased to instal a hard drive so that the units are ready for you to use. Please can you see Mrs Stevens with your expression of interest.

Celebration Assembly

Our Celebration assemblies will be starting back on Friday afternoons at 3.00 p.m. and you are welcome to join us for them from next Friday 17th September.

If you have any queries, concerns or questions about school life at any time then please do feel free to get in touch with me via email:

jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk or if it is more urgent then please telephone the school and you can organise an appointment with me via Mrs Stevens.

Best wishes and here's to a really happy and successful year for the whole school community,

Joanna Rousseau

(Head of School)