



# Clyst Hydon Primary School

Clyst Hydon, Cullompton EX15 2ND

[www.clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Forthcoming Activities and other Information:

Start of new Academic year:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
2022

### Dear Parents and carers and friends of Clyst Hydon Primary School

I can't believe the school year has come to a close. I am sure that everyone is very ready for a holiday though, and I hope that you are all able to spend many happy family days together during the summer holidays, experiencing new things and making some wonderful family memories. I will be reminding the children in their last assembly of the year, that although the holidays are a chance to relax and enjoy some wonderful times, for parents, occupying your children for 6 whole weeks can sometimes be quite tricky, whilst also juggling other demands. I will be asking them to remember to thank their parents, grandparents and carers when they have been able to spend some time together doing something really fun, or going off for a day out or an exciting holiday, and to be patient and understanding when parents have chores to do and there are slightly less exciting places to go. I will also be suggesting that some help with chores can sometimes mean that a trip out comes sooner. Our word for the holiday is going to be 'grateful' which they might try and use instead of 'thank you' sometimes – let me know if you hear it! This will be added to all our other 'words of the week' which have become part of the vocabulary of the children this term, and which I am so proud of them for using. To try to summarise some of our 'words of the week' into one sentence for you I will say:

'I hope that these summer holidays allow you to **create a plethora of** exciting and **exhilarating** memories, with some **breath-taking** moments **dispersed** throughout the weeks, some **scrumptious** and **mouth-watering** food and lots of family **collaboration**.

I often find that even just a night away camping with my children in the holidays, with a day spent body-boarding at the beach and then an evening spent playing games of cards in the tent, can be some of the happiest and most enriching times we spend together, so may your pleasures be simple, inexpensive this year, but still wonderfully memorable.

## GOOD NEWS

WE are delighted to be able to tell you that we appointed Mrs Carol Wall to the post of Breakfast Club Leader, Meal Time Assistant and After School Leader at the end of last week. She will be starting her role in September. This means that we are so pleased to be able to tell you that we are going to be able to offer parents the Breakfast Club again starting on **WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> September** (so not the very first day back). The breakfast club will once again run from 8.00 a.m. until 8.50 a.m. when the school day starts. If you need to drop your child off any time before 8.50 a.m. then they will need to register for the breakfast club and this will be charged. The charge for breakfast club will be £3.50 per session to include breakfast. Breakfast club will be held in the library from September rather than in the Puffins classroom to allow Mrs Rensburg to prepare for the school day without lots of interruptions. If you have any messages you need to give to the teachers when you drop off at breakfast club then Mrs Wall will have the message forms with her and then, when she takes the children to their classes at 8.50 a.m. to drop their bags off, she will pass any messages on. Alternatively, you can email or phone the school with any important messages. If your child is not attending breakfast club then the school gates will open at 8.50 a.m. for a 9.00 a.m. start to school.

The after-school care will run every Monday and Tuesday from 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. in the first instance, although if there is a lot of interest, we might extend this going forwards, to other days. This session will also include a snack and a mix of PE, crafts and other games. The after-school club will start on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September** which is the second week of term. You will receive a separate letter explaining how to book and sign in for breakfast and after school club. We are hoping to also offer some staff led after school clubs during the course of the year, in 6-week blocks, which will be free - more details next term. and if anyone else in the school community would like to offer to run a 6-week block of a particular club that would be amazing - we know we have a very talented pool of families in the village and school community with lots of unique and interesting skills to share.

### **Our exciting curriculum going forwards**

This is a quick summary of what I talked to parents about at our most recent Parent Forum on 'Our Curriculum'. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend last week, and here is a summary of some of what was discussed, for those who weren't able to. It is hard to explain on paper everything that I said at the parent forum, so if you do want more detail then please feel free to email me [jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk) with any questions.

Schools are constantly adapting and developing what they do and how they do things. Although we are bound by the National Curriculum in terms of some of the content we HAVE to teach, there is more flexibility about how and when we teach these things. When I arrived at Clyst Hydon Primary School last September I inherited a long-term plan for the curriculum that covered 2 years. Those 2 years have now ended so we needed to decide how we would take our curriculum forwards from September. Ms Liddell, Mrs Rensburg and I have spent several staff meetings this term talking about what we know about the children at Clyst Hydon, what we have found in all our years of teaching are the ways that teaching and learning can be the most engaging and effective, and looking at recent educational research and what that has found works best in terms of educating primary age children.

Taking all these things into account, and using the National Curriculum as our starting point, we have now worked together to develop our curriculum that we teach here at Clyst Hydon Primary School, to create a new 4-year plan for our curriculum (a 3-year plan for EYFS/KS1). We are really excited about this curriculum and cannot wait to start teaching with it in September. This curriculum plan uses really motivating and engaging fiction books as a starting point for all our learning, and uses a clear and exciting topic to link all the children's learning together as much as possible. Linking their learning means the children can develop a really deep knowledge about key topics and use language and vocabulary linked to those topics across all their learning. It also makes all their learning that bit more meaningful and means that we can use more visits, visitors and experiences to support their learning as it will impact across the whole of their curriculum. We are still putting the finishing touches to the plans for September, but when the children return to school, they should be entering a classroom which enables them to be totally immersed in their new topic and excited to start learning.

OWLS Class are starting with the topic of World War 2 and their core text will be 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. Although we want the children to get totally immersed in this book, we would ask you please to not buy it for them to read before they return to school, as we do lots of prediction exercises as part of reading teaching, and if they've already read the book, they are harder to do! There are so many other great books that are linked to this topic though (some of which we will also be reading) and if you did want your child to start to get interested in the topic before we start in September please do ask for recommendations. ('Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll and 'Tail-end Charlie' by Mick Manning might be of interest to some, although check the content yourself depending on the age of your child.) There is however, no expectation at all those children have to have done any pre-reading for the topic.

In Puffins Class the children are starting with the topic of 'Blue Planet' and they will also be using motivating and engaging texts to spark off their learning and their writing. These will include 'Lost and Found' and 'One Day on our Blue Planet: The Antarctic'. Once again, if you could refrain from letting your children read those books before September that would be good so we can do some prediction and inference activities – although they might well already know the story of 'Lost and Found'. The children will be looking at hot and cold parts of the world as part of this learning.

You have a separate attachment with this newsletter with the title '4 Year Curriculum Plan' which outlines the focus for our main class topics for the next 4 years. Have a look through them all and if you feel that you have anything you can contribute to the topics (costumes, artefacts, books, experience, a related job etc) then please get in touch, as learning is a collegiate experience and we'd love your support. After all, as the saying goes...'It takes a village to raise a child...'

Clerk to the governors – We currently have an unfilled vacancy for the Clerk to the Governors. The time commitment for this is 2.5 hours a week for 38 weeks a year (although these hours aren't regular each week and some weeks would need more time and some weeks less but the commitment works out at 2.5 hours a week for 38 weeks). If you feel you would be able to take on this position then please see our school website where you will find more details.

Clyst Hydon School Staff: I would like to publicly thank all the staff at Clyst Hydon School for their enthusiasm and hard work this year. This school is a uniquely lovely place, but it also needs a huge amount of commitment and input from school staff, not just in the day to day high quality teaching and all the other ways that all school staff contribute to their schools, but in so many other ways too, due to the fact that there are so few of us on the staff here: mopping and cleaning leaking toilets before school, dealing with all injuries, fixing school equipment, painting the school library, sweeping the school playgrounds, being the subject leader for 5 or 6 subjects where in most larger schools you would be in charge of 1 or 2, working through lunch breaks every day as we have had no meal time assistant...the list goes on and on. But here everyone mucks in, no-one says that that isn't their job and we keep the school thriving and growing every day, between us, with humour, hard work and passion for this lovely school and the lovely children who we get to work with every day.

I would like to thank you all for all your support, and contributions of time, this year too. From coming along to support all our events, helping with the big library project, attending assemblies and joining in with sports day with such enthusiasm and sporting prowess, it has been so wonderful to get to know you all and create that school community feel altogether. We have had so many messages showing solidarity and enthusiasm for what we are doing for the children, and it is really appreciated and helps to make all the hard work feel worthwhile. We have high expectations and aspirations for our school and we will continue to work hard every day to fulfil those ambitions next year.

We all wish you a safe, relaxing and very happy summer and we look forward to seeing all the children, and hearing all their tales of the summer, when they return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Joanna Rousseau  
Head of School

Safeguarding and Child Protection is extremely important to us. Supporting children and young people exposed to Domestic Abuse. We are an Operation Encompass School. Occasionally we may need to make a referral to CYPS or other external agencies.

**Please see our website for details of current vacancies.**