



# Clyst Hydon Primary School

Clyst Hydon, Cullompton EX15 2ND

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

Friday 8<sup>TH</sup> July 2022

## Forthcoming Activities and other Information:

### PARENT FORUM:

The next Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 2.45pm – 3.30pm, and 5.30-6.15pm.

### OWLS FUN DAY:

13<sup>th</sup> July Starts from Whimple Railway station.

### SPORTS DAY:

14<sup>TH</sup> July 9.30 – 11.30am and families to bring a picnic on the Sports field to share with their own children and family. Alternatively, you can order a school packed lunch from the school office 48 hours before if you would prefer.

Children to come to school in PE kits. They need to have sun cream applied before school. Please ensure your child has a hat and a waterbottle.

19<sup>th</sup> July WHOLE SCHOOL DISCOVERY WALK. Children need to have sun cream applied before school. Please ensure your child has a hat and a waterbottle.

### END OF YEAR PRESENTATION:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 1.45pm.

The school end of year presentation to parents and friends of the school.

Dear Parents and carers and friends of Clyst Hydon Primary School

### School Values of the Week

#### Last Week: Compassion

In our 'Values' assembly last week we focused on compassion and what this value really means, and where we can show compassion to each other around school. We are very fortunate really to have such a compassionate school community and I feel honoured every day to be Head of School in a place where all the staff and all the children really understand the value of compassion and display it every day in their interactions with each other. The ethos in this school is very special and I feel that our children really benefit from that and it allows them to display the value of compassion very readily. The whole of Puffins Class receives the award for Compassion this week as they have all consistently shown kindness and compassion to each other. In Owls Class it is Ayon who gets the award for Compassion, as she has shown real maturity and compassion towards children in Puffins Class, especially by looking after 2 of them when we went to our final swimming lesson.

#### This week: Creativity

In the Owls Class the award for Creativity goes to all the children. This week, to mark the end of the teaching sequence we have just been learning about on suspense writing, the children were given the opportunity to write a story of their choice involving an element of suspense. They totally rose to the challenge and the silent focus and enthusiasm for this task really impressed me. We had stories set on ships, in Jurassic Park, on farms and there was even a story that was written into a created book that had obviously seen the demise of the writer at some point, if the teeth marks and blood (red felt tip) stains left behind were anything to go by. In Puffins Class, the award for Creativity also goes to the whole class for really embracing the word 'creativity' and 'create' as well as the value, and all being so ready to create in their writing, their artwork, their free time and their games together at break times.

We have launched a new competition linked to Creativity. The children have been asked to create a piece of Artwork, either at home or in school. One piece will be chosen each half term to be displayed in the office. Mrs Clarke went in to our assembly to encourage the children to enter this competition by showing her own paintings which she displays in the office. Mrs Clarke has only just started painting having been told a long time ago in her secondary school that she could not draw or paint. After many years, she decided to have a go anyway, and wants to encourage all children to believe in their own creative talents.

### **Word of the Week**

Our word(s) of the week last week were *scrumptious / delectable* which we tried to use instead of always using delicious to describe the food we have eaten. This week we have the word '*collaborate*' or '*collaboration*' for our word of the week and this is something that we really try to promote in our school as working together (successfully) is such an important skill for school, and for life. The children are going to start collaborating for the last couple of weeks of term, on a mini habitat project, where they are going to be given an insect/mollusc and they have to work together to research the perfect habitat for that insect/mollusc and then create a habitat in one of our corridor shelves for that insect. You will be invited to come and see them when they are completed.

The children continue to impress me so much with the use of our previous 'words' of the week. They use them regularly and in context which is so exhilarating (one of our words!) for me to see, as their aspirational vocabulary is growing and growing. This week I was telling one of my 18-year son's school friends about the children in this school using 'a plethora of' as part of their daily language now, and he was stunned, telling me that, although he knew what it meant, he didn't think he'd actually used that vocabulary himself before. And he is a student on course for 3 A\* A 'levels this summer and a place at Cambridge University next year! So well done Clyst Hydon children.

### **Absence from school**

As we all know, the time of Covid was a really difficult time for everyone. As well as the obvious trauma and sadness caused by the illness itself, and possibly even deaths in some people's families, there were also the very many life events that so many of us had to miss. People missed some very key family events, and often didn't see some members of the family for a long time. Holidays had to be cancelled, and weekends away with friends had to be postponed, along with birthday celebrations and days out. I totally sympathise, as my own 50<sup>th</sup> birthday took place deep in the second lockdown, and I still haven't had the chance to celebrate it with friends. Schools have understood the impact that the lockdowns had on everyone's lives and have therefore been very accommodating during the last couple of years, when members of the school community have needed to take time away from school to engage in activities that had to be missed during lockdowns. However, time away from school for children is actually hugely disruptive. We teach all our lessons in sequences where every lesson builds to a bigger and fuller picture and skill set. Missing parts of the sequence means a child has missed a key part of the learning in that sequence, and although teachers obviously try to quickly catch a child who has been away up with the missed learning, it is not the same as having been in the full lesson where that part of the sequence was taught. It is also disruptive for the other children when they know class members are off having a holiday, when they themselves are being asked to work hard, as they don't always understand how that can be 'fair'. Furthermore, in a small school where every child is a crucial friend to the other children, having a class mate away for several days can be really hard for those left behind – more so than might be the case in a much larger school. The government are very clear that the target for attendance for all children is 95% for them to be able to progress in school as fully as possible, and they are very strict with schools where that target is not met. Our current school attendance overall is 88.7% and this causes some big questions for us to have to answer and to justify why this is the case.

I know there are a few children who have almost 100% attendance this year and for that we are really grateful, and we also know that some children have been off with Covid this year and have necessarily had to have some time off, and of course that cannot possibly be helped and where illness has kept a child off school, the government is understanding. However, we have also had quite a few children off on holidays and for days out and some children who have been taken out of school for appointments that have not been medical or dental. We have now been told that from September onwards, we cannot authorise any absence that is not medical except for in exceptional circumstances and I would really appreciate it if from now on, holidays and family events can be booked for holiday time rather than during school time, so that we have as little disruption as possible going forwards for the children. Most events that were missed in lockdown have now been rebooked and so, from September 1<sup>st</sup> we would really like to return to as normal a school year as possible, for everyone's benefit. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Parent Forum**

My next Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 2.45 p.m.-3.30 p.m. The focus will be on: Our Curriculum. Please try and come along. If you are not able to attend, I will be happy to repeat the session the same day at 5.30 p.m. I will be introducing you to our plans for the new academic year, including the development of our curriculum going forward, and addressing any common threads from the parent questionnaires that recently went out. Thank you to everyone who returned them to school, and for the overwhelmingly positive comments on them.

Please can you let me know by email by the morning of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July if you are able to attend a parent forum meeting? ([jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk)) Please confirm which session you will be attending, thank you.

Joanna Rousseau  
Head of School

Please see the school website for advertisements for these positions:

Clerk to the governors' advert in newsletter

Breakfast club

Lunchtime supervisor role

### **Message from the Office:**

Please can all monies for Breakfast Club; Lunches; the second-hand uniform sale; trips etc be paid by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022. We need to bank all monies before the end of term. Thank you.

# CONGRATULATIONS



The winners of our **Compassion** certificates this week are:

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The winners of our **Creativity** certificates this week are:

In the Owls Class the award for Creativity goes to all the children. This week, to mark the end of the teaching sequence we have just been learning about on suspense writing, the children were given the opportunity to write a story of their choice involving an element of suspense. They totally rose to the challenge and the silent focus and enthusiasm for this task really impressed me. We had stories set on ships, in Jurassic Park, on farms and there was even a story that was written into a created book that had obviously seen the demise of the writer at some point, if the teeth marks and blood (red felt tip) stains left behind were anything to go by. In Puffins Class, the award for Creativity also goes to the whole class for really embracing the word 'creativity' and 'create' as well as the value, and all being so ready to create in their writing, their artwork, their free time and their games together at break times.

I would like to signpost parents to:

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Summer '22 Programme is now live. Page 1

Young Minds – School Anxiety and Refusal: Parents' Guide to Support. Page 2

Supportive cinema screenings-page 6. Always worth checking if your local cinema offers these.

Mr Phil Parsons, SENDCO.

(Please see information in file attached).

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.**