



Clyst Hydon Primary School

Clyst Hydon, Cullompton EX15 2ND

www.clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk

Friday 14th October 2022

Forthcoming Activities and other information:

Harvest Festival: Friday 14th October in the church

HALF TERM:
w/c 24th October
School starts on Monday
31st October

NATIVITY: Wednesday 14th December

Village:
Harvest supper Saturday
15th October

Family Fun Day Friday 21st October

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to finally be able to send out the first 'proper' newsletter of this school year. We have been so unlucky this term so far, in terms of so much illness amongst children and staff (and some parents too!) and I think there is barely a child in school or a member of staff who hasn't been struck down by something for several days this term. We wish everyone who is still unwell a quick recovery and let's hope that during the last week of this half term everyone is back to full health and back in school.

Badges and School Rules With this week's newsletter, I am also sending out the updated appendix to our school behaviour policy, which outlines our school rewards and sanctions, which have been updated very slightly since last year, and which we wanted particularly to share with new parents, but also to remind our current parents about. This appendix explains our school reward system, which the children find very motivating, and which, as well as verbal praise, includes certificates in assembly and our star system. The star system involves the children collecting gold stars into their individual pots in class, and then exchanging these when certain milestones have been reached, for a really attractive and high-quality metal badge in Bronze, then Silver, then Gold, then Diamond. These badges can then be worn to school on their uniform. Parents who were with us last year will see that the amounts needed to achieve each badge have gone up slightly, as we really want our children to understand that when they receive each badge, they have worked hard to collect it. Stars are given out to reflect our different school values, and all children have an equal chance of receiving them. The appendix also outlines our school behaviour sanctions. We are really lucky at Clyst Hydon Primary School that we have extremely well-behaved children, and we are usually able to deal with any small issues that arise very quickly. There is rarely any reason for us to introduce sanctions for our children, but we do of course make sure we are picking up on any disruptive behaviour and the school rules of 'Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful' are what guides our behaviour sanctions. If you have any further questions about this appendix, or if you would like to read the more formal behaviour policy, then please let me know.

Assemblies: Our Birds – I hope that you have all, at some point, been able to come into school to admire the wonderful display of birds that we have in our entrance hall. Living in or attending school in, the countryside, as our children all do, I feel that it is really important that we connect with the natural world as much as possible, hence our school value of Connections, so since last year, we have been gradually buying different RSPB birds to hang in the entrance hall. These RSPB birds all have a real recording of their song inside them, which plays when their back is pressed. In our assemblies this half term, we have been getting to know these birds better, and learning about what each one looks like and sounds like. Last week, we learnt the song of the Goldfinch, the Blackbird and the Great Spotted Woodpecker and this week we have been learning what the song of a Chaffinch and a Nuthatch sound like. I am so impressed with how focused all the children have been in assembly whilst learning about each bird's song and we definitely have some budding ornithologists in the making. Perhaps, if you are lucky enough to get out for a country walk at the weekend, you might hear some of these birds sharing their songs and the children might be able to identify them for you.

Confidence and Courage Creativity Compassion Connections Curiosity Communication

School Values: Each week we focus in assembly on one of our 6 school values. This week's school value is Communication, and we talked in assembly on Monday about how our words can be used carefully for kind and supportive purposes, but are sometimes used to be unkind. We practised saying kind things to one child and then thought about the fact that saying something kind to someone doesn't just make that person feel good inside, but it also actually makes us feel good inside too. As part of our value of Communication, we have a constant focus in our school of developing our vocabulary, and finding and using aspirational language in our speech and in our written work. I support this process by sharing a new word in assembly each week that I encourage the children to use and embed into their inner thesaurus. This week's word of the week was 'ecstatic' meaning extremely happy. I will personally be 'ecstatic' when we finally have a day this term when everyone is better and back in school!

CHSA We are keen to relaunch the 'Clyst Hydon School Association (CHSA)' this term, and we will hopefully be able to work closely together this year to arrange several school fundraising and social events for everybody's benefit. We will be sharing details of the first meeting of the CHSA very shortly. Please do try and come along to the first meeting as, in a small school such as ours, every person is so important and valued as a member of the group. We are keen to see some new faces this year and also welcome back all those people who have so kindly offered to help with events in the past. Any ideas, however wild, for raising money and getting together socially as a school community this year would be really welcomed, so please get those thinking caps on ready for the first meeting.

THANK YOU C.H.S.A. : The CHSA have already this term very kindly agreed to fund a year's subscription to 'First News' which we would like to say a really big thank you for. 'First News' is a children's newspaper which comes out once a week for most of the year. It is an excellent newspaper, written for children, but by no means is it 'dumbed-down' in terms of its content. It writes about all the big news events in the world, but always at a child's level. There is always one inside page that has a series of short, quirky and interesting news stories from the UK and another page of short, quirky and interesting news stories from around the world that will appeal to children. There are also often interviews with famous authors and TV stars, book reviews, film reviews, puzzles, opinion pieces and debates that concern issues children face. It is a great read and gives our children some different reading material to enjoy. Some of the Owls children will be sharing some of the most interesting stories in assembly each week. Children will be able to borrow back copies to take home for the weekend if they wish.

Photos – The school photographer will be visiting our school on Tuesday 15th November in order to take photos of individual children which you will then be able to order if you would like to. She will arrive at school at 2.15 p.m. to take individual photos of the children in both classes and then at 3pm she is happy to take photos of children from our school with younger brothers or sisters if you would like to bring them along to be photographed. If this is something that you would like to do, then please arrive at school on that afternoon at 3p.m. when you will then be signed in by Mrs Clarke and shown where to go. If your child has a sibling in the school, we will be able to arrange for them to be photographed together as well as individually during the afternoon without you attending, it is just if you would like younger children, not yet at our school, to be photographed that you will need to arrive at 3p.m.

Parents evening Due to ongoing staff illness, we have had to postpone our parents evenings until the week after half term, We will send out proposed times next week for you to choose a convenient slot. If you have any questions or concerns before this time then we are always around in the mornings or after school to have a chat with you.

Governors and Clerk to the Governors

All schools have a board of governors that have overall control and responsibility for a school. We work closely and effectively with our board of governors and both myself and Steve Mello, the Executive Head, are on the board of governors, as well as some of our parents, and other members of the community. We currently have a vacancy for a school governor and we were wondering whether any of our parents would like to get involved with the school in this way? If you feel that you might be interested in becoming a school governor, then please feel free to come and speak to me, or email me and I can give you further information or point you in the direction of one of our parent governors who can talk to you about the role. We'd love to have another parent governor on board, you don't need to have any particular experience, and the role isn't too onerous, initially involving 2 meetings a term.

We are also looking for a new Clerk to the Governors. This is actually a paid role, currently paying between £10.60-£11.70 an hour and the job is paid at 2.5 hours a week, although the hours worked will vary across the year. Attendance at governors' meetings is one of the main roles of the clerk and then the administrative tasks associated with the governing body. Effective ICT and inter-personal skills are essential, but full training for the role will be given. If anyone is interested in this role, or might know someone who would be, please again come and talk to me, or email me at jrousseau@clyst-hydon-primary.devon.sch.uk.

After School Club: Please be advised that there will be *no after school club* on **Monday 17th October**. We are currently reviewing our after-school provision so if you would like after school club to run on a day that we are not currently offering, please do let me know as soon as possible.

Class News: Owls Class

At Killerton : Last week, the whole of Owls Class made their way to Killerton to take part in the annual CVSA Cross Country Races against other local schools. We take part in this event every year to give our children the opportunity to compete against children of a similar age and they always enjoy joining in and supporting each other in their races. The children run a cross country course that is quite long and over uneven and sometimes muddy ground. All the other local schools, which are larger than ours, only send their best 4 boy runners and their best 4 girl runners from each of Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. This means that our children are up against the best 4 runners from each of the other 10 local schools who are there. We ask all our children to run regardless of whether running is their forte or not! Although these are races, we talked to our children about trying to beat their own previous placing in last year's race, rather than just aiming to win and being disappointed if they didn't. The children had taken it upon themselves to do quite a lot of practises for their races at lunchtimes in the 2 weeks before the event, as well as being given time to practise in PE lessons. The whole class utterly rose to the challenge on the day, and they set off round the course with enthusiasm, perseverance and stamina. Each race has about 44 children in it and we had some great results. Isla managed to come 13th in the Year 4 girls race and Polly came 23rd in the same race. Both of them beat their previous years placings as did Rafe who came 27th in the Year 5 boys race against some very competitive opponents. Aurora managed a 30th placing in the Year 3 girls race and Katie, Rose and Ayon also had placings in the 30s. I was not only proud of how well they ran their races, but especially with the camaraderie and team spirit that they showed towards each other. Well Done Owls Class! I look forward to taking you back for the same event in the Spring, to see if we can beat our placings from this race.

Owls Class continue to learn the Ukulele with Ms Liddell in their music lessons each week and they are starting to make a really pleasant sound. There will be a short musical recital from them before the term is out!

Puffins Class

In Puffins Class the children have enjoyed learning about Aboriginal art, having the opportunity to try and play the didgeridoo and they have created a whole class art piece around the book 'Tiddalick'. With Mrs Dimpleby, who very kindly comes into our school to help our children with their art and reading each week, they have also been sequencing the story of Tiddalick with images and sentences to create their own folded book.

Nativity: There have been some requests to know the date of the school Nativity and so we are pleased to inform you that this will be on Wednesday 14th December.

Joanna Rousseau
Head of School

From the Office:

It is good to be back after unpaid leave and my spell of Covid. Thank you so much to parents for their patience with me as I tackle the mountain of work on my return. It is now just a hill....

School lunches: On the school website there is a School lunches form. Please can all parents choosing school lunches with their children send in this form EACH MONDAY with the correct money (either cash or a cheque to DCC) *in an envelope with the date and child's name on it*. I would like to keep on top of payments each week and then bank money much more often. Each child will come home with a paper copy of this form today. Before half term I will send paper copies of this form for each week until the end of term.

Data collection sheets: Nearly everyone returned these while I was absent so thank you. If you have not returned your sheet this is really important to keep our data completely up-to-date so it is urgent that you return this as soon as possible.

Permissions forms: Thank you for returning these so promptly! I still have a couple to be returned. These are vital as they give annual permission to allow the children to walk around the village; go to the church and have their photos in our newsletter.

School website: I apologise that this is in need of updating and as soon as I am able to this, I will do so.

After school club and Breakfast club: Please can you give in the booking forms to the office each Friday with payment of cash or cheques made out to DCC for the following week in a sealed envelope.

Village events:

TOMORROW **Saturday 15th October** there is a **HARVEST SUPPER** at 6.30 pm for 7pm at Clyst Hydon Village Hall. Please call 01884 277471 to order tickets. Adults £10 Children £5 (includes 3 courses and a drink).

On **Friday 21st October** there will be a **FAMILY FUN DAY** at 3.45 – 6.30pm at Clyst Hydon Village Hall. The theme is Halloween/Autumn. Costumes welcome! Adults: £2.50 food £2.00 drink, Children £2.50 for food and drink. Please let Carol Wall at Clyst Hydon Primary School know if you'd like to attend.

SEND:

This week Mr Parsons (SENDCo) would like to signpost carers/parents to the following in the "Snippets" attachment:

The autism training/support workshops on page 3
ERIC The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity Free Helpline & Resources on page 5
Always ask your local cinema about screenings that are autistic friendly.

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.