



Clyst Hydon Primary School

Clyst Hydon, Cullompton EX15 2ND

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

Friday 18th November 2022

Forthcoming Activities and other Information:

OPEN DAYS:

Monday 28th November
2 – 3pm

Tuesday 29th November
9.30 – 10.30 am

ASSEMBLY DATES:

Friday 2nd Dec
CHRISTINGLE 2.45PM
CHURCH

Friday 16th December
3pm

Other dates:

November 30th St
Andrews day event
2.30pm at the CHURCH.

December 7th Flu
vaccinations

Wednesday 14th
December
CHRISTMAS LUNCH for
parents and children
12pm
NATIVITY at 2pm

Thursday 15th December
Rob Holmes author in
school

Dear Parents,

School News

Our new curriculum topics

As you know, we embarked this year on our new 4-year plan for our school curriculum. We have a 4-year rolling plan in our school due to the fact that in KS2 we have our children with us in the same class for 4 years, and therefore we need to ensure that, to keep the children enthused, motivated, and excited by their learning, they are continuing to learn new subjects and develop new skills each year that they are in Owls Class. Likewise, we have a 3 year plan in Puffins Class so that, again, the children learn something new and exciting each term that they are in that class. We have based all our termly topics for the next 4 (or 3) years, around key literacy texts, which have been chosen to really hook the children in to their topics, and each term has a history or geography focus linked to this key text. In Puffins Class this term the topic has been Blue Planet which is a geography topic, and in Owls Class this term the topic has been World War 2 and our key text, which we are still reading and enjoying, is Goodnight Mister Tom. The children in both classes have really been enjoying these topics and we try to make sure as much learning as possible across the week in all subjects is linked to their topic so that language and facts learned, can be used to support their learning across the curriculum. Over the last 2 weeks particularly, both classes have had some wonderful opportunities to broaden their knowledge of their topics further, and learn beyond the classroom.

Owls Class had 2 fantastic experiences related to their World War 2 topic last week. On Monday they were lucky enough to have a visit from Mrs Dimpleby and her friend and ex-colleague Mrs Hollie. They have themselves taught the topic of World War 2 to children before, and therefore they have accrued some fantastic World War 2 resources which they very kindly brought in to share with the children in Owls Class who were really interested in the real gas mask, identity cards and ration books that they shared with the children, and the many tales they had to tell. We are so grateful when we make these connections with people living in our village, who are so kind in offering their expertise and time to help our children live our school motto of 'Love learning, Love life'. The following day Owls Class had a day out at Tiverton Museum where they took part in 4 workshops across the day, all related to World War 2. They had a rationing activity, where they had to shop for their meals for a week using rationed items; a 'Make Do and Mend Activity which involved creating a rag rug; an activity in an Anderson shelter where we heard from a gentleman who was evacuated to Tiverton in World War 2; and finally an activity involving the steam train that evacuees were brought to Tiverton on. There were also some wonderful opportunities to dress up in clothes from World War 2. It was a really well-organised day and the children behaved in an exemplary fashion and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Puffins Class have come to school today dressed up in an animal of their choice from one of the continents of the world that they have been learning about. They came armed with 2 facts about that creature which they have shared with the class. These hooks and experiences that make learning come alive for the children are so important and memorable for them, and we plan to ensure that we find chances in all our topics to take our learning outside the classroom.

Good News

The first Bronze Badges that we give out as part of our reward system at Clyst Hydon Primary School have been awarded this week. Rafe in Owls Class was the first child in the school to earn his bronze badge for having gained 75 stars and this was awarded to him in Monday's assembly, and today in assembly Isla, Aurora, Rose and Oscar will receive their badges for also gaining 75 stars. We are really proud of all of them and hope they will wear their badges on their uniforms with pride.

School Values, Certificates of the Week and Writers of the Week

Last week our value of the week was Connections and we were thinking particularly of our Connections to the natural world. We learnt our next bird song, which belonged to the Bullfinch which Polly and Henry have very kindly donated to our bird collection. We all agreed that this was one of the easier bird songs to remember. We also took the opportunity in assembly on Monday to learn about birds such as Geese that fly in a V formation, and why they do this and how they support each other as they fly in this way. Isn't nature amazing?! Our children are so interested in the natural world now and are becoming so observant of all things in nature. The winner of the Connections certificate in Owls Class this week is Ayon, who took the time, whilst out playing in the playground to stop and really notice the most stunning leaf, with 7 sections in a beautiful vibrant red colour. She brought it inside to show Miss Rousseau and asked to identify it on the App we have installed called Seek which helps us to identify plants of many kinds when we go out on our Discovery Walks each week. It turned out to be a stunning maple leaf. In Puffins Class the winner of the Connections certificate is Frances for her knowledge when out on our Discovery Walks.

This week the value we have been focusing on is Creativity. We talked about how creativity could be about dance, poetry, art, music, drama etc but it could also be about using language creatively, making up your own game or creative thinking. Linked to this, I read the children a poem in assembly called Nature Walk which as well as being creative, also I felt really beautifully summed up what we do when we go off on our Discovery Walks each week.

What do you do on a Nature Walk?

We have an adventure, that's what-
Crunching through the undergrowth,
Dodging thorns and stings,
Leaping logs and bridging bogs,
Looking out for things;
Birds and frogs and shy hedgehogs
And flies with fairy wings,
And slimy slugs and tiny bugs –
Whatever nature brings!
KATE WILLIAMS

This poem is also up in the entrance hall at school.

Owls Class have totally embraced this value this week and have been continually making up poems, raps (some very political ones!), dances and stories. The certificate of the week for Creativity goes to Isla who has been creating raps and songs and also doing some amazing drawings of bears at home. Well Done Isla. A second creativity certificate goes to Aurora who not only made up a wonderful dance with a friend, but she has also been creating an incredible book all about Magic Face Paints which she has been reading to Owls Class. In Puffins Class the certificate goes to Amelia for all of her creative work in class.

Writer of the week in Owls Class was Rafe last week for his thoughtful and poignant letter to an American soldier from World War 2. This week Writer of the Week is Ayon who, after writing the required 2 sentences containing 'chocolate chip' words (which are what we call our aspirational language) in class, proceeded to be

so excited about her writing, went on to write a full story linked to those initial 2 sentences. To get carried away by writing like that is so wonderful to see, so she had to be my Writer of the Week.

Puffins Class writers of the week are Evelyn for her independent writing and Hettie developing her letter formation and her piece of work on instructions.

Last week's word of the week was *quagmire* and has been VERY well used given the current weather. This week's word of the week was *phenomenal* – the children have been told that if they have a particularly delicious meal this week, to tell 'the chef' that it was *phenomenal*. We wonder if any of you might possibly have heard that applied to your cooking – although as a working mum myself with a very busy home life, I have to say that often I am happy if I manage to stagger home from work and produce something merely healthy and palatable for my children, so very few 'phenomenal' contributions come out of my kitchen most weeks!

Open Day

On Monday 28th November at **2 – 3pm** and on Tuesday 29th November **9.30 – 10.30am** we will be having an Open Day for potential new families with children due to start school in September 2023. There will be a talk from myself first of all and then a tour around the school and the chance to ask any questions. Please let anyone you know with children who are due to start school in September 2023, know about this date and encourage them to come and visit our school, meet our incredible children and staff and hear what our very unique and special school has to offer to them. It is fine to just turn up on the day, but if they can phone and let us know they will be attending that would be even better. They can call the school office on 01884 277255. Flyers will be distributed shortly. We would love to see our school continue to grow and flourish next year and beyond.

Remembrance

On Friday 11th November we continued with our village Connections, when we joined several members of the village at the church for the annual 2-minute silence. The children were incredible, down to the very youngest members of our school. They picked up on the solemn and serious atmosphere and observed the 2 minute silence with respect and care, and I was so proud of them all. We were fortunate as well to have a lovely start to the ceremony with a prayer read by a member of the village community, and then when the 2 minute silence ended two poems were read aloud by another member of the village. Our next chance to connect with our village community is on Wednesday 30th November when we will be Clipping the Church in the afternoon followed by refreshments back at school.

County Monitoring Visit

On Thursday next week we are having a one day Ofsted type inspection carried out by Brad Murray who is one of the Devon County Council School Improvement Officers, accompanied by Steve Mellor and Alison Mackay who is another Headteacher and also one of our governors. This is something that we have invited Brad Murray into school to do for us, as we want to ensure that we are ready for our Ofsted inspection which we are expecting at some point this year. He will be rigorous and thorough in looking at everything that we are doing in school, and we welcome his thoughts and feedback so that we can continually improve and move the school further and further forward.

We have worked so hard on so many areas of the school over the last year and a half and we are looking forward to showing him everything we do here that we are so proud of, although as you can imagine, it is always rather stressful to be under scrutiny as you work, so please do spare a thought for the school staff next Thursday as they welcome him into school. Some of the children will also have the chance to talk with him about the school and about their learning but we will be on hand to support them with this and it will be done in a very child-friendly way. We will let you know any pertinent outcomes in due course.

Have a lovely weekend,

Joanna Rousseau

Head of School

From the Office:

CHRISTMAS LUNCH for parents:

Parents are invited to school to join us for a Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14th December at 12.00. If you would like to attend the cost is £4.10 per person for the 2-course meal. If you would like to attend please let Mrs Clarke know in the office by phone or email. Please can you pay by a cheque to DCC or with the correct cash. Please put either in an envelope with your name on and how many people this is for.

School website: Mrs Clarke is working hard to bring the school website up-to-date. Thank you for your patience.

Lunches, 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. Thank you so much to all of those parents who have already adopted this system.

This week Mr Parsons (SENDCo) would like to signpost carers and parents to:
Page 5-Free Parenting Course – 'Understanding Your Child with Additional Needs':
Page 7-Barnstaple Library - Free Reading Sessions with a doggy. Check if your local library does this.

Mr Parsons
SENDCo Devon Moors Federation

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.