

# Coldfair Green Primary News

Issue: 1 September 4<sup>th</sup> 2015



## Hello from Mrs Fewkes

Although it has only been a few days, already it feels like I have been here much longer. I met many of your children on my visits last term and am beginning to learn names and faces. A big THANK YOU to you all for your warm welcome. If I have not already met you please do come and say hello. I will be on the playground before school and at the end of the day each day and would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about the work of the school. The children and staff have been working very hard already this week and have made my first few days at the school very enjoyable. We plan to send a newsletter home every Friday to keep you updated with the life and work of the school. We hope that this will be a useful form of communication and welcome your feedback.

## Stars of the Week

I have seen some fantastic behaviour for learning this week in all of the classrooms and have already been incredibly impressed with the behaviour of the children both in lessons and around the school site and the kind ways in which they play and look after each other. The children should feel quite proud of themselves. Next week's value we will be focussing on is CONFIDENCE. Children will be considering how they can become more self-confident in their learning and how this will enable them to make better progress. We will be working hard to help each other become more confident learners.

## The School Council

The School Council are in the process of being elected and their first meeting will focus on the curriculum, giving the children a chance to have their voices heard and giving them an input into the topics which are being planned for the rest of the school year. Elections have begun already in each class and the results will be announced next week.

## Attendance

We have been very pleased with how prompt the children have been for school this week. Nobody was late. A huge thank you to all our mums and dads, we know how difficult mornings can be particularly at the start of term. When the children arrive on time they are in the right frame of mind to begin their learning straight away. We will be awarding 100% attendance each week with a raffle ticket, which will be entered into a draw each half term to win prizes for school attendance. We are also continuing our "Attendance Race" in which the class with the best attendance each week scores points which work like the throw of a dice to move them spaces on a giant board game. The winning class will receive a free non-uniform day before the race restarts. The new National Curriculum is increasingly demanding and when children miss days from school they struggle to catch up with the learning they have missed. We encourage parents to avoid taking children out of school during term time and to make routine medical and dental appointments outside of the school day where possible. Many thanks for your cooperation in this. We want to give your children the very best opportunities in their learning.

The Educational Welfare Officer will be in school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September checking registers and talking to staff about attendance concerns. If you would like an appointment to discuss any concerns about attendance please contact the school office to make an appointment to see her.

If you are struggling to get your child to attend please do talk to us in the first instance, we are often able to help.

#### Pupil Premium Money

Pupil Premium is money provided to school to support your children's learning and achievement in school for six years. If you are in receipt of any benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals and school may be eligible to claim this funding to further support your child. Please do ask us if you are unsure about whether to apply for this. Although children in Key Stage One receive free school meals already under government funding, this ceases when they go in to Year 3 and free school meals need to be applied for. If you receive any of the following benefits your child will be entitled to free school meals. ( Income Support; Employment and Support Allowance; Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of less than £16,190; Income based Jobseeker's Allowance; Guaranteed element of Pension State credit or support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)

#### In the Community

If your child is involved in an event in the community we would love to hear about it and share in and celebrate all of the achievements of our children. Please do let us know.

#### PTA

Over the summer holidays the wooded area to the front of the school has been fenced off and is being cleared and tidied ready for use as an outdoor learning space. Our thanks go to the PTA who raised funding which allowed this to be done. Your support of all their events has been invaluable. The PTA welcomes new members and if you are interested in becoming a member and supporting them in their work on behalf of the school please contact Mrs Kate Goddard through the school office.

#### Great British Bake Off Competition in Conjunction with World's Biggest Coffee Morning

We have decided to support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Research Charity by holding a Great British Bake off competition. A recipe for a Victoria Sandwich will come home next week with your child and we challenge you to create the perfect cake 'Bake Off' style. Cakes can be delivered to school on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> September and will be judged by the School Council. We will be making a charge of 50p to enter the competition and proceeds will go to charity. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. At the end of the school day the cakes will be sold on the playground from 3.10pm and all monies raised will go to support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We hope you will feel able to support us.

#### Clubs

Details of clubs that will run this half term will follow in next week's newsletter and clubs will begin during week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Dates for your Diary

07.09.15 National Walk to School Day

18.09.15 Jeans for Genes Day

25.09.15 Great British Bake off and Cake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Research

30.09.15 Science Transition Day Saxmundham Free School ( Year 6)

Please do check the school website for further information and to keep up to date with the learning that is going on in school.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Amanda Fewkes