

Coldfair Green Primary News

Issue: 3 September 18th 2015



Message from the Head

We are picking up momentum and the days are certainly filled with exciting learning experiences at the moment. Children have been working with Mr Butcher to measure the school field and work out how many laps they would need to walk to have 'walked' to Aldeburgh, or Leiston or other surrounding towns and villages. Shortly this 'How far can you walk?' challenge will be up and running and classes will be competing with others in a friendly more informal way to see how far they can walk over the next half term. The beauty of this is that the children are able to decide to do it themselves at breaks and lunchtimes, can log their own laps walked and are quickly able to determine how far they have travelled, whilst getting fitter in the bargain!

Stars of the Week

This week we have been focussing on DEMOCRACY. Children have considered how they can become more involved in decision making in a fair and democratic way and have considered what might happen in society if people were not able to make their voices heard in a fair and just way. We have been working hard to become more understanding of each other as a result. Our pupils of the week for being democratic are : Alice in Oak class; Louis in Hawthorn class; Jack in Rowan class; Digby in Chestnut class and Matilda in Silver Birch class. It has been good to listen to children discussing their understanding of what democracy means and how they might demonstrate it in their relationships with each other. Next week's value we will be considering in our assemblies and in lessons will be CHALLENGING OURSELVES.

The School Council

This week the school council have been consulting with their peers regarding the taught curriculum. They have been asking children about what they enjoy about their learning at school and what topics they would be interested in learning about. We are currently negotiating over 'Bring your pets to school day,' a popular choice. A great number of children wanted to learn about Spain and what it would be like to be a child growing up in Spain or to be Spanish. Next Saturday is European Day of Languages and so the children's interests ties in neatly with our plans to celebrate this in some way. Therefore we have decided to hold our own 'European Languages Day' with a focus on language, culture, food, traditions, music and flags - using Spanish as our language of choice this time. If you are a Spanish speaker or have an interest in the language and would like to be involved in working with the children on Thursday next week, please do get in touch and let us know via the school office. Thank you in advance.

Attendance

Raffle tickets for attendance continue. A number of parents have queried whether attending a medical appointment means their child misses out on getting their raffle ticket. Unfortunately medical appointments, as well as any other visit or reason for absence from school, do mean that the child's attendance is not 100%. As we have told the children "You need ten ticks for a ticket" ... this is fast becoming our motto!

The class with the best attendance this week was Hawthorn with 99%, none of the classes had 100% attendance this week. Our whole school attendance figure so far is 98.6%. We are aiming high and want our whole school figure to be as close to 100% as we can.

"If we want our children to receive an outstanding education we need to ensure they are in school to take delivery of it!"

In the Community

Several children have been involved in events in the community over the summer holidays and in the past few weeks. Bethany, Nicole, Heather and Holly all took part in the library Summer Reading Challenge "Record Breakers" and Chloe, Georgia and Katie also all took part in the Riverside 100 Celebration as part of the Coral Stebbings School of Theatre Dance. Well done to all of you!

PTA

The PTA are looking for support to help clear the compost heap on Saturday 19th September between 10am and 2pm. If you are able to help we would be most grateful. Many thanks to those parents who have already contacted the school office offering to help.

As parents of children in our school you are all honorary members of our PTA and are warmly welcomed. There are a number of meetings and events planned during the year and whether you feel able to support a few or more than a few Kate Goddard our Chair would be delighted to hear from you and make you welcome.

Great British Bake Off Competition in Conjunction with World's Biggest Coffee Morning
Cakes for the charity 'Bake Off' can be delivered to school on the morning of 25th 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, under the shelter, from 3.10pm and all monies raised will go to support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We look forward to you making it a very difficult decision for our judges.

Staffing

Unfortunately, due to injury, Mrs Atherton has been unable to join us for the start of term. I am sure you will join us in wishing her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, Mrs Taylor has joined the staff to cover Mrs Atherton's timetable. Mrs Taylor has been teaching in the Oak and Hawthorn classes and has already met many of you. We would like to extend a warm welcome to her and thank her for making herself available to ensure the children continue to receive high quality teaching.

The School Site

We have had a couple of near misses where cars parked across the entrance to the staff carpark have narrowly missed knocking cyclists off their bikes. Please can I remind you that the entrance to the car park is for staff use only and needs to be kept clear at all times to avoid the risk of accidents. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring this.

A number of children are riding their bikes or penny boards/skateboards and scooters on the school playground at the start and end of the day. This is not allowed on the school site due to the risk of accident and the volume of people using the playground at these times of the day. Please help us to keep everybody safe by ensuring your children follow these rules. Thank you.

Helping Us to Help You

Already we have a number of items of lost property. When clothing and other items of school equipment is named it enables staff to get it back to its rightful owner very quickly. Please support us in our efforts by ensuring all property is clearly marked with your child's name. There are two coats in the lost property bin and other unnamed items.

It would help staff in the office greatly if all money coming in to school could be in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Cheques are preferred but cash in named envelopes will be accepted. We are unable to accept loose change any longer. Please ensure your child has PE kit that is suitable for outdoor PE in all weathers, especially as the weather gets colder. A warm sweatshirt and track suit bottoms are preferable and outdoor footwear. It would also be useful if your child had a named pair of wellington boots in school as we continue to allow children to use the play spaces and the field if their footwear is suitable. Wellies are changed before coming back in to the building so mud is not tracked back in to teaching spaces.

Safeguarding

If somebody else is collecting your child at the end of the school day staff are only able to release your child to them if we have prior knowledge of this. To keep all of our children safe we will only let them leave with a known adult, unless you have informed us of a different arrangement.

Dates for your Diary

18.09.15 Deadline for return of Data collection sheets
18.09.15 Jeans for Genes Day - non uniform day 50p donation for charity
24.09.15 European Day of Languages - Spanish Focus
25.09.15 Great British Bake off and Cake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Research
14.10.15 and 15.10.15 Year 5 Bikeability
16.10.15 Harvest Festival (provisional)
20.10.15 Parents' Evening
22.10.15 Parents' Evening
23.10.15 PD Day
Half Term 26.10.15 - 30.10.15
03.11.15 Full Governing Body Meeting
16.11.15 - 22.11.15 Parliament Week
18.12.15 Last day of Christmas Term
04.01.16 PD Day
05.01.16 Pupils return for Spring Term

The weather has not been with us for much of this week, but it hasn't dampened our spirits and there have been some excellent pieces of homework brought to my attention this week. We will be consulting on our homework policy shortly. It is always good to hear parents' views.

Hoping for some sunshine this weekend,
Mrs Amanda Fewkes