



Clockhouse Primary School

Newsletter - September 2024

#ourclockhousefamily

Working and Learning together to be the best that we can be

Dear Parents / Carers,

Although rather belated and another year at Clockhouse Primary School is well underway, may I take this opportunity to formally welcome you all back to school as well as welcoming the many new children and families that have joined us this year. Although, if like me it is a long distant memory, I do hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. A huge thank you to our whole community for the positive way in which you have all returned to school. It has been wonderful to see the children genuinely happy and excited to learn and the way they have settled into the new year has been nothing short of impressive.

At this point, it is always important to welcome the new staff to Clockhouse. I am sure many of you have already met those that have joined us but in case you have not, we are very pleased to welcome a number of new adults. On the teaching team, although not new as such to Clockhouse, we are delighted to formally welcome Miss Thompson (Year 3 - Argentina) and Miss Darko (Year 6 - Fiji). We are also most pleased to welcome Miss Maher (Year 1 - Spain), Mrs Cline (Year 3) and Mrs Morris (Year 6) to the teaching team. In terms of class based support staff, it has been lovely to welcome Mrs Davy and Mrs Alexander (Reception), Mrs Dedolli and Mrs Hayes (Year 1), Mrs Olio (Year 2), Mrs O'Shaughnessy (Year 6) and Mrs Michael (Greenland). I am sure you join me in welcoming them and wishing them all the very best for their future at Clockhouse.

As you may already know, during the summer holidays, building works took place to improve the school. As well as a deep clean of the whole school and repairs that needed doing, aspects of the school were also painted and refurbished. Our Year 6 classes along with USA and Mexico do look rather fabulous as to the Key Stage 2 boys toilets, even if we do say so ourselves!

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children continue to come to school in the correct uniform and in PE Kits on PE Days; this is certainly making everyone's lives easier. As always, thank you for the continued support you give to us every day and I look forward to working with you all during the next academic year, for the good of all the Clockhouse children, families and the Collier Row Community.

Mrs Savidge



Reading, Reading and more Reading!

As you know, we love celebrating all things reading and also rewarding children for their reading. The children love the weekly Reading Raffle on a Monday and get very excited when they know their name is in the pot. We are continuing with the same approach this year. But again, it does rely on your help. As I am sure you have seen, Reading Record Books have been handed out and therefore we ask that you fill these in every time your child reads at home (or send a message on Dojo). Each entry will earn them a raffle ticket and will mean that they will be entered into our weekly draw on a Monday. The more times they read, the more times they enter and the more chance they have of winning! The children can choose to read their school book or another book they have at home.

Our Clockhouse Association

Thank you to the OCA for their efforts last year. Their hard work continued during and their commitment was admirable. Look out for information about what is happening this year, coming soon.

Conduct on and around the school site

I hope you have read the letter sent out earlier this week about conduct on and around the school site. It is important that, as adults, we model the behaviours we want our children to show and this includes our parent community. Our school rules of Ready, Respectful and Responsible as well as our school values of Nurture, Respect, Learning, Community, Excellent and Excitement apply to our whole community and to this end it is vital that we all work together to model and uphold these. Please do read the letter sent if you have not done so.

Channel your Clockhouse Compass

This year we are all working hard to go 'Channel your Clockhouse Compass' in everything we do, say and show following the success of 'Beyond the Possible last year!



Developing a moral compass and 'doing the right thing even when no one is watching' is a hard concept but something that we ask the whole community to focus on this year. We have already seen many children doing this very well!

How can you support your child's learning at home?

Home Learning

As many of you will already know, our Home Learning Policy changed a few years ago. Whilst this was appreciated by many, I know a few families had reservations about this new approach. Following feedback we have, once again, spent time reviewing the approach and can see that this is benefitting the children in terms of their learning in the classroom. Whilst Year 6 do get paper based weekly home learning the rest of the school will continue with the approach from last year. Therefore we ask that you hear your child read every night and question them about what they have read, practise their spellings with them as well as practising their times table or number bonds. This really does help them in the classroom and support their progress. Thank you in advance for your support and please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.



Online Reading and Maths resources to use at home

Please remember that **Spelling Shed**, **Times Table Rock Stars** and **SumDog**, the online programmes that we subscribe to, are available for the children. If you cannot remember your password, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be able to reissue it to you .



A Few Reminders - Important Please Read!

Uniform:

Thank you so much to all parents who have worked with the school in ensuring that the children have come back to school looking so smart, and dressed in correct school uniform. Please can I remind you that the school uniform includes black, flat shoes. As part of Health and Safety, please ensure that long hair is tied back. This does help prevent the spread of head lice amongst children. Please can I also remind you that the children are not permitted to wear nail varnish. Thank you also to all those who have ensured that PE Kit is being worn on PE days. Please remember that at least one PE session per week is outdoors - if you would like to know which days this is, please speak to your child's teacher. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Thank you in advance for your support.

Jewellery:

Can I please remind you that, apart from small stud earrings, jewellery is not permitted for safety reasons. It is a Local Authority policy that children do not take part in P.E. if they are wearing earrings. As P.E. is a compulsory part of the curriculum, please can I ask that you remove earrings on PE days. If earrings are not removed, you will be asked to come to school and remove them before the start of the lesson. The school cannot tape over earrings themselves as again, Local Authority guidance does not permit us to do this.

Queuing

It is great to see so many of the children and yourselves eager to get into school and thank you for queuing to do so. Please can we ask that when queueing the pavement is not completely blocked. Please be aware of this and ensure that the queue does not take over the whole of the pavement and leaves a clear pathway for people to get past safely.

Scooters and Equipment:

Please can we remind you that scooters and bikes should not be ridden on site at the beginning and end of the school day. Similarly play equipment should also not be played on at these times of the day. Please do remind your children about this and we do ask for your continues support this this matter.

Smoking and Vaping

A number of parents / carers have spoken to staff at the gate concerned about smoking and vaping in the queue and outside of the school gates.

We really do appreciated your patience when waiting in the queue but if we could kindly ask you to refrain from smoking and vaping whilst waiting it would be appreciated by so many.

Come and Learn with us

We are delighted to welcome you back to school for Learn with My Child. Arrangements, including times, will be shared with you nearer to the sessions but dates in the diary, are as follows -

Nursery 4th and 5th December

Reception 2nd and 3rd October

Year 1 4th October

Year 2 17th October

Year 3 5th November

Year 4 16th October

Year 5 22nd October

Year 6 28th November

Greenland 15th November

We look forward to welcoming you into school.

**LEARN
WITH
US**

Important Dates

1 st October	Harvest Festival
2 nd & 3 rd October	Year R – Learn with my Child
3 rd October	Olympian in School
4 th October	Year 1 – Learn with my child
10 th October	World Mental Health Day – wear Yellow
16 th October	Year 4 – Learn with my child
17 th October	Year 2 – Learn with my child
18 th October	Speed Awareness – Year 5
21 st October	Whole School Picture
22 nd October	Year 5 – Learn with my child
23 rd / 24 th October	Parents Evenings
24 th October	Flu Immunisation (1) – Year R-6
24 th October	Bright Day
24 th October	No Pen Thursday
25th October	Inset Day
24th Oct – 1st Nov	HALF TERM
4th November	Children back to school
w/b 4 th November	Best of British Week
w/b 4 th November	Attendance and Punctuality Week
5 th November	Year 3 - Learn with my Child
7 th November	NSPCC Workshop – Y2/Y5Y6
11 th November	Remembrance Day Service
14 th November	Individual Photographs
15 th November	Children in Need Day
15 th November	Greenland – Learn with my child
w/b 18 th November	Year 6 Mock Sats
18 th /19 th November	Bikeability – Year 2-6 (Learn to Ride)
20 th & 22 nd November	Bikeability – Y3/Y4
21 st November	Cycle Awareness YR-Y2
w/b 25 th November	Bikeability – Y5/Y6
26 th November	Year 1 – Thorndon Country Park
28 th November	Year 6 – Learn with my child
4 th & 5 th December	Year N – Learn with my child
5 th December	Year 5 - Panto
5 th December	Flu Immunisation Catch-up Day Year R-6
6 th December	Cake Sale Fundraising Day
9 th December	Christmas Dress Rehearsal - a.m 1 (Scotland / Spain / Mexico)
9 th December	Christmas Dress Rehearsal – p.m 2 (Northern Ireland / France / USA)
10 th December	Christmas Dress Rehearsal – a.m 3 (Wales / Italy / Canada)
10 th December	PM Nursery Christmas Concert @ 2.30pm
11 th December	AM Nursery Christmas Concert @ 9.15am
11 th December	KS1 Concert 1 @ 2.30
12 th December	KS1 Concert 2 @ 9.30
12 th December	KS1 Concert 3 @ 2.30
13 th December	Christmas Dress Rehearsal – am – Year 3 and Year 4
13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
13 th December	Christmas Dinner
16 th December	Year 3 and 4 Concert @ 9.30
16 th December	Year 3 and 4 Concert @ 2.30
17 th December	Year 5 and 6 Carol Service @ 2.15
17 th December	Year 5 and 6 Carol Service @ 7.00
18 th December	Father Christmas in school
20 th December	Non- Uniform Day / Whole School Parties
20 th December	Last Day of Term
20th December – 3rd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
6th January	Children back to school

Holiday Dates 2024-2025

	School Closes at the end of the day on	School re-opens on
Autumn Half term	Friday 25th October	Monday 4th November
Christmas	Friday 20th December	Monday 6th January
Spring Half term	Friday 14th February	Monday 24th February
Easter	Friday 4th April	Tuesday 22nd April
May Day	Monday 5th May	
Summer Half term	Friday 23rd May	Monday 2nd June
Summer	Tuesday 22nd July	To be confirmed
In Service Training Day:	Friday 25 th October Monday 23 rd June	Friday 4 th April