



Little Claremont News

Claremont Fan Court School

Issue 1 2020-21 - Friday 25 September 2020

A note from Mr Williams

I am so happy to have the Pre prep open all day again. For the first time since March, the children are all back and we are in for the whole day. We have also welcomed many new children and families to our school and it has been wonderful to see new friendships forming across the classes. The teachers and staff have been busy creating vibrant classrooms and exciting lessons and the children have played their part too, as active and engaged learners. I have met with the PTA and we have some great ideas for some dynamic fundraising this year which will again add value to the school and bring a sense of shared purpose and fun along the way! So, we have been busy and we plan to keep busy! I personally find that getting back to planning for a productive year ahead has been the perfect tonic to the challenges and limitations we have all faced recently. I look forward to a year of progress, magic and wonder for your children. Welcome back!

Once upon a time in a Nursery Rhyme!

Pre-Nursery have settled in well and have been enjoying the last of the summer sun, they are super little explorers and are very good collecting autumn treasures. In class we have been learning the rhymes Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy spider, it has been lovely to see such enthusiasm for joining in with activities and creating different characters. The rain for Incy Wincy definitely drew their attention as did the opportunity to build a wall for Humpty, it has also been a joy to listen to some emerging singing as they have been playing. *Mrs Watson*

First news

It has been a terrific start to the year for Nursery! We are amazed at how quickly the children have settled into their new routines and it has been lovely to see their happy and relaxed behaviour when in school, and even during the unusual drop-off and collection routines. Our theme this half-term is 'Homes and Habitats' and our core text this week has been 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The Nursery corridor has been transformed into scenes to represent the different parts of the story to promote retelling of the story in the correct sequence. The children have also enjoyed creating their own story map-collage by cutting and sticking. We have loved seeing their enthusiasm and are so proud of them!

Mrs Williams and Miss Westbrook

Settling into life in Reception

Reception have settled very well into their first year of formal schooling and the Reception team are proud of the children's efforts and achievements to date. The children are enjoying making new friends, playing with different toys and experiencing new learning challenges such as trying to recognise letter sounds and read words in books. Our topic this half term is, 'People who help us' which began with learning about people and friends in school who help us. This week the focus has been learning all about family members who care for us. Each child has drawn a picture of their family and told us all about each member of their family including their pets. Next, we look forward to learning about people in the emergency services and other key workers who help us. Thank you for parent's engagement with Tapestry; this is a valuable way of keeping in touch and please feel welcome to upload photos of learning from home for your child to share with the class. *Miss Bollen and Mrs Mohsin*



Where are those 'Wild things' hiding in Year 1

We have had such fun with studying the story book 'Where the wild things are'. In English the children have learnt the wow words that included; gnashed, rumpus, vines, tumbled, lonely and tamed. They have learnt about how the author Maurice Sendak used connectives and powerful openers to make his book exciting. The children drew story maps, retold the story and also had a go at writing part of it. Now they are in the process of innovating the story with their own characters, settings and events. We can't wait to read the new versions of this wonderful, well-loved story. In art we designed and painted our own wild things before describing them. Our Year 1 lobby has now been transformed into an amazing 'Wild things area' that the children are really enjoying. *Mrs Ennis and Miss Bridges*



Year 2 House Captains

We have had such a wonderful start to the year in Year 2. The children have been extremely busy learning all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. They have also been thoroughly enjoying our focus text 'The Diary of the Killer Cat' by Anne Fine. They have written their own descriptions of Tuffy using VCOP including some amazing descriptive language. We are now excited to discover what happens at the end of the story and the children will write the next diary entry imagining what will happen. We have also voted for our 4 house captains and we want to say a big congratulations to Emilia, Leo, Lara and Arabelle. The children were extremely brave and wrote speeches to read in front of the whole year group and the children then had a blind vote in their house. Well done to all of the children who put their names forward you all did incredibly well and made us very proud. We are looking forward to an amazing year together which will be full of happiness, fun and learning. *Mrs Emerson and Mrs Saville*



Bag 2 School collection - 5 November

We are pleased to announce that a clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School has been organised for 9am on Thursday 5 November. As well as raising funds for Claremont Fan Court School, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year! By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an

opportunity over half term to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles, please use your own bags and these can be filled with adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, please [click here](#) for full details. Donations **CAN ONLY** be accepted at drop off on Thursday 5 November.



Welcome Mrs Hawksley

I am working at Claremont until March 2021 as Mrs Francisco's maternity cover teacher for music. As an alumnus of the school it is lovely to come back and work in the Pre-Prep. During these first few weeks the children have enjoyed using all the new instruments and exploring pulse and rhythm. In Pre Nursery and Nursery we have made sounds for the bear hunt and sung about the Gruffalo, and in Reception we are singing about the snail travelling the world on the whale tail. In Year 1 and 2 we have been using xylophones and djembe drums and everyone is enjoying the Harvest Samba, especially as we get to use the new coloured egg shakers. Being in the Pre-Prep is fun and no day is the same!

I really enjoyed Lyla's performance on the piano during last week's assembly and look forward to hearing more musical solos. We will of course be thinking of creative ways to include nativity and Christmas cele-



Office apprentices

We said a fond farewell to Kitty in July who has completed her studies and placement with Claremont. In August we welcomed Eliza who has just embarked on her Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship. Eliza will be working alternate weeks in the Pre-Prep and Prep School offices.

Mrs Buckingham

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Buckingham's return on a part time basis to provide additional teaching assistant support to the Reception team of an afternoon and she is also working alongside Miss Sawyer in late club.



Lego group work

Last year, a number of Pre-Prep staff received training on the use of Lego based group work. The idea of this is that children work co-operatively in small groups to follow pictorial instructions in order to build Lego models. Each member of the group has a specific role during the session as an engineer, supplier or builder. It is an activity enjoyed by the children. This group work helps to develop social communication skills such as turn taking, sharing and speaking and listening. It can benefit our Pre-Prep children in so many ways including boosting self-esteem, problem solving, fine motor skills, building resilience and developing friendships. Your child may join a weekly Lego group at some point during the year to support these skills. Please do let me or your child's class teacher know if you have any further questions.

Character Quality September 2020

Respect For Others



Listening to others * Respectful language *

Following rules

- I talk politely to everyone
- ♦ I listen to others
- ♦ I treat others in the way I want to be treated
- ♦ I include others in my games

Important dates for your diary

6 October: Parent workshop - phonics and reading

8 October: 4pm deadline for nasal flu consent

12 October: Prep School information morning for Year 2 parents

15 October: Nasal Flu Vaccines (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

16 October: Hawk on the wild side

16 October: End of autumn 1 term

2 November: Autumn 2 term commences

5 November: Bag2School collection

For more upcoming events, please [click here](#).

Don't forget you can also follow Claremont on:

