



# Little Claremont News

Claremont Fan Court School

Issue 3 2020-21 - Friday 20th November 2020

## A note from Mr Williams

I am so proud of all we achieved last week. Naturewatch 2020 was a roaring success which combined meaningful learning opportunities with significant fundraising. Given how restricted we are right now in terms of hands on parental involvement and external support, to raise close to £4,000 pounds for Children in Need and school PTA initiatives is an incredible achievement which highlights the strong sense of community and togetherness that is the bedrock of the Pre prep. We are so lucky to have such an inventive and proactive PTA here. They have already moved on to planning lots of Christmas fun in the final weeks of term. More information can be found further down.

I am always so pleased to see children showing initiative and independence. There have been two important developments in Year 2 this week with the introduction of library monitors and a Book Club – both student led. Our Library is tidier than it's ever been and Mrs Quirke is delighted to have two keen helpers in Arabelle and Rowan. They have also sourced and scanned out a selection of books for the Year 2 Bubble Book Club which is being led by Freya and Lyla. Children are never too young to develop leadership traits such as collaboration and independence and I hope that our wonderful role models inspire others to fire their imaginations and consider what they too may be able to offer to the school and each other!

Thank you again for all your wonderful support. Have a restful weekend.

## Children in Need - £1,175

We are delighted to announce that we have raised a fantastic amount in support of BBC Children in Need following our Naturewatch week fancy dress day on Friday 13 November. The fundraiser was the finale to an exciting week in the Pre-Prep and Nursery, full of activities designed to inspire and engage the children in the natural world. Children took part in everything from wildlife photography competitions, themed crafting, den building, campfires, wildlife spotting through using a night camera and a special Naturewatch walkathon around the school grounds.



## I'm a little tea pot!

This week in Pre-Nursery we have been celebrating Nursery Rhyme week. We have been learning the rhyme 'I'm a little teapot'. The children have loved making cups of tea, which has included exploring the different smells of the tea bags and doing lots of filling and pouring cups of tea for each other. They have also been exploring different media for decorating teapots as well as telling us who would like a cup of tea. They obviously knew that Mrs Moor and I love a cup of tea and we have been very well looked after. *Mrs Watson and Mrs Moor*



## Off to visit the pumpkin patch in Nursery

Visiting our very own pumpkin patch in the school garden was a lovely way to start this half term in Nursery. This was the 'hook' element of 'Talk for Writing' - a powerful educational strategy which promotes oral re-telling of stories prior to writing. The children were enthusiastic to explore the pumpkins, even dissecting them and describing their textures in detail. Our theme this half term is 'Celebrations'. We have talked about Bonfire Night and Diwali and the children have explored colours through different medias. They painted some beautiful firework pictures to represent Bonfire Night and they also enjoyed Bollywood dancing and making their own Rangoli patterns for Diwali. The Naturewatch week tied in nicely with our theme as we looked at autumn and the colours around us. Nursery children took part in various activities and enjoyed tuning in each day to see which animals were captured on Mr Williams' wildlife night camera; they were very excited to spot a fox and deer eating the food that was left out for them. This week, we moved into the 'imitation stage' of our core book where children repeat phrases from the 'Pumpkin Soup' story, using actions when retelling the story as a group. Finally, through story mapping, the children have been able to retell the story using the 'wow words' and repeating the key phrases. We are very proud to say that they can now tell the story independently and in their own words. We can hardly believe how much they have already achieved this half term in the midst of the national lockdown! Well done Nursery!

*Mrs Williams and Miss Westbrook*



## Dancing and Diya candles at our Diwali workshop

As part of our learning about the special celebration of Diwali, the children took part in a workshop where they were invited to paint their own Diya candle holders and learn some exciting Bollywood dance moves. The Diya candles are traditionally used to light up people's homes and to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness during Diwali. In class, the children read the story of Rama and Sita and loved looking at illustrations of the characters and spotting the Diya's lighting the way home for the triumphant characters at the end of the story. During the dance element of the workshop, the children learned some special dance moves where they used their hands to make different animal shapes such as a simhamukha (a lion), a matsya (fish) and a mrigashirsha (deer). The children had lots of fun imitating the dance teacher and guessing the animal. After that, they learned a range of classical dance moves then combined them into one continuous dance performance. This was a great way to enrich our learning about Diwali and we are very excited to continue our topic on Celebrations leading up to Christmas with our class pets' birthday parties coming up soon on Thursday 3 December. *Miss Bollen and Mrs Mohsin*



## London's burning, London's burning

Our topic in humanities this half term is The Great fire of London. In our lessons we have been looking at life in 17<sup>th</sup> century and learning about what it would have been like to be living in London during this period. On Monday this week Freshwater theatre provided a magical workshop that all the children thoroughly enjoyed. Through drama Year 1 travelled back in time to 1666 where they mixed and baked bread, climbed ladders and attempted to put out fires, were transformed into scurrying rats spreading disease and sang and danced to songs from the time. After the children were shown historical evidence; it was interesting to hear about Samuel Pepy's diary and to view a painting depicting this very famous fire.

*Mrs Ennis and Miss Bridges*



## Year 2 have been working hard!

Year 2 have been working extremely hard so far this term. To celebrate Naturewatch week, we had lots of different activities. The children particularly enjoyed our Forest School activity of den building. The children worked together to build tents and other dens out of branches and leaves. They also helped build tents and hammocks. We then had great fun on our walkathon where we explored the grounds and found all 20 items. Our amazing learning has continued this week in forest school with Owls class creating their own rock pets and Kestrels finding examples of things that are living, dead or never alive. The classes will swap their activities next week so they get the full experience of our 'living dead never alive' forest school activities. The children have been working incredibly hard in all of their learning and the whole Year 2 team are so proud of them. *Mrs Emerson and Mrs Saville*



## Science question for November

It was wonderful to see how many children enjoyed putting their scientific hats on to complete our previous Science Question of the Month. This month our Science Question is to investigate whether ice melts faster in warm or cold water. This will provide the children with the opportunity to make predictions, observe the changing state of water and to investigate whether once it has been frozen and become ice, it melts at different speeds in different temperatures. Should they wish to showcase what they have done, we will of course be delighted to see photographs on Tapestry. Each child who completes the investigation will receive two house points.

**The question to explore this month is:**

**Does ice melt faster in warm or cold water?**

*Miss Bridges*



## Chess club - Year 2

Mrs Gledhill is offering all Year 2 children the chance to attend a free trial chess lesson after school on Mondays from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. If your child is interested in attending, please email Mrs Marrison.

## Co-curricular club spaces update:

Monday Chess - (Year 2): 10 spaces

Tuesday Rugbytots - (Rec): 1 space

Wednesday Yoganory - (Rec): FULL

Thursday Rugbytots - (Year 1-2): 3 spaces

Friday Tennis - (Year 1-2): contact ESG



## Bag 2 School collection - £84



On Thursday 5 November we held our annual Bag2School collection, as well as raising £84 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!

## Christmas cards - £211

We are delighted to share with you that the children's personalised Christmas cards, mugs, wrapping paper and labels have raised £211 for the school. All orders have gone home with the children this week.



### Ceramica Christmas Craft kits

The PTA are very excited to announce a joint creative venture with a wonderful local business named Ceramica in Claygate. Ceramica has made specially for Claremont Pre-Prep and Nursery School a **Christmas creative kit** that your child can use in school. The kit contains 2 tree decorations, a strip of 6 paints and varnish to complete their professional looking decorations. The kits will be made in school during the week of 7 December. All kits will be sent home with the children on Friday 11 December. Kits cost £16 and payment must be made via [ParentPay](#) by Monday 23 November.

The **Elf Holiday Pack** has been created by school elves to entertain your children over the holidays. It contains over 30 different puzzles and art activities. Please place your order through [ParentPay](#) by Friday 4 December in order to receive your elf pack before the end of term, packs cost £10.



On Wednesday 16 December **The Bubble Christmas Fair** will be held in each year group during the school day. It will include hook a cracker, lucky dip, decorate a biscuit, guess the number of sweets and name the Cushy cuddly toy. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased through [ParentPay](#).

### Christmas Wreath Making

How about kick starting your Christmas preparations by making your own festive door ring? Hang it on your front door - or give it pride of place indoors. We are excited to offer an event that can't be ruined by lockdowns or quarantining! Julie from [www.Juliedaviesflowerworkshops.co.uk](http://www.Juliedaviesflowerworkshops.co.uk) will teach us how to create a beautiful Scandi style Christmas hoop in our virtual wreath making workshop, during which you can grab your glass of bubbles and have fun creating some Christmas sparkle. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 1 December from 7pm to 8pm. Tickets cost £20 (excludes materials) and can be purchased via [ParentPay](#) no later than 23 November. Once you have booked your place you will be sent a complete list of resources to buy. These can be purchased as a bundle from Buds and Blooms for £15 (or they can easily be obtained online).



### PTA Christmas raffle

This annual event again has many incredible prizes to be won, including donations from Esher Tennis Club, Cat & Mouse, Garson's and a Marc Ella Monty Handbag worth £325! For the full list of fabulous prizes that have generously been donated [click here](#). Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased through [ParentPay](#) up until 7 December. The PTA Christmas Raffle prize draw will take place live on YouTube shortly after celebration assembly on Friday 11 December.



# Compassion

## November 2020



Empathy - Community Service - Gentleness -  
Kindness and consideration

- I try to imagine and understand the feelings of others
- I understand that self-control is a way of showing compassion
- I concentrate on the good in others
- I forgive others when they make mistakes
- I look for ways to be helpful instead of waiting to be asked
- I find ways to volunteer in my community and world
- I try to include others

### Important dates for your diary .....

23 November: PTA Ceramica Christmas craft kit payment deadline

23 November: PTA virtual wreath making workshop payment deadline

4 December: PTA Elf holiday pack payment deadline

7 December: PTA Christmas raffle ticket payment deadline

**1 December: PTA Virtual wreath workshop**

11 December: Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children

11 December: PTA Christmas raffle live draw

For more upcoming events, please [click here](#).  
Don't forget you can also follow Claremont on:

