

CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER FOR WEEK ENDING 6th September 2019

Whole School

Welcome back and welcome to new pupils, parents and staff. We hope that everyone has had a refreshing break. We have had a good start and it has been a pleasure to welcome the new Reception pupils this week.

We would like to welcome Miss Joanna Davis (Acer) and Miss Stephanie Ferraby (Ash) to our team. They are training to become teachers as part of our School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme.

We look forward to another successful and happy academic year with staff and parents continuing to work positively together to enable children to reach their potential.

Mrs Sylvia Crockett

On **17th and 19th September we will be holding Open Days for Years 1 - 6.** They are an opportunity for you to see the school in action. There will be a choice of 6 different times on both days. Each session is 30 minutes long.

We will be using the online booking system (please access via the Parents Evening System logo on the website). Bookings are one per family and please log in with your eldest child's details. There are a limited number of places per session. Booking details will follow next week.

Last term, the **school's behaviour policy** was updated and signed off by the school governors ready to launch this September. The goal of this behaviour policy is to encourage positive behaviour from all children and to ensure consistency of its implementation across the school. The policy can be summed up as follows:

"In order to be the best learner we can be, we are kind, respectful and polite". All adults in the school will be using this, and the school values, as the starting point for positive behaviour. Rewards for 'above and beyond' positive behaviour will be given to children and this will be communicated with home. These rewards may differ slightly between classes but children will be praised for effort and learning strategies used rather than ability. If a situation arises where a child is given a red card, this will be communicated with home and then recorded onto SIMs to help manage and monitor behaviour across the school. To read the policy, please go to: https://claremont.kent.sch.uk/school_policies

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH NEEDS

Please can we stress the importance of informing us of any medical needs that your child may have. If your child has a medical condition, but you have not yet completed a Medical Needs form, please pop into the office to collect one.

If your child has asthma or needs to have medication administered in school, we ask you to pop in and complete separate forms for these. Please ensure that all inhalers and epi pens are in school as required.

If your child **NO LONGER** has a pre-existing medical need/asthma etc, please email me at senco@claremont.kent.sch.uk to confirm.

Many thanks, Clare Smith (SENCo)

NO KIWI FRUIT – please can we remind you that we have a child with a severe allergy to kiwi fruit. Therefore we request that you do not include kiwi fruit or any type of NUTS in snacks or packed lunches.

Just a reminder to all parents that we have a child in school with a medical condition resulting in a compromised immune system. Should your child contract shingles or chicken pox, please email the office on admin@claremont.kent.sch.uk as soon as possible.

If you are concerned about your child, in the first instance, you should see the class teacher as he/she is the person who knows your child best. If that concern continues please make an appointment to see the relevant middle leader, depending on whether it is a curriculum concern or a wellbeing concern. Our middle leaders are very experienced in their areas of leadership and should be able to support you, but if you are still concerned then please ask the school office for an appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS – Thank you to all of you who are offering to help out in school this year. To streamline the process, if you wish to volunteer, please either contact your class rep, if they are coordinating a rota, or the class teacher. The class teacher will inform the office of who has been authorised to come in.

Anyone who is new to volunteering this year or hasn't volunteered for some time, **MUST** attend the volunteers' meeting in the hall after drop off on **Monday 30th September**. Once you have attended this meeting, Mrs Stevens who manages the DBS checking process will contact you. Only after your DBS check is through will you be able to start volunteering. Check times vary from person to person and according to how busy the system is.

If you are continuing to volunteer from last year, you can start with immediate effect however, you are required to read the safeguarding and volunteer information and sign the Memorandum of Understanding by the end of September. Please see Mrs Stevens for a pack at the end of next week.

Many thanks
Michele Baldwin

CAMBRIDGE GARDENS AND CAMDEN HILL – Please can we ask that you drive and park responsibly in roads around the school and to respect local residents. Cambridge Gardens is a private road and we use this to access the school only due to their permission.

BANNER FARM ROAD – Once again, we have received complaints about parents driving and parking dangerously on Banner Farm Road. We have advised callers to contact the police if they see careless and dangerous drivers.



Headteacher recruitment update and request for input

As you are aware, we are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Crockett this Christmas after four wonderful years. The governors are working on the recruitment of our next Headteacher and I would like to give you an update on that work.

You may be aware that the recruitment of a school's Headteacher is solely the responsibility of the governing body. We are assisted by a Lead Officer appointed by the Local Authority, and School's Personnel Service. In addition, we must follow guidance and toolkits from the DfE, the National Governors' Association and the Local Authority. It is the most important job a governing body has to do. We are fortunate that our delegated recruitment panel of five governors has had previous experience of Head Teacher selection, having successfully appointed Mrs Crockett in 2015. There are also a number of governors with HR and recruitment experience who are supporting the panel.

Following the Extraordinary Full Governing Body meeting on Wednesday, our first panel meeting will be later this month to refine the job description and the person specification. We are currently also assembling materials for the recruitment advert/microsite, which will appear on Kent Teach in the first half of October. The overall timeline is now in place, including prospective interview dates, with a view to possible appointment being made late November.

As part of our process, we are asking for input from all stakeholders. We have already consulted the staff and governors and next week will conduct sessions to collect some pupils' views.

Now we would like to ask you, as parents, to contribute:

We would like you to give us your thoughts on the characteristics you want to see in our next headteacher. This (together with the input from the other stakeholders) can then be used to guide the process and may form part the recruitment pack.

Please email **a maximum of 5 words which describe the attributes and characteristics you would like our next head to have to** newheadcharacteristics@gmail.com. Deadline for contributions Monday 16th September.

You may find the presentation of the school strategic vision at <https://claremont.kent.sch.uk/school-vision> helpful.

It is really important for us to hear your views so we hope you are able to contribute to our consultation. If you have questions, please email clerk@claremont.kent.sch.uk.

Carla van der Zanden

Chair of Governors

From 6 September, when a member of our school community spends £30 in any Aldi store, they'll receive a special Team GB athlete sticker to send in to school. If we complete a poster with 300 stickers, we will receive a school sports kit, and be entered into Aldi's prize draw to win one of twenty **£20,000 cash prizes to build a healthy legacy at our school.**

In the office, there will be a box for you to place your stickers in and these will then be transferred onto the poster.

Thank you for your support and let's get collecting!

Mr Hume

Year 5 & 6



Do you want to help others achieve their potential in sport? Do you want to inspire people to lead healthy lives?

If you do, please write an application letter to Mr Hume explaining the following:

1. Why do you want to be a sports leader?
2. What would you do to inspire others?
3. How can you develop sport at Claremont?

Applications need to be with Mr Hume by Friday 13th September 2019

Diary Dates

Diary Dates for next week

Please see the calendar page on the website for advanced dates. The calendar is updated every Wednesday. For detailed information, please click on the DAY view.

9th Sep – YR in til midday

10th Sep – YR in til midday

11th Sep – YR in til midday

12th Sep – YR stay for lunch/ 11+ testing all day

13th Sep – YR stay for lunch