

Primary Matters

News and Information from Primary Phase - Monday 7th December 2020

Vice Principal's Message

We are fast approaching the end of term and the end of 2020. Who could have known, as we wore our novelty 2020 vision glasses back in January, what school and life would look like in COVID times! We have adapted our teaching and changed our procedures to keep everyone as safe and warm as possible. Having come through our second lockdown, we have been pleased and relieved that, so far, we have not been required to close any primary classes, or year groups.

The second term of any school year is always special, as it's when we come together for various festive celebrations. This year, as with everything, we are having to do things differently. However, we will not be defeated! Our annual, Foundation Stage nativity performance will go ahead with group performances by the children being filmed both out and indoors, so that a video of the whole performance can be sent to parents for your viewing pleasure. We have a number of other seasonal activities planned for other year groups; details will follow in due course.

Thank you again to those of you who have sent in positive comments. It's a tough time to be in education and it's easy to get bogged down in the politics and ever-changing demands on students and staff but a little bit of positivity, in whichever form it's offered, gives us all a much-needed boost.

Finally, I'd like to thank parents for your continued support. These continue to be challenging times for us all, and it's only by working together as a school community, that we can achieve the best for our children.



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CCS Friends

Thank you to those of you who have bought tickets for the Big PTA Raffle tickets. The tickets have now all sold out. The first draw takes place on Monday 7th December - good luck to anyone who supported CCS Friends and bought tickets!

Don't forget, there are lots of ways that you can help support CCS Friends. You can sign up to both [easyfundraising](#) and [Amazon Smile](#). Whenever you shop using these organisations, you will earn money for the school.

If you need to order name labels, you can also earn money for the school by ordering from [Stikins](#) and quoting the school fundraising number 35704.

Important Updates

Early Finish - Friday 18th December

School will be closing at lunchtime on the last day of term to enable deep cleaning to begin. All children will have their lunch before departing at the following times: Yr R - 12:00pm, Yr1&2 - 12:10pm, Yr3&4 - 12:20pm and Yr5&6 - 12:30pm. See separate email for full details.

Reception 2021 Admissions

Do you have a 4 year old child/sibling who is due to start school? The deadline for submitting applications for children due to start school in September 2021 is 5pm on Friday 15th January 2021. Submit your application to Northamptonshire County Council by visiting their website or by clicking on the following link: [Apply For a Primary School Place](#).

Late Arrivals

We have seen a significant rise in the number of pupils arriving late to school. Since the beginning of this academic year, there have been a total of 325 late marks for 25% of our primary children. We understand that an occasional late mark may be unavoidable; however, we do ask that parents make every effort to ensure their child arrives at their allocated arrival time. Sibling groups should come to school at the earlier arrival time of their younger sibling and NOT at the later arrival time of the oldest sibling.





Spotlight on Learning - Foundation Stage

We have been so proud of how well the children have settled into school. It's been a very difficult time for everyone with COVID restrictions in place and to see our youngest children cope with change so well is a credit to them all. The main success for all the children, is that they are making new friendships and gaining in confidence every day to access and make progress in all areas of our curriculum.

We always begin the first term with a focus on our prime areas of learning; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. It's important that all children feel safe and secure to enable them to learn and meet their full potential. It was wonderful to hear all the children talk positively about what they can do and what they would like to learn. They worked with an adult to complete an 'In my element' picture.

As well as learning new rules, boundaries and following the many instructions we give them, they have begun to learn lots of new skills in the prime areas such as Reading, Writing, Number and Shape, Space and Measure. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in daily phonics lessons which has meant that they have all made great progress with their reading and writing.

The children created their own firework pictures which inspired some wonderful writing using descriptive words. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Hindu festival of Diwali and have explored different artefacts that staff members have shared with us as well as making their own Diva lamps.

Mrs McCormack & Mrs Jeffery



"I'm a GP Responder for the National Clinical COVID Assessment Service and I must say all the information you have given is accurate. Very well done and thank you for the updates."

Parent



Dates for your Diary

Christmas Outfit Day Fundraiser
Breakfast with Santa (FS/KS1)
'All Things Christmas' Afternoon
Christmas Lunch Day
School Closes - Christmas holiday
Teacher Training Day 4
School Reopens
FS Superhero Day

Friday 11th December
Tuesday 15th December
Wednesday 16th December
Wednesday 16th December
Friday 18th December
Monday 4th January
Tuesday 5th January
Tuesday 5th January



CCS Autumn Watch!



As parents will know, we are very lucky to have a wonderful forest school area on the school grounds. Using equipment previously donated to the school by CCS Friends, Year 3 recently set up wildlife cameras in the nature area to see what they could capture and wow! What a find! Imagine our delight when we found that we have had several nocturnal visitors! The children were delighted to see the footage of a badger, a fox and a blue tit trying to steal the show. There were plenty of squirrels, magpies, crows and pigeons too.



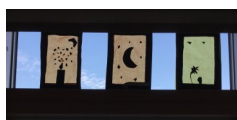
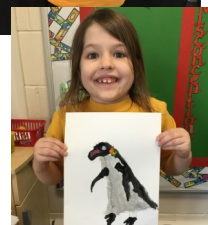
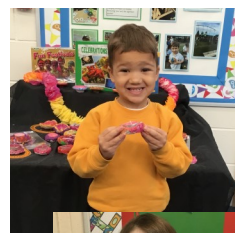
Our Learning Highlights

What a busy term we have had so far with lots of both indoor and outdoor learning! Our Reception children have enjoyed learning about the festival of Diwali, making their own firework pictures and are now busy recording their Nativity 2020 celebration video for parents.

Year 1 had a fantastic time during their Victorian day where they came to school dressed in their fabulous costumes and spent the day practicing their handwriting, arithmetic as well as drawing a portrait of Queen Victoria.

In Year 2, some of the highlights have been becoming Antarctic explorers and learning all about penguins and animals that live in cold countries.

Year 3 were investigating the mysterious sightings of dinosaurs in the forest school area and made bait traps to try to catch the dinosaurs as part of their learning theme.



Year 4 have been learning about the wonders of light and how it travels from different sources. They became artists for the day and made beautiful silhouette pictures.

In Year 5, we have continued with our learning theme of 'Journeys' and used mixed media to create a river display.

The learning theme of 'Enchanting East' continues in Year 6, with the children sculpting their own terracotta warriors out of clay.



Keeping Warm - New Uniform Item Available

One of the protective measures we are using to ensure the safety of our children and staff is to maintain good ventilation in the classrooms and around school. This might mean that, now the weather is getting colder, your child will need to wear additional layers e.g. a vest, tights, fleece etc.

You are currently able to purchase a CCS fleece from our uniform supplier although stock levels are very low. As an alternative to the fleece, we are pleased to announce that a navy CCS logoed zip-up hoodie (zoodie) is now available from The Schoolwear Shop.

Now that winter is upon us, please send your child to school wearing a warm, waterproof coat and suitable, sturdy outdoor footwear. Children should also bring a hat and gloves to keep them warm.

Please make sure that ALL items are fully labelled. It is virtually impossible to reunite an item with the correct child if we cannot tell who it belongs to!

It's Christmas!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December, we are holding our annual Christmas Jumper / Festive Outfit Day. Children are able to come into school wearing non-uniform and a Christmas jumper or a festive outfit in exchange for a £1 donation. This can be made using your ParentPay account before the day.

FS / KS1 Breakfast with Santa

Our Breakfast with Santa event, supporting Action for Children takes place on Tuesday 15th December. You will have already received a separate email regarding this. Please note that your voluntary payment should be made via ParentPay, and your slip should be returned to the Primary Office by **Wednesday 9th December**.



FS The story of the first Christmas - 'Nativity 2020'

The FS children will be learning and performing a traditional Nativity to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Performances will be filmed in groups and then edited together to create this year's Nativity play. The final version will then be made available to parents.

Christmas Lunch

The CCS Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 16th November. This should be ordered using your meals ParentPay account as normal. The final deadline for ordering this meal is **Thursday 10th December**. Please see separate email sent on 2nd December for further details.



'All Things Christmas' Afternoon

On Wednesday 16th December, we will be holding an 'All Things Christmas' afternoon for the whole of the primary phase. This will be an afternoon filled with lots of festive activities including a 'Mince Pies and Milkshakes' afternoon for our Year R children and a Christmas quiz and crafts with festive music for the other year groups.

Christmas Cards

In accordance with the COVID protocols, we are also making small changes to the procedure for sending Christmas cards this year. Children may bring in Christmas cards that they have written for their classmates on **Monday 7th / Tuesday 8th or Monday 14th / Tuesday 15th** where they will be quarantined and then sent home on Friday 11th or Friday 18th December respectively. Please tuck envelope flaps in only—no licking and sticking please!



Extra-Curricular Clubs Update

Unfortunately, the second national lockdown put a stop to any plans that we had of re-instating some extra-curricular clubs in term 2.

As these restrictions are lifted, we will start to look again at how we can safely start running some of our clubs. Further details will be sent out to parents as they become available.

School Photos

All of the children had their individual photo taken on Friday 27th November. The proofs were sent home on Friday 4th December and include details of how to place orders online on the Tempest website. Photos will then be delivered directly to your home address.

CCS Primary Blogs

Please don't forget to check your child's year group blog regularly as this will include an update on learning over the week, details of homework due, and spellings. Please note, Year 6 homework is now on MS Teams.

[Click here to view Primary blogs](#)



Curriculum Matters Newsletters

The [Curriculum Matters Newsletters](#) for term 2 are now available to view on our website. These newsletters give parents important information about what children have been learning this term.



In each of this term's newsletters, we have also included an information page about Jigsaw which is our new PSHE scheme of learning that we have adopted. Jigsaw provides a structured programme of personal development to nurture the 'whole child' and increase learning capacity, underpinned by mindfulness philosophy and practice.

They also include a page about High Performance Learning (HPL) which is our whole school approach to teaching and learning which is centred on the belief that high academic performance is attainable for all.

