

# Primary Matters

News and Information from Primary Phase - Monday 22nd March 2021

## Vice Principal's Message

It has been great to see and hear the children all back together again. We had lots of excited children (and parents!) in the first week, glad to be back in their familiar surroundings with all their friends. It has been a time of great excitement and also adjustment to being back in class groups of thirty and reconnecting with peers and teachers.

We began with a fun filled week of science-based activities to celebrate British Science Week. For more details of the interesting investigations that took place, have a look at the special feature on page 3. We are now settled back into our normal routines, which are, of course, still affected by COVID safety measures until further notice from government. Everyone has thrown themselves into the business of learning with their usual enthusiasm and we are so impressed with the strides children have made in their remote learning at home - thank you for all your hard work!

Our second week back ended with a day full of fun and smiles with our Red Nose Day activities, including our red nose and spoon event, which was great fun, if a little drizzly. Thank you to everyone who generously donated Easter eggs and chocolates for the House team to distribute.

I wish everyone a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to what we hope will be an uninterrupted summer term starting on Tuesday 13th April.



*Katharine Patten*



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Caroline Chisholm School  
Ambition Confidence Success  
Everyone Every Lesson Every Opportunity

## SMART Charter

SMART Learners are:

<b>Sensitive</b>	<b>Empathetic - kind and concerned for others</b> We don't hurt people or their feelings
<b>Motivated</b>	<b>Hardworking and resilient - having a go</b> We don't waste time or give up
<b>Agile</b>	<b>Attentive, enquiring and creative - aiming high</b> We don't expect others to think for us
<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Respectful of property and nature - caring</b> We don't damage or waste things
<b>Truthful</b>	<b>Honest and trustworthy - doing what's right</b> We don't cover up the truth

Be Smarter—Follow The Charter!

## Primary SMART Charter

Our primary SMART Charter sets out the core values, attitudes and attributes that we want for all members of our school community. Our SMART Charter is aligned to our school vision for developing ambitious, confident and successful learners; it is for everyone, in every lesson, and we expect all learners to take every opportunity to follow it. We have recently updated our SMART Charter to ensure that our High Performance Learning framework values, attributes and attitudes (VAAs) are embedded within it. Last week, we introduced the changes to our SMART Charter, during an assembly led by Mrs Patterson. Now that we are all back in school, it a good time to remind everyone about the expectations we have of behaviour and attitudes, here at Caroline Chisholm School.

### Can you spot the changes we have made to our SMART Charter?



The HPL value of being **empathetic** is part of being sensitive to others and includes being kind, **concerned for society**, **collaborative** and **confident** learners.



We have introduced the HPL attitude of being an **agile** learner. Agile learners continue to be attentive and are able to take on different ways of thinking and learning. They are **enquiring** and **creative** learners who strive to be the best they can be.



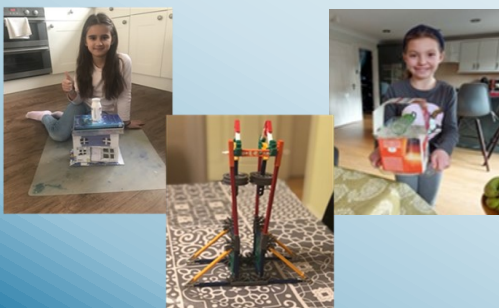
The HPL **hard working** attitude encourages motivated, **resilient** learners who **practice** and **persevere** in their learning.



## Spotlight on Learning - Lower KS2

Lower Key Stage 2 children have settled back into the flow of school brilliantly and are continuing to enjoy their learning themes that we started during lockdown.

Year 3 have been learning about Ancient Greece and have been immersed in the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur in their writing. They will also study the history of the Olympics. They have had the opportunity to sample some traditional Greek foods, both at home and in school, which helped to bring their learning about the Greek culture to life. Later in the term, as their fabulous finish, they will be participating in a Greek Day, where they will dress up as Ancient Greek citizens and continue to learn more about the people of Greece and their traditions.



Year 4 have continued their learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They had the opportunity to design and make earthquake proof buildings, after research about what makes a building resistant to earthquakes. In writing, they have started to produce explanation texts which explain how volcanoes erupt. In Geography, the children have built on their map skills and located tectonic plates and also the sites of major historical volcano eruptions. For their fabulous finish, we are hoping to make our own volcanoes and investigate how to make them erupt!

*Mrs Lynes*

## Thank a Member of Staff - Online Form

The Learning Council has created an online form for primary students and their parents to say thank you to members of staff. Thank you to all those who have already used this form to pass on their thanks.

This is an opportunity for students to say thank you to any member of staff who has helped them with their learning or supported them in school. It can be for teachers, teaching assistants, learning support assistants or any other member of support staff.

Students can submit the form themselves or parents and carers may wish to submit the form on their behalf. Parents and carers can also complete the form for themselves if they would also like to say thanks. You can supply a name or keep it anonymous if you'd prefer.

We cannot tell you just how much it means to a member of staff to receive a positive comment from a student or parent!

To complete the form, please click on the following link:

[Primary - Say Thanks and Make Their Day Form](#)



## Dates for your Diary

Year 3 Greek Day

**School Closes**

Deadline for entering CCS Friends 100 club April draw

**Teacher Training Day**

**School Reopens**

Parent Voice Virtual Meeting

**Thursday 25th March**

**Friday 26th March**

**Thursday 1st April**

**Monday 12th April**

**Tuesday 13th April**

**Thursday 22nd April**



## HPL Character Competition

We are incredibly excited to announce the launch of our competition to design characters to support our Higher Performance Learning (HPL).

The children will create an animal that demonstrates the way we learn, which is linked to our **Advanced Cognitive Performance** characteristics (ACPs)



They will design a superhero to show how we behave, linked to our HPL **Values, Attitudes and Attributes** (VAAs) and SMART Charter.



Children are designing their entry in school. The competition runs until March 26th. Good luck on your mission!

*"Really impressed with how the teachers have adapted to on-line learning which has been a difficult challenge for everyone involved. I think they deserve a medal."*

Parent

## British Science Week!

British  
Science  
Week  
2021  
5-14 March

Every year, we celebrate British Science Week. This year, we were lucky enough for science week to land on the week that we returned from lockdown. What a week to come back to! From Monday 8th to Friday 12th March, children throughout the primary phase took part in the activities. The theme this year, was 'Innovating for the future'. The children became space tourists, kitchen chemists and looked at how not so fantastic plastic is.



Foundation Stage have enjoyed investigating waterproof materials to find out what would be best for a policeman's jacket - linked to their learning theme 'People who help us.' They have also experimented with bubbles investigating if they can change their, size, shape or colour.

Year 1 and Year 2 have been kitchen scientists! The children have been predicting what might happen when they mix materials with different liquids, based on their previous knowledge. They suggested some innovative ways to solve their questions. The children carefully observed the changes that occurred, which led to some interesting discoveries about solids and liquids, and the pH levels of different liquids too!

Year 3 and 4 have been looking into how they can innovate for the future of space tourism. They have been innovating and designing rockets to get tourists into space, rovers to transport them around Mars and new ways to land back down to Earth.

Year 5 made ziplines and talked about what kind of forces are acting on it. They then discussed the forces that would act on a rocket and how they could make it get into the air. They designed and made their own bottle rockets with a focus on making them aerodynamic to reduce air resistance.

Pupils in Year 6 have been thinking about innovation for the future, by looking at replacing plastic with different materials. They have been investigating and making materials that could be used to make plates, spoons and cups. They have been thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of each material and testing and comparing them with the plastic alternatives.

### Staffing Changes



You may already be aware that the lovely Mrs Simmonds has begun her maternity leave. We are sure parents will join with us in wishing Mrs Simmonds the very best for the safe arrival of her baby.

Mr Wood will continue in the role of 1MS class teacher and as such, 1MS has now become 1JW.

We are pleased to announce that Miss Coleman and Mrs Wheeler will take on the role of joint Key Stage 1 Leader during the course of Mrs Simmonds maternity leave.

We also now have Mr Brennan with us, who is taking on the role of PE & Sports Coach for the primary phase.



**We had great fun in British Science Week!**



British  
Science  
Week  
2021  
5-14 March

*"We are absolutely in awe of the way the teachers have coped, the quality of remote teaching and learning and the time and effort the teachers are putting in."*

Parent

## Remote Learning - Parental Feedback



As you are aware, in February, we sent out a link to a feedback form for parents to complete. This was for parents to let us know what they thought of the online learning provision provided by the primary phase, using MS Teams. A big thank you to everyone who completed this form for us - your feedback is invaluable in helping us plan and prepare for any future use of remote learning. We are pleased to announce that we achieved an overall score of 4.01 out of 5! It has been a steep learning curve for teachers, children and parents alike, to adapt to a completely new way of working but we can safely say that everyone rose to the challenge superbly.

	Highly effective	Effective	Not at all effective
Live check-in meetings	49%	47%	4%
Recorded, guided lessons	45%	52%	3%
Independent learning activities	30%	63%	8%
Assignments to submit	41%	51%	8%
Feedback and communication	38%	53%	9%
Live lessons	55%	38%	7%

**Here is a breakdown of how each category was rated, showing how effective parents thought that area of remote learning was.**

### Positive Feedback

It is clear from the feedback that the live lessons are a strength and something which most parents have found very useful.

**"Being able to see a teacher twice a day and the live lessons I feel give the children a sense of familiarity. Learning away from the classroom is a huge thing for them, is a completely different learning environment to what they are used to so being able to see and hear teachers and friends definitely helps."**

Live lessons are also something that the teachers found very useful, as they allowed them to connect with the children in their class, tailor the learning topic according to the progress the children were making and give immediate feedback. Parents also seemed to like the opportunity to attend either the live lessons or watch them later on, at a more convenient time.

**"The choice of watching a live lesson or playing back the recording gives a fantastic choice depending on how well your child focuses."**

We had to take into account that not every family could attend the live lessons at the same time, due to device restrictions, sibling timetables or parents time, amongst other things. We found that a good mix of both live and recorded lessons worked better for a lot of families, especially those where there were more than one child in the household.

### Constructive Feedback

Something which was flagged up by a few parents as not being as effective, was the pace of the lesson sequence and some children needing more time and support to grasp the learning.

**"There is an assumption that all children grasp the concepts being taught remotely and each lesson builds on each other. I get why this is done but we need to consider ways to support children who aren't grasping at the rate the lessons need them to"**

To help with the children who take a little longer to pick up a concept, we had just started to introduce the 'Breakout rooms' facility on Teams. This enabled the teacher to work with a smaller group of children and to go over any topic in more detail for those that needed it. Teachers also invited small groups of children to join an additional live meeting or group chat/discussion after the live lesson to provide further support/teaching, when needed. Another common theme was concern about too much screen time for the children.

**"Too much screen time."**

This is also something that concerned the teachers and is the reason why screen free activities were introduced as part of 'Wellbeing Wednesday', where we did things like our dreams and goals bottle competition.

We have learnt a lot about online learning in a short space of time and there are definitely elements of this provision and different ways of working that we want to build into our in-school teaching and learning going forward, such as developing independence, personalization and collaborative ways of working.

### CCS Friends

The next prize draw for the CCS Friends 100 Club will take place in April 2021 and you can register now to subscribe for the chance to win a percentage of the total membership fee received for the month. To enter April's prize draw, we would need to receive your payment and application form no later than 31st March 2021.

For more details and to take part, visit the [CCS Friends page](#) on our website and download the application form.

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.

**Next CCS Friends Meeting: Monday 19th April via Zoom..**