

Primary Matters

News and Information from Primary Phase - March 2023

Vice Principal's Message

It's coming towards the end of my first full term "in office" and I'd like to say what a pleasure it has been getting to know our primary families, and especially the children.

This term, I was particularly proud to take some of our Key Stage 2 students to the High Performance Learning (HPL) 4th annual conference at Warwick University, attended by senior school leaders and HPL founder Deborah Eyre. Our students prepared a presentation and spoke to senior leaders from schools all over the world; a daunting challenge for many adults but one in which our students were able to demonstrate their intellectual confidence and connection finding skills to explain how the use of HPL helps them with their learning and how they contribute to developing HPL in our school. They also got to meet Sir Clive Woodward, former England rugby coach and had their pick of the cakes at the buffet (at which point their self-regulation became slightly less well developed!)

These students were excellent examples of high performing role models and it struck me that they have developed this ability due to the role models they have been presented with at home and in school.

When we communicate in a respectful manner, be it by email, verbally in person or on the phone, students see an example of appropriate behaviour and how we should always show respect to others within our community and wider society, even if there is something we disagree about. Please help us to model those behaviours to students.

I would like to wish you all a restful and happy Easter and look forward to a packed summer term with the coronation, residential trips to York and the Isle of Wight, more spotlight assemblies, Sports Day and a host of other exciting learning opportunities.

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Charity Events

In conjunction with



As you will know, we have recently held a number of events to raise money for charity. We'd like to give you an update on how much money we raised for the respective charities as we're in awe of just how supportive CCS families are, especially in these times of increasing hardship.

Krispy Kreme Sale

CCS Friends held a Krispy Kreme doughnuts sale in the primary playground, where parents could buy a doughnut at a discounted price. You won't be surprised to hear that the doughnuts sold out very quickly and they raised a whopping **£256.50!** Yum!



Year 3 Cake Sale

The CCS Friends cake sale has once again been a huge success. Year 3 raised **£199.19** in February! Thank you for raising this vital money which will be used to support our school.

House Fun Night

The House team (supported by CCS Friends) organised a Fun Night for children in Year 1 - 6 where children stayed after school to watch a film, have a meal and a snack and chill out with their friends. The take up for this event was enormous and we are very pleased to say that we took over **£1300**. Once the money for supplies has been taken out of this, the profits will be split between CCS Friends (25%) with the majority going to the McCarthy Dixon Foundation (TMDF). TMDF are a community charity who are working to alleviate hunger and provide for those in need in the local area. They regularly provide us with food parcels for some of our more disadvantaged families.

Red Nose Day

We once again ran a non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief. Students were invited to come into school wearing their own clothes and red or comic relief themed clothes/accessories. To date, we have raised over **£1400** for this worthy cause. You can still make your donation using your ParentPay account if you haven't already done so.



We'd like to say an extra-special thank you to the volunteers of CCS Friends - the work you do to raise money and to support the school is invaluable. Thank you for giving up so much of your time to organise, run and help with so many things - we couldn't do it without you! If you'd like to get involved with helping CCS Friends, in whatever way you are able, please come along to the next CCS Friends meeting to find out more. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th April in the primary staff base, everyone is welcome!

**Thank
You**

Year 2 - Tudor Day



Earlier in the term, Year 2 children had a lovely time and learned lots during Tudor Day. We saw some fabulous Tudor costumes, including many noble lords and ladies.

During the day, activities included designing their own coat of arms, writing with an ink and quill, making their own portrait, playing some Tudor card games and some tudor skipping.

The highlight of the day was a Tudor catwalk to show off all the fabulous outfits and then doing some Tudor group dancing. Everybody had a fabulous time!



Year 3 - Greek Day



Last week, children in Y3 took part in Greek Day! The day started with children coming into school dressed as an Ancient Greek; thank you to parents for their creativity in making some excellent costumes!

Children took part in many Ancient Greece themed educational and exciting activities, including learning about the Greek alphabet, competing in some Olympic events, doing some Greek Zorba dancing, finding out about Greek myths and legends and examining some Greek artifacts. We finished the day with some fabulous Greek food tasting - there were some interesting faces pulled by the children!



Next term, we are focusing on the value of being *Hardworking learners who are resilient and determined.*



Dates for Your Diary

Year 4 residential trip final payment deadline
3JW Spotlight on Learning assembly
School closes
Training day
School reopens
CCS Friends meeting
5CS Spotlight on Learning assembly
4AWSR Spotlight on Learning assembly
Bank holiday - school closed
Bank holiday - school closed

Friday 31st March

Friday 31st March

Friday 31st March

Monday 17th April

Tuesday 18th April

Tuesday 18th April

Friday 21st April

Friday 28th April

Monday 1st May

Monday 8th May



Term 4 Roundup - Foundation Stage



It's been another very busy term for our Foundation Stage children. They started the term with Bikeability sessions, learning some valuable cycling skills then moved onto making yummy pancakes. For World Book Day, we had some fabulous costumes including suffragettes, knights and dinosaurs.

Also this term, they have learned about the lifecycle of a plant, talked about healthy food and had some visitors. A real life vet came to see them to tell them all about her job and the animals she works with (thank you Mrs Nobes!) and this week the police also came along. PC Charlotte Johnson and PC Dan Bradley-Brophy brought along their police dog Cola, their police car and some equipment which the children got to test out.



Key Stage 1



Year 1 have been doing lots of work on their personal writing project this term. They started by creating their own front covers for their writing books and were then able to write a piece about absolutely anything they wanted. They have particularly enjoyed being able to sit on the 'Writer's chair' where they can share their stories with their class.

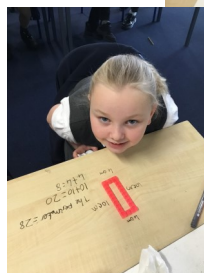
They also did their Walk around Wootton where they learned about the different types of houses in our local area. During British Science Week, the children enjoyed taking part in the 'transferring colours' experiment.

Year 2 kicked off the term with their Tudor Day, learning about all things Tudor. We have also learned about what makes a healthy diet. They then moved onto auditions for the Strictly competition. Teachers were particularly impressed at the determination shown by those who auditioned!

Key Stage 2

Year 3 started their Ancient Greece learning theme this term. They have learned all about mythical creatures and even created their own mythical animal. They also had their fantastic Greek Day last week. In maths, children have been learning how to measure perimeters of shapes.

Children in Year 4 started their 'Elements' learning theme by working together to make their own volcano. They worked collaboratively and looked carefully at what real life volcanoes look like to create their own structure. During British Science Week, Y4 pupils enjoyed learning about how sounds travels. They investigated which materials are best for sound proofing and made their own paper cup communication devices.



Continuing with our learning about the Industrial Revolution and Victorian Britain, children in Year 5 transformed one of their classrooms by making a model Victorian town and village with some very inventive creations! They also got to go over to our secondary phase specialist science laboratories to have a look around and to try out the equipment.

Year 6 have also had a very busy term with mock SATs, we were very proud of how resilient our Y6 students were during this week, well done everybody! Students have also been enjoying working with and supporting their buddies - everybody enjoys 'Buddy time' and it's great to see the different age groups working so well together.



Spotlight on Art

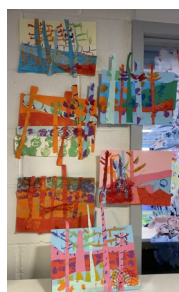
In our Primary phase, we are very lucky to have two specialist members of staff - Mrs Spedding and Mrs Mason, dedicated to teaching art to our children in Year R - Year 4. Mrs Mason and Mrs Spedding do a wonderful job of inspiring creativity in our students to produce some amazing pieces of art.

Last summer, pieces created by our current Y4 students were selected to be displayed in the National Gallery in London for the 'Take One Picture' exhibition. This exhibition features work from different primary schools around the country and this is the fifth successive time that work by CCS primary students has been selected to be displayed in the gallery. The theme this year showcased children's responses to the 'Finding of Moses' painting by Orazio Gentileschi. Our submission for this year was titled 'Gestures'. Students thought about how hands are used to communicate, and chose words that represent the painting to show in sign language. This example uses the word 'safety'.

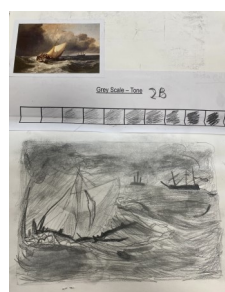


We were also really pleased to have been selected as the winner of a competition run by the Royal & Derngate theatre to 'Design your own safety curtain'. Our entry was created last summer by some of our children now in Year 3. The children designed creative shoes that could be worn by characters from shows that they have watched at the theatre. The designs were then placed onto the 3D model stage curtain to create a collaborative entry for the competition. As a reward for the winning designers, actor/beat box artist Ashley Sean Cook came into school to run a beatboxing workshop for the children whose work was selected to be part of the final winning design. In addition to that, the winning safety curtain design was projected onto the Royal Theatre stage before a performance of production 'Unexpected Twist', as well as being displayed in the Underground Foyer during the production run. We're sure you'll agree, the design looks great!

Elsewhere in primary, children in EYFS are "drawing to learn", rather than learning to draw! This involves freely exploring mark marking and mixing primary and secondary colours in colour theory lessons. The children are loving their first exposure to art lessons.



Year 1 have been focusing on controlled mark making skills using natural and man-made objects to create a collage inspired by American artist Carol Nelson. In Year 2, art lessons have been concentrating on features of the face, plotting a portrait and creating in the style of a Tudor artist. They have also discovered graded pencils and have been exploring using a greyscale tone to add depth to their sketch.



Earlier in the year, children in Year 3 explored the first archeological artists by looking at cave art. This resulted in a collaborative piece of artwork being produced which is currently displayed outside the Y3 classrooms. This term, they are using their 3D design and technology skills to re-create amphora pots, found in Ancient Greece.

Year 4 have enjoyed discovering all about one of the great masters - J.M.W Turner, by experimenting with using graphite sticks and wipes to express the tumultuous weather in 'Dutch Boats in a Gale'!



"Just wanted to thank you for getting the children to make Mother's Day cards to bring home. My child was really proud of his and it looks lovely. As parents we appreciate all the great art work you've done/do so thank you."

Parent