

Vice Principal's Message

As we reach the end of Term 2 and the whirlwind that is Christmas surrounds us, it can be difficult to remember all of the fantastic things that we have done earlier in the term.

Year 1 got a taste of old fashioned schooling on Victorian Day and, after a little trepidation at how strict the usually warm and friendly Miss Turner and Miss Losty had become, threw themselves into learning by rote and using ink pens to practice their writing. Our Diwali dance workshops were a big hit with students and we doubled down on the dance theme with success in the Y5 and 6 strictly competition; best wishes for those teams in the grand final next term. The term has also seen sporting success with our KS1 Curling Team through to the county final in Kettering and our Y5 & 6 boys football team being crowned as district champions: they will also be competing in the county finals next term.

It was wonderful to read so many entries for the 500 words short story writing competition, proof of how our focus on writing for pleasure is encouraging so many of our students to enjoy creating their own fiction. Six of our students have had their entries go through to the second round of judging in the BBC national competition out of 5000 in total, given that there are over 4 million Primary aged students in England, I'm sure you will agree that this is a pretty impressive result. Well done to Louis, Advik, Lottie, Laila, Madison and Daksh on their success and fingers crossed for the next round.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful and happy break, to thank you for all your support for the school this year and I look forward to seeing you next term.



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CCS Friends -



We'd like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to each and every member and volunteer from CCS Friends. This year, they have really gone above and beyond in so many ways to help our school, often prioritizing school and our needs above their own lives - we cannot thank them enough. They have organised numerous successful fundraising events and have come into school to help support our children on many occasions; they really are very special people. Every penny raised by CCS Friends is put back into the school. This calendar year alone, they have funded: our annual subscription for online reading platform Bug Club, sports day medals, costumes for our Strictly teams, prizes for 500 Words winners and many more.

It's not just fundraising that they have taken on this year. They have supported us in lots of other ways including sourcing a new Christmas tree for Primary Reception and for Year R, securing donations of popcorn for the Festive Film night, organising donation stations for toys, puzzles and equipment for our early years children, amongst so many other things - far too many to list!

The school budget just doesn't support purchases of these kind of items that enhance the children's school experience so the support that CCS Friends gives is invaluable; we couldn't get by without it - thank you CCS Friends!

Charity Events

This term has seen more successful charity events at Caroline Chisholm School, beginning with our annual Children in Need day. Children were able to come into school wearing their own clothes and Pudsey themed accessories in exchange for a donation of £1. As always, these days are filled with lots of excitement, spurred on by another visit from the wonderful Pudsey himself. When Pudsey visited our afternoon assembly, it was like being at a pop concert with the cheering, waving and noise from the children. Pudsey also visited our youngest students to say hello and introduce himself. It was a fabulous day and thanks to your generations contributions, we raised over £2000 to donate to the Children in Need charity.



The spirit of charity continued through the term with the sale of CCS Friends raffle tickets and donations to put in the hamper prizes. Again, thanks to your generous donations, CCS Friends managed to give away 50 hampers to some delighted winners. Sales of raffle tickets for these special hampers raised over £1700 for the school. We then had our first Jingle Bell Jog, where parents, children and staff alike were invited to run, jog or walk around the nature trail. This event raised another £650 for school!



Are you in receipt of any benefits?

In these very difficult times, we are aware that financial circumstances may have changed for lots of families. If this applies to your family, there is help available that you may qualify for. We would encourage you to visit the GOV.UK website to check if your changing circumstances mean that you are now entitled to one or more government benefits.

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits, you may also be entitled to apply for pupil premium funding for your child:

- Universal Credit (annual net income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying)

Pupil premium funding is additional school funding for disadvantaged children. It is paid directly to school to help improve the quality of education for that pupil. This funding could be used to pay for free school meals, items of school uniform, school trips, additional learning support and other things.

To find out more information and to apply for this funding for your child, please visit the [Free School Meals and pupil premium page](#) on the West Northamptonshire Council website.

Diwali Week

At the start of the term, we had a Diwali themed week in which we celebrated the festival of lights and its importance. Our Reception children made their own diya lamps out of clay and painted them with bright colours. Children in Year 3 - Year 6 took part in a special, energetic Indian dance workshop.



Curriculum Newsletters

At the end of each term, teachers post a Curriculum Newsletter for the following term on the relevant year group Team. These curriculum newsletters give important information about what your child will be learning during the following term in all subject areas. This can help parents support their child's learning at home. It would be really helpful if parents could mark each Teams post that has been read with a thumbs up so teachers know who has seen and read their posts.



If you are unsure of your child's Teams username and password, please contact the Primary Office who can resend these details to you.

Late Pickups!



This term, we have seen a sharp rise in the number of parents who are late arriving to collect their child after an extra-curricular club. While the odd spot of heavy traffic is sometimes unavoidable, parents should make every effort to collect their child on time. Very often, the club coach has another venue to be at shortly after the CCS club finishes.

If this continues, our clubs will look at bringing in a late collection charge for repeat offenders. PLEASE ENSURE YOU COLLECT YOUR CHILD AT THE CORRECT FINISH TIME FOR THE CLUB.

"I just wanted to express how proud we were to watch my daughter and her school friends dance at the weekend. They looked amazing and so professional. I was blown away with how good they looked on the stage!!! I wanted to say thanks to all the teachers and staff involved in putting the performance together"

Parent



Dates for Your Diary



School closes

Teacher training day

School reopens

FS Superhero Day

CCS Friends meeting

FS/Y6 height and weight check

Year 4 residential trip meeting

CCS Friends Y4 cake sale

Wednesday 20th December

Wednesday 3rd January

Thursday 4th January

Thursday 4th January

Monday 8th January

Wednesday 10th January

Wednesday 17th January

Friday 19th January

It's Christmas!

Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage children enjoyed our traditional Mince Pies and Milkshakes afternoon. With their parents, children took part in a variety of festive activities including listening to Christmas stories, decorating their own biscuit, creating their own Christmas crown and enjoying mince pies and milkshakes. They finished off the afternoon with a special performance for parents of Christmas songs out in the Primary playground. We had so much fun!



Breakfast with Santa



Children from FS, Year 1 and Year 2 had a wonderfully exciting breakfast with the big man himself! Everyone enjoyed a yummy breakfast of chocolate brioche, a yoghurt, a piece of fruit and a mini muffin. They then sat down to enjoy a fabulous festive story. The highlight of the morning was meeting Father Christmas who gave everyone a special present and wished them a very merry Christmas. Thank you to the House Team for organising this special event.



Key Stage 1

Year 1 and Year 2 children attended our traditional Christingle services at St George's Church last week. The mornings were spent making our Christingles ready for us all to walk to the church in the afternoon. Some of our children did a reading and we sang our Christingle songs, we had a lovely time.

Year 1 and 2 were also pleased to welcome their families into school for Christmas Craft afternoons. We made Christmas tree decorations, Santa handprints and Rudolph cards, as well as covering the classrooms in glitter!



Key Stage 2



KS2 children spent lots of time practicing for their Christmas Big Sing performances that parents were invited to come and watch. Each performance has been enthusiastically wonderful and really got us in the festive mood!

They have also been making their own bauble decorations for their performances and Christmas cards. Year 6 have enjoyed some fun Christmas crafts with their Year R buddies.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT CCS!