

Clowne Junior School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

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'Working together for success and happiness'

Key diary dates for the coming term are...

Autumn Term 1

9th September	Individual Photographs	30th September	Celebration Assembly for Y3/4
12th September	World War II Day – children to dress-up and bring appropriate lunch (if sandwiches)	4th October	Sponsored Walk event
13th September	Roald Dahl Day @ Stubbin Wood invite only	7th October	Celebration Assembly for Y5/6
W/b 16th September	Book Fair arrives in school	9th October	MAT worker & Parent Coffee morning 9 am
16th September	Celebration Assembly for Y3/4 9 am	14th October	INSET 3
16th September	Samba 'dance/gym' club starts 3:15 – 4:15	15th October	Celebration Assembly for Y3/4
17th September	Afterschool Chess Club starts	15th October	Parents' Evening
18th September	MAT worker & Parent Coffee morning 9 am	16th October	Parents' Evening
19th September	Parents' SRE meeting 5:15 pm	16th/17th October	Y5 complete First Aid Course
20th September	Y4 Swimming starts - pm	21st October	Celebration Assembly for Y5/6
23rd September	Celebration Assembly for Y5/6	22nd October	Y4 Trip to Kelham Island
25th September	School Improvement meeting 6 pm – all welcome	22nd October	Y5/6 Trip to Eden Camp
27th September	School Council visit to Stubbin Wood – invite only	23rd October	Y3 Trip to Kelham Island
		25th October	'Celebration of Behaviour' - letters to parents
		25th October	Last day of term



Yearly Calendar

I hope you have attached the 'Yearly Calendar' to your fridge. It tells you about the events we have already planned so you can plan your year and put key events in your family's diary. There will be additional events and we will try to give you as much notice as possible. There will inevitably be some changes, but we will keep these to a minimum.

Clowne After School Club

Just a quick reminder that the after-school club is here to help with your day-to-day after school childcare needs.

They provide a fun and safe environment for your child, offering a wide variety of super activities. They also have a gardening club where your child can help grow fruit and vegetables which are then offered alongside the usual snack they provide.

You will find the prices are very competitive: 15:15 - 16:45 £6.00

15:15 - 17:45 £8.00

Please contact the school office for further details. Mrs Araniti has moved on to pastures new so, until we appoint a new manager, Mrs Whyatt or Mrs Foster will be available to take bookings on 07596 111862.



What are we learning about this year?

This year the whole school will be covering some topics together and we are hoping that it will raise awareness of events around the world.

During the autumn term, the children will be studying '**We Are Britain**' – **WW2**. The Y3/4 children will be visiting **Kelham Island** and the Y5/6 children, **Eden Camp**. On **Thursday 12th September**, we will be hosting a WW2 day and asking the children to dress-up in appropriate costumes. These will also be used on the trips and during the VE day celebration later on in the term.

During the spring term, the children will be studying '**Frozen Planet**' – a focus on habitats and environmental issues. On 25th February, the whole school will be visiting **Chester Zoo**. The final part of this project will be fundraising for the World Wildlife Fund; hopefully we will be able to adopt animals at risk of extinction.

Finally, during the summer term, our focus will be on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Our school **sports day** will be held in April at the **Sheffield Institute of Sport** and parents will be able to join us in the afternoon to watch our racing events.

School Gates

For safeguarding reasons, Derbyshire County Council have advised us to keep the large school gates closed at all times. Therefore, you should be aware of the following times for accessing the school grounds:

8:30 to 9:10 am – side gates open for access to the school grounds. Please be aware that there NO supervision on the yard at this time.

8:40 am – most teachers come out to speak with adults whilst children can filter into the cloakroom/classroom.

8:45 am – all teachers go back inside to settle children.

8:50 am – cloakroom doors closed and registers taken.

Any child arriving after the doors are locked, will be classed as 'late' and will need to come through the main entrance.

In the event of rain, the cloakroom doors will open for access at 8:30 am.



2:55 pm – gates open for access to the school grounds. They will remain open for After School Club access.

3:10 pm – children finish school and teachers will be available for parents and carers.

Website

Over next term, we will be developing our website. We are hoping to make it more 'user friendly' and have more content. In the meantime, please enquire with school directly if you have any questions or queries. Thank you for your patience with this matter.



Family Worker

We are excited to welcome our new Family Worker, Jeanette Clayton, who has started in school. She is working across both the infants and juniors to support families and offer guidance on a number of different areas including sleep and routines.

On Wednesday 18th September at 9 am, she will be hosting a coffee morning (alongside Mrs Bennett) to introduce herself and the work she will be doing. All parents and carers are welcome. These coffee mornings will be hosted every three weeks to support and offer advice on a number of issues.



INSET Day 2019-20

Please also note that the remaining INSET days this year are:

Monday 14th October 2019

Friday 3rd April 2020

Monday 1st June 2020



Home School Agreement

Attached to this newsletter is the Home-School Agreement. Please read it carefully with your child before signing it and returning it to school. A copy will be available on the website along with the Behaviour policy. We have tweaked the Behaviour Grid sent out at the end of last year and reminded the children about it during the first lessons back.

Dojos

We started using this system at the end of last year and are very interested in developing its use this year. If you are not already hooked up, please speak to your child's teacher to get the log on details. Although it is a secure site, all of our parents have access to it therefore, parents must be mindful of comments made. Its main focus is to raise awareness of activities in school and celebrate achievement. We will remove comments we feel are not appropriate and may delete a parent's account if we deem it necessary.



PE Kits and Swimming

PE days can often be moved around so it is wise for children to bring their kit everyday. It is important, especially in PE, that children have the correct clothes and shoes to prevent accidents. Earrings must be removed by the child (they can't be covered over) so, if you can, please try to time new piercings to the school summer holidays.



Y4 start swimming starts on **Friday 20th September**. The children have already had a letter regarding the arrangements.



Parents' meetings

During the half term, we will be hosting the following parents' meetings:

- Wednesday 18th September – Lea Green residential meeting @5:15 pm
- Thursday 19th September – SRE meeting to learn about our relationship curriculum @ 5:15 pm
- Wednesday 25th September – School Improvement @ 6 pm. Parents can find out more about how the school intends to develop in the coming years.



School Residentials

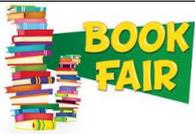
We will be sending out the information for this year's residentials. We will be asking parents to return the reply slip and deposit in the interim before setting up payment plans. Due to the nature of these types of trips and the sizable initial cost to school, no child will be able to attend if they have not paid in full.

School After School Clubs

Mr Smithurst is organising a range of sports clubs before and after school throughout the week. These will start from the week beginning **Monday 16th September** and there will be a small cost. A letter to sign up will be coming out this week. There is a number limit so please make sure to send your reply in quickly.



Mr Glasswell will again host Chess Club so look out for that letter as well.



Book Fair

The Book fair will be coming to school in the week beginning Monday 16th September. You will be able to purchase books during the week. School receives a percentage of the money taken to purchase books for school so maybe you could make a book an early Christmas present.



School Swimming Sessions

You should have received a letter regarding swimming sessions for Miss Jones' and Miss Schofield's classes. The sessions start on Friday 20th September. Miss Jones' class is in school time but Miss Schofield's class will need to be collected from The Arc at 3:30pm. Any questions please see the Y4 staff.

World War 2 Day

On Thursday the children are encouraged to dress up in WW2 costume to take part in our WW2 day. Below are the details sent before the summer to remind you about the day.

On Thursday 12th September, we will be holding a WW2 day. On this day, children should come wearing WW2/ 1940s themed clothing to transport them back in time. Children could come dressed as an evacuee and could even wear their evacuee tags and gas mask box that they'll make during the week. We'd love children to really get in role and engage with the time period during the topic which will last right up until Christmas. Therefore, once they have used their costume on Thursday 12th September, please save it as they will have another two opportunities to wear it again: one of these opportunities will be on the trip and the other on the end of topic celebration day.



Also on this day, if children are sandwiches, we ask that their lunch is made up of the kinds of foods eaten during this time. To add that extra 1940s touch, please try and send the packed lunch in a paper bag. The school kitchen will be creating school lunches along this theme too for children who want to have a school dinner.

There are also **2 trips** linked with the topic, one for Y5/6 to Eden Camp and one for Y3/4 to Kelham Island. All of these trips will take place during the week beginning **Monday 21st October**.



Teachers on The Yard

We are trying to make it easier for parents and carers to speak with school staff, therefore, teachers will be out on the yard at the beginning and end of the day. They will come out at **8:40 am** to speak with parents and then again at **3:10 pm**.

For safeguarding reasons, we are asking ALL parents to leave their children at the cloakroom door. Staff are more than willing to meet with parents/carers, when they are not teaching, to discuss more confidential matters.



Lunchtime arrangements

During the first few weeks of term when the weather is still suitable, we will be offering pupils with packed lunches the opportunity to eat outside if they wish to do so. Pupils who do not wish to eat outside will eat in the dinner hall as normal.

Please inform the school office if you would prefer your child not to eat outside so that we can inform the Mid-Day Supervisors.



Did you lose that jumper in the first week?

We had a huge amount of lost property at the end of last term. To prevent this, please label ALL of your child's items (in as many places as possible) to prevent them being misplaced. However, if you do lose items please search the cloakroom and then pop to the lost property box located in the main school corridor.



Sunny Days

Please apply sun screen/cream to your child on sunny days. As the application of cream in school is difficult to manage, we would prefer you to use the sun screen/cream that only needs applying once a day as this can be done in the morning, before school. Please can children also bring plenty of drinks and a sunhat or cap to wear when playing out in the sunshine (please write your child's name inside the hat/cap).



Asthma Spray

Please check that your child has all necessary sprays and spacers in school. It is also important that that are named and in date. Asthma sprays are kept in each classroom and managed by the class teacher. Children are encouraged to access the sprays as and when they need it.



Concerts and Performances

You may have noticed in the yearly planner that we have staggered the year group concerts throughout the year. This decision was taken for a number of reasons. Staff felt there was a lot of pressure on parents, resources and curriculum time when it was all done at Christmas. By staggering the events, it releases that pressure on the hall and other resources. All year groups will hold a concert/performance during the year with 2 showings (one afternoon and one evening). The time of year will not always reflect the type of performance i.e. Y4 will not perform an Easter concert just because it is in March.

Sponsorship

We are looking for companies, with a tie to the school, to sponsor a range of different things including new sports kits and a court yard improvement project. We are aware that some companies e.g. HSBC and The Post Office, offer opportunities to apply for funding. If your company or the company you work for would be interested in this type of project, please contact the school office. Thank-you, in advance, for any support you may provide.



'Standing News Items' (things included in every newsletter for your on-going information)

Are you entitled to benefits?

If you are claiming benefits, you may be eligible to receive free school meals. Please could we ask that you make an application for free school meals, even if your child does not wish to receive a meal in school. Schools are allocated £1,320 per child for every child entitled to free school meals. Please type in the link below to access the Derbyshire County Council online application.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Complaints/Issues

We try extremely hard to ensure things run smoothly, but occasionally issues can arise. In the first instance, please see your class teacher, if you do not feel the issue has been resolved you can then ask to speak with any member of the Senior Leadership Team including Mrs Newton-Wall, Mr Stewart, Mr Butler and Mrs Yapp. If you need privacy or unable to contact the required person, please pop into the school office who will try to help or take details for you to pass on.

Attendance/Arriving to School on Time

As I am sure you appreciate, regular school attendance is essential if pupils are to maximise their educational opportunities. Clowne Junior School has a responsibility to provide the best education possible, but we can only do this if pupils attend regularly. Taking time out of school for holidays can be disruptive; it can also be difficult for pupils to catch up on work missed.

The Department of Education (DofE) have recently issued updated guidance that states: "The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in **exceptional circumstances** and the Head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave".

Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school." Therefore, the Headteacher may only consider giving permission for a pupil to be absent from school in term time in '**exceptional circumstances**' and proof will be requested by the Headteacher. If you choose to disregard this guidance the Local Authority may take legal action under section 444 of the 1996 Education Act which states that you have a legal obligation to ensure that your child attends school regularly. "

Clowne Junior School is committed to raising the profile of attendance and its link to achievement. It is important therefore that you work with us by ensuring that your son/daughter attends school on time, every day and by not taking your son/daughter out of school for holidays during term time.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Out of School Appointments

If you have to take your child out for any appointments (hospital, opticians, dentist, etc.) could you try to bring them in for registration prior, if at all possible. This will ensure that appointments will not affect their attendance.

Reminder that the office requires a copy of any letters, appointment cards or texts for any appointment made. Also, if for any reason you wish your child to remain inside at playtimes/lunchtimes or be excused from PE, please provide their teacher with a note so that can be recorded and actioned.

Allergies in school

We currently have a number of children who have extreme allergies; therefore, we ask that you consider the types of items you put in your child's lunchbox.

Asthma Inhalers/Medication

Inhalers - If your child has been prescribed an inhaler it is vital we have one available in school. Your doctor will give you a spare inhaler to keep at school. Please ensure we are kept up to date if there are any changes.

Medication - We are able, in most cases, to administer medication to your child but it must **not** contain aspirin/Ibuprofen (unless prescribed by your GP/dentist). It is important that the school medical forms are completed for all children requiring any medication. Non prescribed medication can only be given for up to 7 days.

Safeguarding Contact Numbers

Ensuring that children are safe is a responsibility for everyone. There have been many incidents over the years where children have come to harm and neighbours or local people have said that they were concerned but didn't take action or know what to do. To help you if you are concerned about a child there are some numbers below that can be used to report concerns. If you do this, please try to provide as much information as possible. Calls may be anonymous.

Derbyshire Safeguarding team: 01629 533190

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

When school staff have concerns about a child, they inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Newton-Wall) or the Deputies (Mrs Linda Kinsey and Mr Andy Stewart). In most cases a member of staff speaks to the parent about the concern. We may ring the safeguarding team first to ask for advice about this. There are some concerns where we have to refer to Social Care. Please be aware that this is our professional responsibility and we always put children's well-being first.