

# Colgate School Newsletter

## March 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

We had our first of two parent/ carer evenings yesterday evening which was well attended. If you haven't signed up yet, there are some spaces for next Tuesday evening (12th), Mrs Oakes has the sign up sheets in the office.

This year we will be holding a third parent/carers evening in the Summer term to replace the written report that comes home in July. There will still be a summary report coming home but most progress information will be shared through the teacher meetings.

We have had some good news re the parking situation at school. A bid to have the footpath that leads to the school gate improved has been approved. This will now be an all weather path. As a result, we will be promoting 'Park and Stride' from the Dragon pub car park. This will take the much more pleasant route from the carpark, along Springfield Lane and down the improved footpath to the gate, therefore avoiding Forest Road. We will be encouraging parents/ carers and children to take this short walk each day so avoiding congestion in Blackhouse Road. Currently, some of our older children are taking this walk to the car park which is great for their independence and the traffic flow. If you would like your child to take part in this, please let their class teacher know. I will write again when the improvements to the footpath are starting so you can plan your journey. At this time, we are aiming to have an adult at the car park to walk back to school with children at 8.15 am but children in Apple and Maple classes would need to have a parent or carer accompanying them too.

Rocketeers after school club have now started with us. They have made a really positive start and made the library a very welcoming place to be after school each day. If you're interested in signing up, please come in to meet the staff or visit their website.

You will have seen in an email on Monday from our PTA team. Due to other commitments, they are stepping down from their roles. A massive thanks goes to them for everything they've organised and raised for the school during their time. The children have benefited from all of the activities and the resources they've subsidised. Thank you to all of the team.

If you are interested in taking part/leading the PTA, please let us know. There will also be nomination forms out today (email sent this morning) as we also have a vacancy for a parent/carers governor. If you have any questions about either post, please speak to us in the office. Both of these roles play an important part in the Colgate school community and we would welcome your input and support.

Lastly, please do check the dates for diaries for upcoming events in the school calendar. All dates are also on the school website for easy access.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Rebecca Winn

## Dates for your calendars

### March

7th—Cedar class trip

8th—Oak class trip

11th—Class photos

12th—Parent/Carer evening

15th—Red Nose Day, Non uniform or wear something red

15th—Willow Class assembly

W/B 18th—Year R/1 Balance bike workshops, info to follow

18th—Year 6 SATs parent/carers meeting 3.15pm

22nd—Apple Class assembly

28th—Maple Class assembly/ Maple Class superhero dress up day

29th—Oak Class assembly

### April

W/B 1st—Colgate Book Week

3rd—Year 6 Junior citizen visit

4th—Dressing up book day

4th—Cedar Class cornet assembly

5th—Easter service 9.15am

5th—Last day of term

## Don't forget Read and Roast!

Every Thursday we welcome parents and carers to join your child from 11/ 11.30am (to suit you) in class and then to have a roast dinner and join playtime. The meal costs £3, if you'd like to sign up for any Thursday please call Mrs Oakes.



shutterstock - 688947622

## Working With Others

At Colgate School we are a member of the Working With Others (WWO) schools partnership. Working With Others is all about teaching children the skills they need to work as part of a team. It raises attainment in learning but also helps children to be more motivated, engaged and happier at school. It isn't just about learning at school though, it's about providing children with the fundamental skills they will need to succeed when working and interacting with others throughout their lives.

Our current Working With Others skills this term is **turn taking**.

Turn-taking is a life skill necessary for social success throughout life but being able to take turns is not a skill that develops naturally for many children. Many children need to be taught how to take turns and require many opportunities to practice. Teaching turn taking at school or at home involves many skills such as a social understanding of why we share; self-regulation skills; what to do when I am waiting; and, knowing when to take a turn.

When it comes to learning about taking turns, your child will learn from you. If you try to speak to your partner, your friends and your children in the way you'd like your child to speak, it'll help your child to learn.

You can also teach your child by prompting, guiding and practising. Your child is likely to learn best when you tell him/her clearly what you want him/her to do. For example, you might:

- prompt your child by saying, 'Please say thank you to Grandma for taking you to the park'
- guide your child by saying, 'Sarah, if I'm speaking to someone you need to say "Excuse me", and then wait until I'm ready to listen'
- have practice conversations with your child where you take turns asking questions and listening to answers.

By preparing a child to learn about taking turns you are setting them up for successful interactions with peers and throughout life.

Please take the opportunity to speak to your child about this WWO focus and see how good turn taking works at home!



## What is an ELSA

An ELSA is a specialist teaching assistant with a wealth of experience of working with children. ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by the Educational Psychologists in your Local education authority. An ELSA is a warm and caring person who wants to help your child feel happy in school and to reach their potential educationally. Their aim is to remove the barriers to learning and to have happy children in school and at home.

Please do talk to the ELSA in our school if you have any problems with your child.

Mrs Bicknell



## ELSAs can help with

Loss and bereavement

Self-esteem

Social skills

Emotions

Friendship issues

Relationships

Anger management

Behaviour

Anxiety

Bullying

Conflict

Relaxation techniques

[www.elsa-support.co.uk](http://www.elsa-support.co.uk)

## ELSA

Emotional

Literacy

Support

Assistant



### Individual session



The ELSA will plan their sessions for your child very carefully. The session consists of several parts.

#### Emotional check in

This is an opportunity to talk about feelings,

#### Main activity

The ELSA will plan the activity to a learning objective. Something your child will be able to do at the end of the session that they cannot do now. This is usually a 'I can' statement such as 'I can tell you about my strengths' (A self-esteem objective). The ELSA will encourage your child to tell you about their talents or personal characteristics such as 'kind', 'caring', 'helpful' or 'brave'. The child will then make something to reinforce those strengths.

#### Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise to help get them ready to go back to class

Your child will now be able to answer the question 'I can tell you about my strengths'

### Group session

The ELSA will plan their sessions for your child very carefully. The session consists of several parts, the first two parts consists of a circle-time where children sit in a circle and take turns to speak.

#### Emotional check in

This is an opportunity to talk about feelings,

#### Warm up activity

A fun game or activity to help relax your child.

#### Main activity

This is similar to the individual session but your child will be encouraged to work with other children. This helps with co-operation, social skills, friendship and gives a sense of belonging. A learning objective will be set for the group of children which they will all be able to answer at the end of the session.

#### Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise to help get them ready to go back to class

### Typical problems

#### A very angry child

The ELSA will take the child through an anger management intervention to help them recognise their anger triggers, techniques to avoid those triggers and calming down techniques.

#### A loved pet has died

ELSAs are trained in bereavement and understand that the loss of a pet is probably the first experience of death for your child. They will work with your child to help them feel supported in school.