

Colgate School Newsletter

October 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for attending recent open classrooms and parents' evening sessions. It has been really positive to meet with you all in support of your children's learning. If you were unable to attend either, open classroom information is now on the school website under your child's class link. If you haven't met with the teacher, please contact the school office to arrange a time.

Following feedback from parent/ carer questionnaires re homework, we have discussed how we do this as a staff and are going to implement a new system. Education city is an online learning platform which the children enjoy using. Class teachers will set a task on the platform for children to complete. We would like the children to complete the task with your support which will enable them to share their learning with you. If you don't have access to a laptop or tablet device for children to work on, please let your child's class teacher know so that they can give children the opportunity to complete the tasks. Whilst we want to encourage children to further develop and share their learning through homework, we don't want this to take away from family time or free time. By using Education city, we hope for this to be an enjoyable learning experience. There will not be sanctions for children who don't complete the tasks but we do expect Years 5 and 6 to organise their time to achieve the tasks. This will prepare them for Secondary school expectations. Teachers may also set a family learning activity for children which links to the class topic.

Reading at home each day remains an expectation for all children, this may take the form of reading independently, reading to you or being read to by you. All of which will develop children's skills and love of reading. Thank you for your support with all home learning, it really helps us to develop your child's skills in school.

Next half term, please look out for new photographs of the children on the school website. We are very grateful to Flo Westbrook for taking a range of fantastic images of the school. In addition to the website, some of these will be selected for display in school.

The Dragon pub is now open for breakfast on Mondays to Saturdays. As a result, they can only accommodate parking during the morning if you are also purchasing a breakfast item. If this isn't something you would like to do, please remember that our drop off system works really well from 8.20am. The playground is fully secure and an extra adult (in addition to the person on the gate) is on duty from 8.30am. Congestion occurs nearer to 8.40 so to avoid this, please drop off a little earlier if you can.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the school office or speak to me on the school gate.

Kind regards,
Mrs. Rebecca Winn

Dates for your diaries

October 2017

- 16th – 20th Hindleap Warren residential trip
- 18th Open afternoon – Sept 2018 Year R parents 1.30pm
- 23rd – 27th HALF TERM
- 30th – INSET day

November 2017

- 2nd—FCPS/ PTA disco 5pm to 6.15pm
- 16th – Open afternoon – Sept 2018 Year R parents 1.30pm
- 27th – 1st Year 6 Bikeability

December 2017

- 4th – Year 1,2, 3 Christmas production 2pm
- 5th – Year 1,2,3 Christmas production 6pm
- 8th – School Pantomime 1.30pm
- 12th—Tea with Santa (Years R,1,2,3)
- 14th — FCPS/PTA Christmas fair 3 - 5pm
- 18th – Christmas service 9.30am
- 19th – Christmas dinner and Christmas non uniform day
- 20th – Last day of term

INSET DAYS AND TERM DATES 2017—2018

Start of Spring term 2018 4th January

Half term 12th to 16th February

Monday 19th February INSET

Easter break 30th March to 13th April

Summer half term 28th May to 1st June

Monday 4th June INSET

END OF TERM Tuesday 24th July 2018

Parent/ Grand parent/ Carer reading support

We welcome reading support in school. An extra reading session per week for a child can really develop their skills. If you feel you can offer a slot of your time to read with our children, please let Mrs Oakes know and we will allocate you to a class.



Working With Others

At Colgate School we are incredibly lucky to be 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 Working With Others skills this term revolve around active listening (except in EYFS where they will be practising knowing and using names, good eye contact and taking turns). Our first whole school skill is stopping and being ready to listen. Good listening skills are needed to develop empathy and understanding with pupils and to assess whether they understand what they are being taught. Listening skills also help pupils share ideas, take turns, compromise and negotiate in school.



Working With Others
Accredited School - 2016

Governor's news

We are pleased to share that we have a new Chair of Governors; Mr Summersfield. (See last month's newsletter for his introduction) A sincere thanks goes to Dr Bantin for his service of 11 years to the school. He will continue to be a governor to the school for the current school year.

Each newsletter you will find an introduction to each of our Governing body members. This month we are introducing Deena McCallen.

'For those of you who don't already know me, I am a parent governor with two daughters at Colgate. I am now in my second four-year term on the governing body at Colgate and have found it a fascinating and rewarding experience working as a team and finding out about the varied elements that are involved in running a school like Colgate. We strive to move the school forward in ways which constantly enhance our children's opportunities to learn and thrive.

I thoroughly recommend to parents, carers, grandparents and anyone else who wants the best opportunities for children to consider joining the governing body or getting involved in some way with the school. I have twenty years' experience of working, volunteering and leadership in the education sector in private, state, charitable and community organisations. I have taught students of all ages both in the UK and overseas and am a passionate believer that learning is a lifelong activity. It is for this reason that it is so important our children are inspired by their early learning experiences at primary school as this will help them manage the challenges ahead and enable them to achieve their full potential.'



Welcome to our new School Council!

This year's school council are Pippa and Harry in Maple Class; Alice and Kyron in Oak Class; Tilly and in Cedar Class and Amber and Melissa in Willow Class. (Apple class reps to be confirmed) Our goal this year is to listen to the wonderful suggestions of all the children in the school to make it an even better place. Last year we changed:

- The menu by going around the classes with a survey so the entire school could have a say on the menu and what they wanted to change.
- We sorted out the equipment and the boxes so that children had lots of lovely playground activities.
- We had meetings with Mrs Winn, Mrs Sanders and the school governors.
- We also introduced suggestion boxes so that when a child had a suggestion to make this incredible school even better, they would write it on a piece of paper and put it in the box so we wouldn't miss any ideas
- We also gave out jobs to each class. Apple class had the responsibility to tidy their outside area. Maple Class delivered the registers to all the class rooms. Oak class ensured the playground was litter free. Cedar class kept the ICT room tidy and Willow class tidied the library.

This year we are going to try and improve our school even more. The school council love to help and will always be open to suggestions. The school council meet up and talk about what we could do to make the school even better. We also take that time to look at the suggestions in the boxes and discuss them.

Melissa and Amber,
Willow class

