

Colgate School Newsletter

January 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year, I hope you all had a great Christmas break. Thank you for all the cards and gifts you shared with the staff at the end of term, they were very much appreciated.

Your child will have brought home a questionnaire for you to fill out, thank you for completing these. They give us a good picture of our next steps and a chance to take in your ideas and suggestions for our school.

We will shortly be having solar panels fitted to the school roof. This will take approximately three weeks to complete and will help reduce our electricity bills and energy footprint. There should be no disruption to learning or play times but you will see some scaffolding and contractors on site during the school day.

We are pleased to welcome Rocketeers after school provision to Colgate. This will begin after February half term and there will be a chance for your child to sample the service on Monday February 25th which is an INSET day so the school is otherwise closed. Please see the information further down the newsletter.

If you can spare some time, we welcome volunteer parent/carer helpers in school. We would especially like some help once a week in our school library. This would involve organising the books and also hearing readers and sharing stories with the children. Please let Mrs Oakes or Mrs Winn know if this is something you would like to help with.

Later this month, we will be welcoming student teachers to Apple, Oak and Cedar classes from Brighton University. We're also really happy to see Mrs Bicknell back after recovering from her foot operation.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs. Rebecca Winn

Dates for your calendars

January

21st—Fire service visit Apple, Maple and Cedar classes

31st—Touch rugby session, Year 5 boys

February

14th—Travelling book fair arrives

18th—22nd Half term

25th—INSET day and Rocketeers taster day

March

5th and 11th—Parent/Carer evenings

5th Class photos

April

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.



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Governor's news

Each newsletter we introduce one of our Governing body members. This month we are introducing Joanne Lintern - Goodall.

'My background and training is in the Performing Arts and I have worked as a performer, choreographer and free lance dance teacher for many years. I currently work as a teacher of Dance and Drama at St Wilfrid's Catholic Secondary School in Crawley. I also work at 'Ariel' drama academies. I am a mother to two wonderful boys, my eldest son is currently in Maple class. I'm looking forward to supporting the school in my new role as a governor.'





EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are very pleased to announce that as of the 26th of February Rocketeers Childcare will be providing after school care at Colgate Primary school. Open from the end of school until 6pm, Rocketeers prides itself in offering good quality, structured childcare to support working parents and their families. At the end of school children are offered a healthy, hearty snack to set them up for the rest of the session and then invited to take part in a variety of activities which are planned along a theme, with our caring and supportive staff on hand to guide and encourage the children. We offer a great balance of child led and adult supported activities to keep the children engaged during their time with us and ensure that they have fun! If this is something which is of interest to you then please contact us on 01403 371020 or by emailing enquiries@rocketeerschildcare.co.uk. There is no minimum session requirement and ad hoc sessions can also be booked.

As we will also be providing childcare on Inset days, on February 25th we are running a special offer for the inset day where you can book 9 – 3 childcare for £20! Please contact us via the information above if you would like to book. if you do not need childcare on the day but would like to pop in, you are invited to ‘Meet the Team’ anytime between 10 – 2 when you can just drop in and see the set up as well as meeting the staff – who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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 Working With Others skills this term are **communication and listening**.

When you adults communicate with children or when children communicate with each other, a lot of the communication is without words. Nonverbal communication includes facial expressions, body language, body contact, eye contact, personal space and tone of voice.

Positive nonverbal communication can improve relationships inside and outside of school. When a pupil is speaking, perhaps in front of the class, positive body language from the listeners (eye contact, encouraging smiles, nodding) can help build confidence and demonstrates the speaker is being listened to.

Negative nonverbal communication – for example, fidgeting, eye rolling, or a frown –might send a negative message. Children can feel rejected and lose confidence if this happens consistently.

For the next two week, our Working With Others focus is non-verbal listening, the idea that you can show someone you are listening to what they are saying without verbally acknowledging them.

Non verbal communication is also important for teaching your child how to relate to and get along with other people, which is an important skill for life. For example, if you stop what you're doing to listen to your child talk about their day, it shows them how to give people their full attention too.

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

