



## Cliddesden Primary School Headteacher's Newsletter Spring Term Issue 2 31 January 2020

Dear parents, carers and members of our school community

In the last newsletter I mentioned how the key priority on our School Strategic Plan this year is to further develop and enhance our wider curriculum to ensure all the subjects, in addition to Maths and English, are taught with same rigour, and that the children acquire the knowledge and skills they need to make good progress.

This week I was delighted to see a range of high quality learning across the school. In Willow Class the foundation stage children were learning about the planets and produced some lovely drawings of the planets. The Year 1 children produced some quality art work in the style of Mondrian.

Beech Class have been learning about past and modern day explorers and were learning about space explorers such as Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong.

In PE Chestnut Class were practising and performing gymnastic routines to music and were evaluating their own performances. In Oak Class a History lesson involved debating whether The Vikings deserved the bad reputation for being cruel invaders that has been bestowed upon them.



Last week the whole school visited The Southampton City Art Gallery. During a guided tour the children learned about different artists and styles through looking at specific works in the collection. This was followed by an art workshop where the children produced seascapes using different media.

Finally the children searched for specific paintings and sculptures and had time to see the whole gallery.



To add to our children's 'cultural passport', on the 11<sup>th</sup> February we have a visit from the Zamble Dance Company. They will be leading African dance and drumming workshops with all the classes. Some of our older children will remember them from a few years back and what a great experience it was.

*Kenneth Davies*  
Headteacher

## A GOVERNOR VISIT REPORT By Jake Dovey

I am the governor linked to the English and IT subject areas, and I visited on 8<sup>th</sup> January to examine how Cliddesden teaches reading. I met with Mrs Nicholson, who is the English manager, and together we observed reading being taught in all four classes.

I saw reading being taught in different ways tailored to class and ability. I was very pleased to hear the enthusiasm with which the children talk about their reading. I picked out children to talk to and found that no matter what their ability, they expressed a fondness for reading. I believe this has a lot to do with the way the school encourages reading for pleasure, even setting aside class time for this.

Following our class visits and some individual reading with the children, Mrs Nicholson and I talked through the school's teaching plans and the measurements used to assess the children's progress. Following my visit, I am pleased to report that the reading provision at Cliddesden continues to be excellent. I will revisit after Easter to look at writing and then again at the end of the year to see how the children have progressed in both areas.

## MAD HAIR DAY



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February we will be supporting the local charity St Michael's Hospice. It will once again be 'Mad Hair Day' and we ask that for a suggested £1 donation the children come to school with 'mad hair'. Hair styles can be spiky, scruffy, curly, straight, colourful or whatever they wish. This will also be a non-uniform day.

## SPORTS



This week four of our Key Stage 1 children took part in a gymnastics competition at the Active Life Centre. They all performed well and showed their agility and gymnastic skills, coming 6<sup>th</sup> place in the competition.

Twelve children from Oak Class took part in an inter school indoor athletics competition. Although coming last, the places were close and Mrs Robinson informed me that all the children tried their best and worked very well as a team, supporting each other. A special mention was given today in assembly to Ellie-Rose for showing the school values of kindness and teamwork during the competition.

## NOTICES FROM THE OFFICE

It is Hampshire County Council, and therefore School, policy that school meals should be paid for in advance. We are very aware that this is not always possible and will always work with parents if there are problems with this. However, we will be sending out reminder letters each week and these will be sent to anyone who has a debt for lunches even if it is a very small amount. This ensures that any problems are dealt with sooner rather than later and that all are aware of how their account is looking.

To view diary dates and class pages, find out about our curriculum, read all about our events in school, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website [www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk)

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