



**Cliddesden Primary School**  
**Headteacher's Newsletter**  
**Spring Term Issue 4**  
**6 March 2020**

Dear parents, carers and members of our school community

We have been celebrating books and reading this week at Cliddesden. Earlier in the week Mrs Nunn came in to lead dance workshops for all the classes around different book or story-related themes. On Tuesday we held our annual spelling Bee; congratulations to Zoe, Elsie, Bluebell, Luke A, Ewan and Alizé for winning in their age groups and to the overall winner, Eli. On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters. As ever there were some delightful and



inventive costumes. We held a special book-themed assembly where I read some poems by my favourite children's poet, Michael Rosen. We held a Big Book Off Challenge as part of World Book Day with a range of challenges throughout the week. The winning classes, who completed the most challenges, were Willow and Chestnut. Oak and Beech came joint second, they each completed the same amount of challenges as each other.

Reading is a real strength in our school and a very important part of the curriculum. This is down, not only to dedicated teaching, but also valued parental support. It is important that you hear your child read on a regular basis no matter whether they are in Year R or 6. Older children can always read to their younger siblings if they have any.

You will have seen a letter I shared regarding Coronavirus - advice and support (26.02.20). This letter contained national guidance from Public Health England and can I please reassure that I am not only constantly checking this guidance, as I appreciate this is an evolving situation, but I am also receiving updates from the Department for Education. I understand that this is a worrying time for everybody but I can reassure you that we are acting in full compliance, being led by national guidance, and will respond to developments/directions from the UK government. The [111.nhs.uk/covid-9](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-9) website also offers advice and common questions on COVID19.

We do not want to worry the children by discussing this issue in detail but as the single most important preventative measure is frequent and thorough washing of hands, we are reminding the children to maintain this practice when using the toilet and before meal times etc. [nhs.uk/best-way-to-wash-your-hands](https://nhs.uk/best-way-to-wash-your-hands)

*Kenneth Davies*  
*Headteacher*

## OAK CLASS VISITS THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



Last week I had the pleasure of going on the Oak Class Educational Visit to the Houses of Parliament. After visiting The Clink Prison in Bankside we had a guided tour around the Houses of Parliament, which involved learning about its history and modern day practises. We were able to view a debate from the galleries in both the Houses of Lords and Commons. Then the

children had a workshop about The Suffragette Movement and about how issues are debated in the houses. Finally, our local MP, Ranil Jayawardena, came to meet us and the children got the opportunity to ask him questions about the environment and school funding! It was a thoroughly enjoyable and insightful day.



## HATCH WARREN AND BEGGARWOOD BIODIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT ZONE

The link below has information on proposals for an environmental improvement programme in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area. Please take a look and also if you have time complete the survey at the bottom of the page.

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/hatchwarren-and-beggarwood-biz>

Here is another interesting article from The Gazette that a parent sent in to me about a subject I have addressed several times in newsletters.

<https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/18276243.basingstoke-drivers-leave-engine-running-set-fined-20/>

## INTER SCHOOL SPORTS NEWS

This week our Tag Rugby team played in the third leg of the Norman League Tournament at Chalk Ridge. We began by defeating leaders Hatch Warren 3-2 and drew our remaining games against St John's and Chalk Ridge. Despite the driving rain and mud, we played very well and were unlucky not to win all our games as we did have some tries disallowed for not placing the ball properly. Something we will now work on.



We have one final meeting at our home venue at Brighton Hill on 30 March 2020. We currently stand in second place, 6 points behind the leaders Hatch Warren. It may seem a long shot to catch Hatch Warren but we will certainly give it a go!

On Thursday 27 February, seven Year 6 members of the netball team participated in the annual High Five competition. Led by captain, Oliver, the team confidently took to the court to achieve a 4-0 victory against St John's Primary School. Our next game was against Park View, we managed another victory with one more game to go to ensure entry into the next round we were up against our arch rivals North Waltham. The match was touch and go but with amazing teamwork and a touch of encouragement from the side lines Cliddesden not only won but sailed through to the next round as

top of their group. This was a great experience for the team and really boosted their confidence. We reached the finals which will take place on Thursday 19 March 2020.

## DIGITAL SAFETY

A reminder of some useful websites.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/six-tips-teaching-children-technology?collection=parenthood-tips-and-tricks>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Here is a reminder of legal age restrictions for social media sites.



## NOTICES FROM THE OFFICE

We have found some jewellery in the playground, possibly from yesterday's dress up day. A bracelet and rings. Please see the office if they are yours.

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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