



CLARE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday, December 3rd,

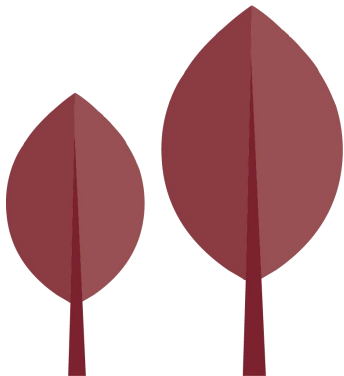


A Time for Reflection

Newsletter



CLARE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL



I would like to start my last newsletter of 2019 with a similar message to one I first issued two years ago, a term after I first joined the school. The primary league tables are about to be published and, as I wrote at the end of last year, until 2020, these statistics are not going to do our school any favours, due to an unfortunate cocktail of distorted data, historical turbulence, and a completely different curriculum from 2014, brought in partly to eradicate grade inflation.

In plain English, we do not show any progress because we believe that original assessments in certain year groups were misleading and inaccurate. I do not mean to cast aspersions by saying this; I empathise with the tremendous pressure put on headteachers and staff when results are displayed so publically— however, I am determined that you will have an accurate reflection of our school, its talented and lively youngsters and dedicated, conscientious staff.

Our in-house assessment systems are accurate and robust, thanks to regular Pupil Progress meetings and schemes such as Accelerated Reader. We knew almost exactly what our attainment was going to be this summer, and we can predict a very positive picture at the end of this academic year for both attainment and, finally, progress.

Cohorts can be radically different, which is why SATs results and trends can be so misleading in smaller schools— as any statistician will tell you. Despite maintaining consistency of teaching staff

and the curriculum over the past two years in Year 6, attainment has fluctuated due to different cohorts.

It is important to point out that parents of the last two Year 6 classes have been more than happy with results which they feel have accurately reflected their child's abilities and are a true representation of their skills and knowledge, but you may not be aware that over 10% of the class are not represented by the progress data. Similarly unrepresented are children who were diagnosed with SEND issues since January 2019.

I am extremely satisfied that our curriculum continues to harness the deeper and wider learning skills that are going to put in place strong foundations for sustained learning in secondary school. Stour Valley Community School, our main secondary destination, have consistently praised our children who go there as 'mature, high attaining pupils' with clear strengths in the basic skills.

Our growing roll speaks for itself; since January 2018, we have grown by over 11% so that we are now only a few places away from filling our pan of 210 children— that is amazing considering that when I joined the school our September figure was under 185. The consistent comments I get when I show prospective parents round the school are about our friendly and nurturing atmosphere, the politeness of our children and their eagerness to share their learning with visitors; the calm surroundings and the excellent behaviour they see in the classes.

Finally, OFSTED is recognising that a well-rounded curriculum is key to longer-

term educational success and improved life chances. We are definitely ahead of the game with the myriad of opportunities we offer for school trips, extra-curricular activities, and an exciting variety of learning experiences such as Mantle of the Expert projects, themed weeks and days, performance opportunities, partnerships with established and aspirational education providers such as the Royal Shakespeare company, opportunities for competitive sports, whole school community events such as the Art Exhibition, the list goes on and on...

So, we will stick to our principles because we can see the impact our school and curriculum are having on our young learners every day. They are enthused and immersed in their topics; they are proud of their achievements and proud of their school.

Every cohort is different and, at Clare, you can be assured that we know your child as an individual and will celebrate their strengths and encourage and support them in developing areas which they find more challenging.

Your children will look back on primary school as an enlightening and empowering experience and the start of their educational journey to success. We can promise you that we will always prioritise children's personal growth, long term engagement, wellbeing and development as learners over the limited scope of SATs test scores.

Rebecca Loader

Headteacher

Governor News Autumn 2019.....

Welcome to our first Governor news.

Firstly, can I introduce us, to those who are not sure who we are and what we do....



Who are we?.....(Left to Right)

Georgina Lovejoy- Chair. Georgina's children have both been pupils at Clare Primary

Peter Anderson – Vice Chair. Peter has a grandchild at Clare Primary..

Matthew Wickes- Parent Governor. Matthew has a child in Yr 4.

Paul Stokes- Parent Governor. Paul has children in Yrs 4 and 6.

Andy Jenkins- Co-opted. Andy is a teacher at SVCS and represents the MAT.

Paul Graham- Community Governor. Pauls children have both attended Clare Primary.

Saracha Barksfield- Co-opted Governor. Saracha has children attending Clare Primary.

As a new Governing body we have now settled into our roles well. Some of us have previous experience of governance whilst others are new to the role, but I can reassure you all we have one thing in common, and that is we are passionate about education and providing the best education for your children.

So..... **What do we do..?**

We ensure the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. We are aware of the financial performance of the school to make sure money is well spent and we hold our Headteacher and staff to account for the educational performance of our school and pupils. We also keen to support the whole school community to promote the well-being of both staff and children. We report regularly to the Stour Valley Educational Trust Board all of the above and we do all the above as volunteers.

We DON'T get involved in the day to day running of the school – we leave that to Mrs Loader and her team who are far more qualified to do that than us!!

This term Governors have been involved in various activities within school. Some Governors visit on a regular basis to listen to children read and get involved in class activities, others are involved in a Wellbeing programme with year six pupils. This provides a valuable additional resource to teachers and is always appreciated.

We have a group of Governors who undertake regular visits to the school site to ensure our children are kept safe and they work with the site management team from SVCS.

Recently Governors attended the school Open Morning. This was well received by potential new parents to the school and the Governors were very grateful to members of the School Council who happily took it upon themselves to conduct the tours around the school; after all, your children are far better at knowing about day to day school life !

Our termly monitoring visits are well received by staff. The children are very used to us appearing at their sides and are usually more than happy to show their work and chat about their learning. These visits are a great way for Governors to see the working school and enable us to have a first -hand overview of the curriculum which is an essential part of Governance.

In addition to the visits, we are working behind the scenes attending meetings, including progress and attainment and finance, reviewing school paperwork and policies, but the visits to the school to see your children enjoying their learning make it all worthwhile.

How do you contact us....?

We are contactable via the school office in the first instance. We do however pop up occasionally at school events so please, if you see us, say 'Hello' and let us know what is good about Clare Primary School....

POPPY COLLECTION

We raised £76 for the British Legion this year.



WORLD OF WORK WEEK

4th-8th November

We had a very successful Careers Week this year, with a Mini Cities role play event for EYFS, a create your own business day for KS2 and an opportunity for the children to dress up as their career ambitions on the Friday– it was amazing to see such a diversity of career choices– from a Nasa scientist (a girl, I am pleased to say) to a spy!

It was also really interesting to see how many teachers and teaching assistants there were, and even a headteacher! We clearly are doing something right!

Many thanks for the parents who gave up their time to come and speak to the children – they were enthused and inspired!

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

In the first week of this half-term, we were delighted to be entertained by Paulo Lopes and Susi Morrow. Paulo is a professional concert pianist and it was amazing for all our pupils to listen to their rendition of Saint-Saens' composition.



Christmas in a BOX

Whole School Home Learning Task



What does Christmas look like to different people around the world?

What does Christmas look like for people in India or France?

How do people celebrate Christmas in space or in a rain forest?

What does Christmas look like in a country where there has been a natural disaster or war?

I would like as many of you as possible to use your imagination and make a shoe-box model on this theme- you can use your class topic as a starting point, if you like.

Your shoe boxes will then be exhibited at Clare Baptist Church on 13th and 14th December. We will be visiting the exhibition on the morning of Thursday, 12th December. Please have your completed shoebox ready by Monday, 9th December.

Your home learning has been so brilliant this term, we are really looking forward to seeing how you all interpret this task!





Look at what we have been getting up to this term!



TREE AND BULB PLANTING

Mr Davies has led the Eco Council, last week, and another group of children, with planting a host of trees, hedging and bulbs around the school site. Mrs Golding, a parent, has also donated a mass of bulbs which we look forward to planting.

Friday, 6th December

Christmas Fair Day Come and join us at 2.30pm for the amazing Clare Community Primary Annual Christmas Fayre- refreshments, crafts and we will be selling decorations the children have made to raise money for our Gazebo fund which is now standing at £2,850!!



Children and adults are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or festive colours on this day. Please sign up in the office to help on a stall if you can! This is going to be a busy day with lots going on- your child will not need any other equipment apart from themselves, so please leave school bags at home.

Please pick your child up as usual from the playground at 2.30pm and then come round to the side entrance to enter the Christmas Fair. If you are unable to pick children up at 2.30pm, then we will entertain other children in Acorn classroom until normal school closing times. Please pick your children up from Acorn classroom outer door, if this is the case.

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

Acorn and KS1 Christmas plays are unticketed as usual. We will be charging a small ticket price for the pantomime `Scrooge, a ghost of a chance` in January, in order to raise further money towards our Gazebo fund. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!!

Important Dates (including Christmas Events)

PTFA CHRISTMAS FAYRE Fri 6th Dec 2.30pm **Wear your Christmas Jumpers to school!**

LAST WEEK OF CLUBS (except for Catkins) Week of 9/12/19

Acorn Class Nativity Thursday, 5th Dec 9.30am **Beech and Cedar play** Tuesday, 10th Dec 9.30am

CHRISTMAS DINNER Thurs 12th Dec

CHRISTMAS CAROL Service at Baptist Church Thurs 19th Dec 1.30pm

CLARE COMMUNITY CAROLS (Choir) Mon 9th Dec 7.30-9pm

LAST DAY OF TERM Thursday, 19th December- children can be collected from school straight after the Carol Service **Merry Christmas!**

TERM BEGINS Monday, 6th January, 2020 **PD Day (NO CHILDREN)**

Tues 7th January, 2020- **Children back at school**

PANTOMIME Thursday, 16th and Friday 17th January 6.30-7.30pm

The Senior School Council were delighted to be presented with a cheque for £500 by the **Clare Priory Craft Fayre organisers** at a special presentation evening a few weeks ago. Many thanks for this generosity, and that of other town organisations who have donated money towards this cause, such as **The Cock Inn** and the **Co op**.



**Clare Baptist Church
presents...**



Christmas in a Box

What does Christmas look like...?

Christmas displays from
the community and beyond
each in a shoebox.
Fun, creative, inspiring,
thought-provoking and
challenging.

Images here are
from last year's
display - our
thanks to all those
who took part

Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December
10:00am to 5:00pm
- free entry - free refreshments - free craft activities -