



## Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to see how quickly the children have settled into the new term. There is such a lovely calm atmosphere around the school with the classes well under way with their new topics. As I mentioned in my Welcome Back Meeting, we are having a big focus on attendance and at the moment, are **95.95%** to date. We are really keen to achieve our target of **97%** and I would like to thank you in advance for your support in making this happen.

Lucy, the PAT dog, thoroughly enjoyed her visit yesterday and can't wait to come back to meet more of the children at Clawton next week. Jane, her owner, also commented on how polite and gentle the children were and was fascinated to hear how many pets they all have!

Our Key Stage 2 children have already been out to visit Raxon Solar Farm to learn about how solar farms are established. They then took part in a workshop to create solar powered toys - lots of determination and resilience was needed as the sun was not out.

We have an amazing set of Play Leaders in Badger class, who have been supporting the younger children in the school during lunchtimes. They create games and activities for them to take part in, whilst also setting a fantastic example.

Please take a moment to read the information below from our PTA, detailing the roles available within the committee. The opportunities and activities that they provide for the children within the school is so gratefully received by all of us in the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



**01409 253618**

[clawton\\_sch@alumnismat.org](mailto:clawton_sch@alumnismat.org)  
[www.clawton-sch.org](http://www.clawton-sch.org)

### Inclusion Team contact details:

James Creek - 07596 476 145  
Sonia Grant - 07596 476 149

### Key dates:

Monday 25th Sep - Bags 2 School collection  
Monday 25th Sep - PTA Meeting 7pm, School Hall

### Focus virtue this week:

Respect and Courtesy

PTA News:

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is seeking individuals to take on the three main roles of the organisation.

These roles include Chair Person, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chair Person will lead meetings, represent the PTA to the school and oversee all activities.

The Secretary will keep records of meetings and handle correspondence.

Lastly, the Treasurer will handle PTA finances, including the bank account, funds raised and expenses.

These positions are crucial to the success of the PTA and without them being filled our School and children will be missing valuable additional funding to subsidise school based educational learning, trips and treats such as at Easter and Christmas.

The candidates who take on these role can do as much or as little as they prefer - there is no expectation.

The current PTA committee have already arranged the 100 club, Halloween disco, Christmas card fundraiser, Bags 2 School and a Santa visit, taking us up to the end of this year to help lighten the load for those taking over.

The AGM will take place after the end of our financial year which is October 31st, at which we will re-elect our committee.

With thanks from the Clawton PTA and the Clawton Staff Team





# We are taking part in the CAULIFLOWER 2023 Christmas Project raising money for our School!



**SPIRAL BOOKS**



*Pupil name goes here*



**MUGS**

*Wide choice of background designs*



**WRAPPING PAPER**



**INCLUDES 2 FREE GIFT TAGS!**

**OUR CARDS & MUGS OFFER CUSTOM GREETINGS INCLUDING A CHOICE OF FONTS & EVEN EMOJIS!**

*Support Cauliflower from all the Staff and Pupils at St Mary's Primary School*



**CARDS**

*Packs of 12 High Quality cards*

**ARTWORK MUST BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY:**

*24<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



**CAULIFLOWER GROUP LTD.**  
CAULIFLOWERCARDS.CO.UK

Owls:

**Academic:**



For our topic Owls have been learning all about themselves. We have talked about our different features and identifying our similarities and differences from being a baby to how we look now. Owls noticed that when they were babies, they did not have much hair compared with their recent photos. Owls have been busy creating fantastic self-portraits onto paper plates, using a wide range of materials for their features.



Owls have also been busy designing their own Rainbow Fish! As you can see they have created some amazing beautiful rainbow fish. Our Maths we have been focusing on counting how many Owls have what colour eyes and then recording them onto a chart. We found out that the majority of our Owls have brown eyes.

**Character:**

Owls have had a busy couple of weeks! We have been practicing our carpet expectations every day and all Owls have been amazing with following instructions and understanding how we get onto the tree – demonstrating some ‘Lively Listening’ ‘Good Looking’ and ‘Super Sitting’ We have even been doing some ‘Fantastic Walking’ when walking around our school!

**Community:**



Owls joined the whole school for the ‘10@10’ activity this week for National Fitness Day. Miss Smith (P.E teacher) explained to us all, why it was important to do a little exercise every day. Owls demonstrated lovely lively listening and they all joined in with the activities.



This week, Owls had a special visit from Kirsty and baby Percy! Everyone was fascinated with Percy and they took it in turns to hold and feed him. We talked about how babies had no teeth and what they liked to eat. Percy even bought us a present – A couple of Percy the Park Keeper books. Thank you Percy!!!!



**Digital and Innovation:**



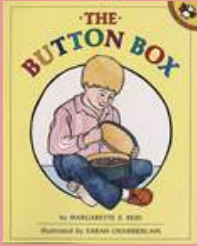
Owls have enjoyed our Klassen times. Last week we had our special adults come in to meet Vicky (our new team member) the children enjoyed showing them what they did in their P.E lesson with Vicky and finished off with eating cakes the Owls made that morning.



As part of our Talk 4 Writing Innovation, a question was raised – ‘why do fish blow bubbles?’ to find out the answer, we watched a video on the laptop. We found out that fish do not breathe air like us. They take in oxygen from the water and then push the water out of their gills.

Hedgehogs:

**Academic:**



This week in maths, all of the children have been developing their skill of sorting. We enjoyed reading 'The Button Box' by Margarette S. Reid and then deciding on our own criteria to sort our set of buttons by. We discovered we could sort them by colour, shape or the number of holes in the middle. The year one children were then challenged to find two features that were the same to sort by. Lots of children decided to sort by shape AND by colour. Well done everyone, now let's try to apply this skill when we are tidying!

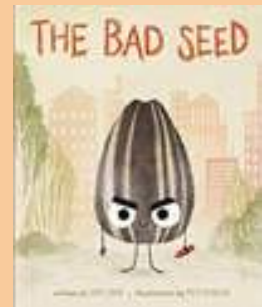


**Character:**

We have been focusing very heavily on the character virtues of courtesy and respect this past week. We enjoyed reading the story 'The Bad Seed' by Jory John and discussing ways in which we can show courtesy and respect towards our environment and each other. The children came up with lots of ideas including:

- not pushing in line
- holding doors open for people
- being on time and ready for learning
- putting equipment away once we've finished with it
- washing our hands
- remembering to say 'please' and 'thank-you'
- looking at the person who is talking and taking turns in conversation
- using our indoor voices when we are in the classroom

We also spoke about how it is important to show courtesy and respect at all times so that we can have a happy classroom!



**Community:**



All of the children have settled back into school life really well over the past two weeks and our new hedgehogs have picked up the routines and expectations brilliantly. We are so proud of how they have adjusted to a new setting and immersed themselves into their learning already. Well done everyone! To kick start our new topic, we all enjoyed an 'Elmer Day' last week where we celebrated our differences and discussed what makes us all special and unique. The children we invited to dress up to show off their individuality and they

looked fantastic!

We also enjoyed many stories and lots of 'Elmer' themed activities.



**Innovation:**



This week we have been learning about self-portraits and we have looked at the work of Picasso and Vincent Van Gogh. The children were invited to create their own portraits using any style and media they wanted. Some children chose to paint, some used collage and some used their newly acquired skill of using a touchpad to create one on the laptop.



Squirrels:

**Academic:**



The children have jumped straight into their learning. They have all started the place value unit in maths. The children have completed some lessons practically using manipulatives. In our English unit Squirrels have been focussing on The Magic Porridge Pot. We have story-mapped the story and acted out the story. In our topic work we have looked at the different stages of life from Baby to Elderly. We have also looked at how important life events are to different families and different life events are celebrated for different families.

**Character:**

Since returning back to school we have been looking at reflection. From Reflecting on the previous year to then reflecting on our time back in school. Also focusing on reflecting on the work that is done and different behaviours appropriate for school. Our new virtues this week are Courtesy and Respect. The focus of these virtues are making sure we respect our learning spaces and school environment and showing courtesy and respect to all adults and children within school.



**Community:**



Our school community is looking fantastic at the moment, especially the outdoor areas. Our focus in Squirrels is to make sure we look after our classroom community by tidying up after ourselves and being helpful towards others when needed. Squirrels spoke about a community in their RE lesson last week with Miss Smith. Focusing on what makes a community, the different communities in the local area and when communities come together. As a class we also spoke about being a school community, linking to our virtue of respect and how we respect our school community.

**Digital and Innovation:**

Squirrels have demonstrated being Digital Innovators this week by attempting to log on to the new KS1 Chromebooks. Each child has been allocated a chromebook that remains in school for them to use. These will help to enable us to deliver the Computing objectives easily. However, we will also be able to complete a range of activities on these Chromebooks.

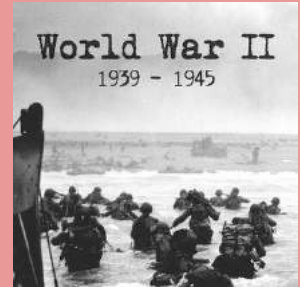




**Badgers**

**Academic:**

Badger class have returned to school full of enthusiasm. They are thoroughly enjoying our WW2 topic and it is great to see that they have remembered their prior learning in Year 1 and 2!  
We have focused quite heavily on handwriting and presentation so far and I am pleased to say this is now improving.



**Character:**



The children have all been amazing in developing their leadership skills this term. They have all had training as play leaders to provide lunchtime fun activities for the younger children in school. They have also been amazing volunteers helping the younger children to cut up their food.

**Community:**



Badger children went on an amazing local visit on Tuesday morning to the Solar Farm at Rexon near Roadford Lake. It was fascinating to learn about the wildlife that is encouraged and to learn how solar panels work and how many houses a 20 acre site can power.  
We then had a workshop to use mini solar panels to power motors, LEDs, fans and buzzers.



**Digital and Innovation:**

In order to take our poetry a step further, Badger class have used clipchamp to put their ideas into film. They have made their words fade in and out with wartime pictures behind them and they have added emotive music.



**Clawton Toddler Group**

We run every Friday throughout term time 9am-11am in the school hall, it would be great to see some new faces, so please spread the word.

Other News

*School Contact number and website and the Date here?*

*Inclusion Team and Community Update*

James Creek is our Social Inclusion Officer who works as part of the Central Team – he works across the Torridge Cluster of Schools and will be onsite at Clawton Primary School every Tuesday.



This year he would like to focus on continuing to develop relationships with the school’s children and families and build stronger connections within the community and local services that can benefit our school community.



James Creek, our dedicated Inclusion Officer, is committed to helping children attend school full-time by supporting both pupils and parents in resolving any issues which could impact our young people attending school. His mission is to create an inclusive and welcoming educational environment, ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. James works closely with students and parents to overcome barriers relating to school attendance, providing valuable assistance through parenting courses and facilitating support from the local authority. His efforts make a significant impact on our students holistic development.

Contact details: James Creek  
Phone Number: 07596476145  
Email address: j.creek@alumnismat.org

**Free School Meals**

Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals? If you are in receipt of any of the following your child should be entitled to Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

To check eligibility and apply visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/> This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.



## Do you receive any of the following?

- Income support
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and your income (as calculated by the Inland Revenue) is less than £16,190
- Universal Credit
- Receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999
- In the Armed Forces

**If you can answer yes to any of the above you may qualify for free school meals/Pupil Premium**

The school office will help with your application. If your application is successful not only will your child receive free school meals, but our school will receive £1,300 additional funding (per child). This is called Pupil Premium.

All applications are confidential.

