



Clutton  
Primary School  
13th November 2017

## Welcome to Term 2.

Welcome to Term 2, I cannot believe how quickly time flies, with the festive season nearly upon us! I hope you found the list of dates and times helpful when planning events. As a staff, we regularly review timings of events and parent/child attendance. An example of this is how we extended parents' evening to allow more working parents the opportunity to attend up to 7pm. As I am sure you will appreciate, in these busy times we can not please everyone all of the time. Last year, the evening KS2 Christmas performance was poorly attended by children. As a result of this, many children rehearsed/learned songs, but did not have the opportunity to take part in this special service of worship. As an inclusive school, we took the decision to move this to during the school day, so all children have the opportunity to attend and enjoy. We will, of course, be inviting parents to join us.

This Friday is Children In Need Day, and our aim is to beat the fantastic £1000 raised last year. Pupil Council have gathered class ideas, and they have chosen 'Being spotty/ pajamas' as the mufti theme. A minimum £1 donation is requested for this, payable to class teachers. We are planning to hold a cake sale after school on Friday, and teachers will let you know about additional sponsored class events. Thank you for your continued support.

## NEW THIS YEAR .... Learning Exhibitions!

As the eagled eyed amongst you will have already spotted, our first 'Learning Exhibition' will be held by Amazon Class soon. This will be an exhibition of work designed and led by the pupils. It is an opportunity created through our new enquiry, topic- based curriculum, and will celebrate and showcase all of our pupils' learning across all subjects. Classes will have the opportunity to visit the following morning, to be inspired and informed. Each half term, a different class will showcase their learning, replacing class assemblies. Dates have been added to the school calendar to give plenty of advanced notice. Parents can tour with their children before, during or after collection. Over the year, a 'Museum of Excellence' will grow and be on display in the school, for visitors to enjoy.

## Christmas Lunch:



Thursday 7th December 2017:

This year we will be following our new tradition started last year. All children will make a Christmas hat and a place mat for their friend in the morning, Teachers will serve the children lunch, in a hall decorated and full of Christmas cheer and music.

Just a reminder to ask that all Christmas dinners are ordered and paid for by November 22nd, to enable our kitchen to order and cater adequately. EYFS and KS1 children do not need to pay, but we do need to know numbers. Please clearly indicate if your child wishes to have a vegetarian meal. Thank you.

## Bonfire Night Update:



A huge thank you to the PTFA, Mr Tanner, Church Farm and Dennis in helping organise another fantastic firework display, This year, there was a special assembly explaining history behind the traditions, and a house challenge where children worked collaboratively across the ages to build a guy for the bonfire. The evening was very well supported by parents and families, and around £800 was made. We are planning to use this money to buy class visualisers, a fantastic learning tool that all children will benefit greatly from.

Many thanks again.

# Remembrance Assembly 2017

Otter Class showed poppies they had made in class.



Swan Class recited part of the 'In Flanders Field' poem they had learnt off by heart .



Nile Class shared their recipes for Peace.



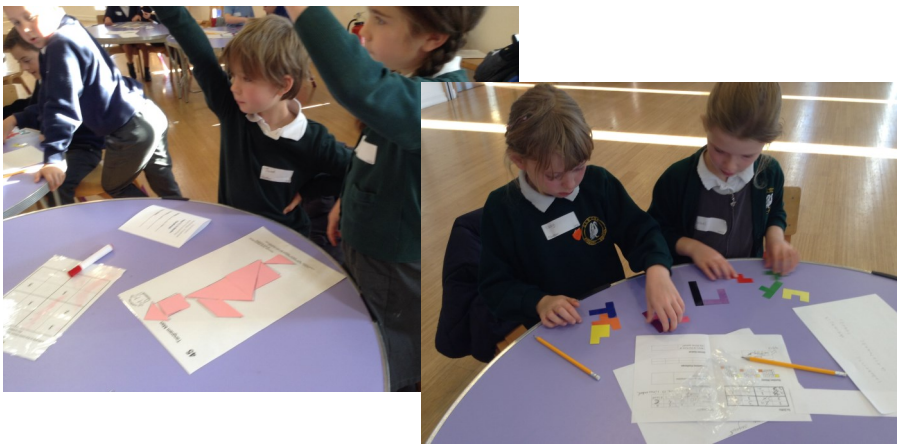
Orinoco Class sang some wartime favourite sings, including 'It's a long way to Tipperary'.

Amazon Class shared their propaganda posters, encouraging people to



## Maths workshops:

As part of the MSNP Trust, we had the opportunity to send some groups of children to Maths workshops at different schools. The workshops gave children the chance to work collaboratively to solve problems and reason about their decisions and findings, a key feature of the 2014 curriculum. As you know, Maths has been a development area for the school last year. We have invested time and money into two key areas: Teacher training in teaching and leading Maths (The Better Maths Project) and in resourcing practical Maths equipment to help children gain concrete understanding. It was great to see that our School Improvement Advisor wrote on her last visit " *There was much evidence of all pupils willingly making use of practical apparatus of choice to support with calculation and problem solving.*" Here are some photographs of our children working hard together.



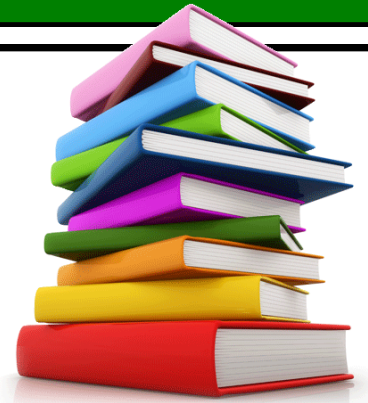
We have an additional Able Maths Challenge coming soon at Monkton Combe School, as well as a public speaking competition in January. We try and make sure that events are varied and as many children as possible get to take part.

## Wind in the Willows:

The children enjoyed a fantastic production on Friday afternoon—the school funded the majority of the cost, after asking for donations of a £1. It is not too late to pay! This contribution enables us to have these experiences, and photos will be in our next newsletter before Christmas. Without consistent voluntary contributions, we may need to reconsider what we can offer.

## Curriculum updates:

**Reading:** We are now in the process of setting up 'The Great Clutton Reading Race' for Key Stage Two children. Many thanks to those of you who have donated books—have you seen the lovely posters around the school created by our librarians??



*'Home and family are crucial in the development of reading and writing, particularly in terms of reading for pleasure' National Literacy Trust 2014.*

Reading is a key skill for life, and yet many children are not reading regularly at home (or reading records are not being completed) Every child, even if they are fluent free readers, needs to read every night for at least ten minutes. Repetition e.g. reading a story more than once, is perfect for little children. This is how they learn to read. Please ensure reading records are filled in, as this helps us see where support is needed.

**Writing:** Mrs Cowgill and Miss Ennew are drawing together best research to develop writing across the school. This includes our No Nonsense spelling programme, moving towards whole class guided reading sessions and looking at new ways to build texts. Cursive handwriting is developing well, and new pen licences will be awarded fortnightly. Watch this space.... Write4Clutton will be coming soon!



**Maths:** We are currently in the process of reviewing our trial of the app DoodleMaths—apologies over any hiccups! The programme learns what your child's strengths are, what they need to work on and then builds a specific programme for them. It has been proven to help children make big improvements in both their ability and confidence in Maths. Using it for 10 minutes a day has helped children make 3 months progress in just one month. We are considering this for homework in the future, as it is a) specific to your child's next steps and b) fun for children to complete. I hope to share more information soon, and will then arrange a parent



## PTFA Pantomime:

The Clutton PTFA 2018 pantomime will be 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Profits from the pantomime will go to Clutton Primary School. Each year we donate the proceeds of our raffle to a children's charity, and this year the children on the school council have chosen the charity 'Make A Wish'. Please save the dates March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2018.



**Would you like a part in the pantomime?**

Adults please contact Melanie Pitt. Look out for a letter in your child's bag with details for the children's performances. Sign up before Christmas if your child would like a part. Also new for this year there will be a painting club for children who want to be involved but do not want to go on the stage. This will involve lots of work on scenery and props. As always we need everyone's support to make our production a success so if you can help behind the scenes with costumes, scenery, make up, hair, as a stage hand, or front of house

## PTFA Plea:

We now have just four parents who help run the PTFA committee. Whilst events are very well supported, the task of organising and running them is becoming too difficult for such a small group to manage, even with support from the teachers. This then means there are fewer lovely events for children and families to enjoy. The benefits to ALL pupils is tremendous, just this year PTFA have funded books for classes and the library, new netball and goal posts, playground play equipment and funding towards the sensory garden project. Future fundraising projects are for sound equipment and curtains, to enhance performances and assemblies. This can only happen if more parents sign up—maybe just to be a helping hand, if the committee commitment seems too large. Ideally, we would like each class to have parent representatives for each event to help co-ordinate it. If lots of parents sign up, you may need to just cover a half term each! Please look out in book bags for a letter from Mrs Wilcox, explaining how you can help. As the saying goes, many hands make light work! Thank you.

## Data protecting sheet:

Can I put out a little reminder for you to let Mrs Allen know if any contact details change after the start of the year. This is also the case if any consent issues change e.g. the use of photographs on school websites/in newspapers. We are soon to be setting up a new school website, which will contain photographs of children as does The Hay Magazine, which takes photographs directly from school newsletters. Can I also remind you, as the festive season approaches, that any personal photographs taken at school performances can not be shared on social media. Many thanks.

Please check out the website. Click on the link below:-

[www.cluttonschool.com](http://www.cluttonschool.com)

### Dates for your Diaries

#### 2017–2018

The PTFA Christmas Fayre will now be on Wednesday 6th December, from 2.30pm- 4.30pm. Children will set up and get to visit from 2.30- 3.00pm, which means all children can take part. At 3.00pm, children will perform Christmas songs at the front of the school, At 3.15pm, children will line up outside in classes. Parents can then collect children as normal, and take them home, or come in and enjoy the fayre. If you are interested in helping out with refreshments, setting up or in privately running a stall please see Mrs Wilcox.



Clutton Primary School is committed to working towards race equality, promoting positive approaches to difference and opposing all forms of racial prejudice and discrimination. Language or behaviour, which is racist or potentially damaging to any ethnic or racial group, is not tolerated and will always be challenged. We recognise that British society is made up of people from many different racial, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds and that all pupils must be fully prepared to live in such a diverse society.