



**Clutton
Primary School
11th February 2021**

Head teacher's Welcome:

Hello.

What a term this has been ! Congratulations.....you survived!

I really wanted to put together a newsletter this week, as the term reaches it's conclusion. It can be all too easy to believe the doom and gloom of the media, who claim lost years of education and lifelong earnings. What kind of message does this send to our wonderful pupils? I prefer to focus on how very proud we all are of them here at Clutton.

They are doing a BRILLIANT job...

- ✓ Learning from home, in a pandemic, in a lockdown, without a teacher with them.
- ✓ Rising to challenges with imagination and creativity.
- ✓ Learning new technological skills on multi media platforms—a lifelong skill for the future.
- ✓ Learning to work more independently than they are used to, and continuing to develop intrinsic motivation to complete and submit good work to feel proud of.
- ✓ Rising to challenges set before them with imagination and ingenuity.

Yes, all children will have found things challenging, had better days than others, had days when they craved home being 'home' rather than being in home learning spaces. They would have had times when they just wanted to play, have cuddles and most of all.....time playing, laughing and being with their friends.

We, as adults, miss exactly the same things right now and often feel, we too, want to be Mum or Dad, Auntie and Uncle.

Parents and carers have done a great job, often under challenging circumstances, also during a pandemic and also during a lockdown. I have many friends who are also parents, helping fidgety children settle again, measuring themselves up against teachers and comparing their child's focus/work/independence to others, all the while juggling work of their own and family life.

Here's what I tell them : 'Guess what... children don't sit perfectly in school, they often struggle with new learning. Some days are better for them than others. Somedays they get more done of better quality than other days. Some days they are tired, grumpy, teary and fed up'. They are children, so please don't feel that this is new at home or a reflection on you!

The difference is.. this is our job we love! We are trained professional teachers, whose primary objective is to help children become lifelong learners, and develop the necessary behaviours and skills to help them overcome such barriers. All of your children need our help at some time in school, and we can't wait until we have them back with us to carry on their learning journey.

Home learning — the celebration!



I have been so lucky to share in a lot of the home learning that has been shared with teachers in school. I have also enjoyed joining live lessons.



Rowan Class learning about money in Maths, and celebrating Chinese New Year. I have laughed hearing Mrs Evans putting on her special BFG voice, when recording chapters! I still love listening to people read and share stories.

Willow Class have been learning to write instructions, and have been enjoying reading my favourite childhood book, 'The Magic Faraway Tree.' I was so impressed with how much learning has taken place about our continents, and Australia. As global readiness is a school driver shaping our school curriculum, I love seeing pupils' knowledge and awareness that we are a small part in something much bigger, grow.



Oak Class have been writing persuasive letters to me for a repeat screen free Friday (they WERE very persuasive), and creating some fabulous art work. What a creative bunch they are!! I loved the formal videos that were sent in too.

Maple Class have been busy being scientists.. sorting materials, carrying out super experiments at home and practising sketching skills in the style of Vincent Van Gogh. The level of work and engagement from such young pupils has really pleased us all.



I have enjoyed seeing Cherries plot their stories out on maps, and was super impressed with videos of them telling me their stories, and seeing the junk modelling the lovely, creative chairs they have made.

Another highlight for me, was hearing and seeing the brilliant Jabberwocky work in Sycamore Class. Mr Rideout shared some of the videos with staff of children performing their own versions of the famous poem. They were BRILLIANT! All the teachers watched together and cheered at the end.



Here in school, we are busy preparing fabulous displays that capture and celebrate all of the learning from this term, both at home and in school. I will be sure to capture these and share them with you in the next newsletter. I cannot wait to start our learning exhibitions up again. I love seeing the hall packed with excited and enthusiastic learners, proud of their progress.

Clutton Bulb Show Trail 2021

- 6th / 7th March -

Join us on a trail around the village,
celebrating and sharing children's writing,
drawings and artistic creations.

For details of the trail, what children will be doing 'in' school, additional categories to get involved with and how to add your location to the trail map, please visit

www.cluttonschool.com



Please join in this special community and school event for the first week-end in March. It is such a special part of our Clutton School calendar each year. All children were given bulbs and growing instructions, generously provided by The Horticultural Society. Children have excitedly told me that they are just coming up!

In and out of school, children have been busy preparing poems in their best handwriting, and creating lovely Spring flower artwork. It would be such a great way to celebrate home and school learning, whilst getting fresh air and daily exercise.

Wouldn't it be lovely for all children to pop up and celebrate their work in the front window/ gates/ railings etc. All teachers have planned this as part of our school curriculum learning time, so it isn't 'an extra' to worry about. We will continue a couple of exhibit type activities after half term—mini gardens/ mini greenhouses/ vegetable animals etc. You and your family may have additional ideas to add to the display—please feel free to freestyle on this! I have added the link to more details on the website.

<https://www.cluttonschool.com/our-curriculum/the-clutton-bulb-show-trail.htm>

Please let the office know ASAP if you would like to take part, as we are busy plotting a map of the trail. Thank you to those who have already committed to this... but we'd love to see many more!!! A reminder that no names and addresses will be on the map, just locations.

COMING
SOON



World Book Day ... Thursday 4th March.

Read With a Child It's the Most Important 20 Minutes of Your Day

Child "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day
3,600 minutes
in a school year.

Child "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day
900 minutes
in a school year.

Child "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day
180 minutes
in a school year.



By the end of 6th grade, Child "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Child "B" will have read only 12 school days.

Which child would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which child would you expect to be a proficient reader?

Make the commitment today to read with a child; it makes a difference.

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."

Bali Rai

Parents often ask me why reading is SO important, even when children can decode (read words aloud).

There are so many reasons—Phonics/ Early Reading teaches the children the letters and sounds that make words. The **skill** of reading (fluency, tone, questioning, inferring) and the **will** to read (free choosing to read) are two of the most important ways to support your child.

Do you model reading for pleasure at home?

Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about

Our school reading spine introduces classic and new texts to pupils, we teach the skills to read and help develop the will to read in many ways.

Look out for more information about this special day on the website and class pages. Although remote, this year is a 'dress up year' (alternating at parents' requests) - so please feel free to make costumes for your children to wear for our meets and greets. The choice to participate is purely yours..

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.