

Friday 16th 2018

Dear Parents

It is now a year ago since I was first appointed to be Head of our wonderful village school. Although I only officially started in September, so much has changed since I first set eyes on the school. After Easter I would like to invite parents into school so that you can come and have a look around at the physical changes. What you won't be able to see is all of the changes in policy, the quality of education, assessment procedures and the breadth of curriculum being offered including the after school clubs and school trips. As you will have seen from the text that you have received we need to have parent volunteers to meet the demand. There are so many children who want to do the clubs we simply need more adults available to ensure that we maintain our high level of safeguarding that we have in school. Please let Mrs Frith know if you are available, on what nights (if you are) and how often. Thank you.

The safety of children are at Clearwell is one thing that has not changed. We recently had a Local Authority 175 Safeguarding Audit carried out and were pleased to see that the procedures that we have in place and follow rigorously meet the County and National Standards. This is always good news, especially as the most important thing to us as a school is that the children are kept safe. If you have any concerns then please see me (Cilla James) as Designated Safeguarding Lead. There is information on the parent notice board and in numerous places around school of people to contact and I know that you were emailed our updated policy earlier this term.

Sports Premium

The new PE T-shirts have arrived and I am sure that you agree the children look smart.



GYMNASTICS For the first time ever Clearwell School has six gymnasts entered into the Forest of Dean Schools' Gymnastics competition. We are very excited about it and all have new school leotards to wear. I am sure that you join me in wishing them all the best of luck and I am proud of them wherever they come. It is daunting performing on floor and vault, particularly when you are so new to it. We have booked a session at the centre before the event just so they can be orientated to the centre. Exciting times!

Year 6 Residential



The year 6 have had a breath-taking time at Morfa Bay this week. Look out for their highlights on the website. Thank you to Mrs Hopkins for going with them.

Focus on Literacy

Our Oracy project has started and the children involved are having a wonderful time learning new rhymes, listening to traditional stories, retelling and acting them out. Once the trial has been completed, we are hoping that it has made a significant impact on development and we will then roll it out to another group of children, as well as utilising the resources that we were given.



Following the launch of Ripping Reads on our delayed World Book Day, the children have been able to choose a book to read for pleasure. This is in addition to their book from our Reading Scheme. I love this quote about the importance of reading

“The MORE that you READ the more THINGS you will KNOW. The MORE you LEARN the more PLACES you’ll GO!”

Dr Seuss

Fund Raising

As you will be aware we won a Lottery Grant for £10,000 to have the boggy grass in the school garden replaced with an all weather surface, we are hoping that this work will go ahead in the next few months. The Forest Rotary club has awarded us with £600 following a bid and an art competition entry. Thank you to them for their kind donation.

Your Bags for School donations raised £68 which is quite astonishing for old clothes.

Friends funds have recently purchased 6 new laptops. Thank you all.

Other funding that we have applied for includes;

- ❖ Foyles Books - £2,000 for new books
- ❖ Tesco - £4,000 for ICT equipment
- ❖ Greggs - £2,000 for gardening resources
- ❖ Heritage Lottery - £6,500 for a historical inquiry project

Whilst we may not be successful, hopefully it will show you that we are striving for the best for your children even when our budget, like all schools, is so tight. If anyone knows of any businesses that would like to sponsor any aspect of school life then please contact Mrs Frith.



Friday 23rd March:
Whole School Pond dipping

Saturday 24th March: Gymnastics Competition

Thursday 29th March: Geology Trust workshops