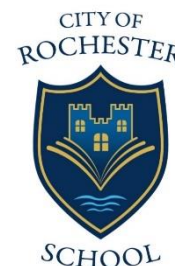


City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 1 2021 – Academic Year 2021-2022

Introduction from the Head

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year. We particularly welcome all our new pupils and parents whose children have joined our school. We very much look forward to a continued collaborative and constructive working relationship. Some of our new parents have requested to join our Parent Advisory Group and I very much look forward to welcoming you onto this forum – our existing parents are extremely pro-active and supportive of the work we do. This year we are interested in working with you to explore some fund-raising activities to fund new playground facilities for our grounds. We are looking to equip a playground for the younger pupils and to create some outdoor learning space for our older pupils.

We had the Ofsted visit just prior to the summer break and our report has now been published. We are delighted with the outcome and, as I said in my earlier letter to you all, we could not have achieved such a positive judgement (“Good” with two outstanding categories) without the collaboration between school and parents. Thank you for all your support so far.

Alicja Emmett – Headteacher

Community Engagement:

Pupils have chosen a local mental health charity called ‘Rethink Mental Illness’ as the charity to support this year. It is a local charity that supports young adults and adults to overcome mental health difficulties. We are in the process of planning the various activities with the charity and I will write to you in due course to let you know what we have planned.

Parental Reminders:

Attendance

A large number of our pupils have achieved 100% attendance this term. Well done to them and I thank those parents who have ensured their child attends school regularly.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for all pupils. Pupil attendance should be a minimum of 97% and this means that they should not be absent from school for more than 6 days across a whole school year.

Uniform

Pupils should be attending school in full uniform. We will work with those pupils & parents where adjustments need to be made.

Vaccinations

We have received notification that COVID vaccines will be available and carried out for 12- to 17-year-olds at school on the 16th November. We will write to you separately about this.

Key Dates

Term 1:
06/09/21-
21/10/21

Half Term:
25/10/21-
05/11/21

Term 2:
08/11/21-
15/12/21

**Christmas
Break:**
16/12/21-
04/01/22

Term 3:
05/01/22-
11/02/22

Bank Holidays:
27/12/21
28/12/21
03/01/22

**Road Safety
Week:**
08/11/21-
12/11/21

**Anti-Bullying
week:**
15/11/21-
19/11/21

**Christmas
Jumper Day:**
10/12/21

Curriculum Highlights Term 1:

Motor Vehicle Maintenance at NACRO College.

Pupils have embarked on an IMI Motor Vehicle Maintenance Level 1 course and attend college for between 1 and 2 days per week. So far pupils have learned to change & balance tyres, carry out a MOT, Change & test bulbs, replace an exhaust and lift and lower a car.



Hospitality and Catering at Catch 22.

Three pupils attend Catch 22 training once a week and are working towards a Level 1 in Hospitality & Catering. Pupils have been learning about different food establishments and food groups as well as baking and cooking.



Anna Outdoors.

Pupils have been identifying habitats, cooking outdoors, writing stencils using the sensory environment and developing their social skills. Curriculum links are English, Geography, Design Technology and Personal Social Health Education.



Creepy Claws @ Whiteleaf Farm:

We have two pupils attending Creepy Claws at Whiteleaf Farm for one day a week who have embarked on a Level 2 Diploma in Animal Care. This is a picture of Luke grooming a guinea pig.



Lower Grange Farm:

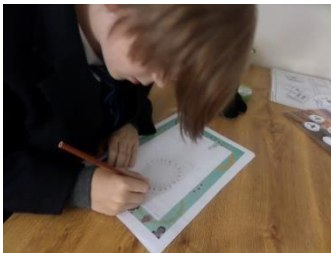
These photographs show pupils at Lower Grange Farm. Here pupils have been working on life skills linked to their EHCPs. Here we have a photograph of Billy who was participating a group activity involving learning archery. The other photograph is Charlotte on a climbing wall - demonstrating great resilience and courage. She was very brave!



Equality and Diversity Calendar:

This term has been a busy one with pupils taking part in the following initiatives:

- **Jeans for Genes Day** – pupils and staff raised £51.66 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you to all who took part
- **Recycling Week** – All classes and offices were provided with a recycling Bag which was then collected, sorted, and recycled appropriately.
- **National Fitness Day**
- **Black History Month** – Charlotte and Jason had been learning about our Forgotten Heroes and how we must recognise them equally, as well as why it is important to stop racism within our culture.



Harvest Festival

This is a picture of Taite and Ollie with the posters they designed to help raise funds for the Harvest Festival. Pupils and staff were asked to donate items of food. Catherine, our SENCO, together with pupils Simon and Oscar delivered the donations to Medway Food Bank where we were thanked sincerely for our kindness and generous donations.



World Mental Health Day

This is a picture of Kallum making use of the 'time for us' area for World Mental Health Day. He was able to show that when you feel like things are getting a little too much, take some time out, even for a few minutes. In this instance, Kallum completed a jigsaw which helped him to relax.