

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 2 2020

This term has certainly been another challenging one with such large numbers of pupils isolating due to COVID. Pupils have shown great resilience when they have returned to school and we are very proud of them. Pupils continue to follow COVID safety guidelines in school to keep themselves and the whole school community as safe as possible.

We had our very first Parent Advisory Group and the minutes of this meeting are available on our website. Thank you to the parents who took some time out of their busy lives to help us ensure we are offering our very special children the best opportunities. Please make a note of the email address should any of our wider parent group want to send in their thoughts and contributions. Our next meeting will be held on the 21st January at 10:00am.

As always, I want to thank you all for your continuing support to the school and the positive feedback from some of our parents/carers this term – it has really helped to reassure us that our families are behind what we are trying to achieve as a school.

I wish you all a pleasant and restful Christmas break and I hope you have an opportunity to spend time safely with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Alicja Emmett
Headteacher

Key Dates:

Term 3:
05/01/21-12/02/21

Half Term:
15/02/21-19/02/21

Term 4:
22/02/21-31/03/21

Parental Advisory
Group Meeting:
21st January 2021

News

Community Links. A huge thank you to the pupils who were involved in designing cards for our charity wHoo Cares. These cards have been printed and we were expecting a batch, but due to COVID this has been delayed. I will ensure these are sent to the families of our pupils who designed the cards, but it is likely to be in the New Year now.

Curriculum.

Experiential Curriculum. The experiential curriculum this term has been Forest School. This term pupils learned about plants and trees, everyday habitats – the needs of plants and animals, environments and classification. Pupils also built dens working in teams. As you can see from the photograph, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. Our older pupils have attended Challenger Troop. This is a military style programme which teaches our pupils skills in leadership, team building, improved communication and health. Due to the high number of pupils who have been absent because of COVID, this programme will continue into next term to ensure all pupils have an opportunity to fully engage. Many of our pupils will continue this programme over the next year and will be working on accredited programmes which supports their social and emotional development as well as promoting employability for when they leave school.

Pupils at Forest School:



Pupils at Challenger Troop



The experiential offer for our younger pupils **next term** will be **Living History**. Pupils will be studying Man through the Ages – Stone Age to the Ancient Greeks and also, the history of transport. These sessions will be linked to a series of interactive workshops held in school (in the absence of an external space). These workshops link to our History Curriculum.

Sex and Relationship Education. We are required to consult with parents on plans for this curriculum. Relationship Education should be taught in Primary and Sex and Relationship Education in Secondary. Our school policy was discussed with our Parent Advisory Group and you will see that their contributions have been noted and will be actioned. A further questionnaire will be sent to our wider parent/carers in due course.

Catch Up Clubs. Due to the ongoing issues with COVID, many of our pupils have missed so much school over the last few months. Our Catch-Up Clubs have started and some pupils have attended these sessions on a Monday after school. We will be promoting this further from January '21 and we hope that your child will participate.

Equality and Diversity Calendar. This term we have covered a wide range of topics:

- **Road Safety Week and UK Parliament Week.**

In addition we covered:

- **Remembrance Day-** Classes looked at the different poppies (red, brown, white and purple) and their meanings. Neptune class decorated the front of the school with coloured poppies and made a wreath using their hands as templates for the poppies.
- **Anti-Bullying Week-** A range of activities was provided for students to do in class, including wearing odd socks to show that it is okay to be different. The students were taught about safety and bullying online, covering topics such as liking negative comments, blocking and reporting.
- **Children in Need-** The children enjoy the opportunity to wear their own clothes and paid £1 to wear something yellow or something spotty to school. Some classes watched Joe Wicks finish his PE marathon. The school raised £65.50
- On **Christmas Jumper day**, we talked about the Charity, Save The Children. The students and adults joined in with this wearing their Christmas jumpers and donated £1 to the charity. The school raised £71.51.

Website Updates. On our website, all parents/carers will be now be able to access curriculum overviews for the upcoming term so you are aware of what topics will be covered in each class with links to resources that could be useful at home. In addition, we have published remote learning timetables (where these are necessary) together with the resources your child will need to undertake their learning. Some of our very talented pupils have recorded some Christmas music and we have a special message from Reverend Andy Hobbs from St Helen's Church, Cliffe. Please follow the Link on our website.

New Pupils: We have welcomed two new pupils into our school at the end of this term. These pupils have joined Jupiter Class and are settling in well.

Merry Christmas from everyone at City of Rochester School

