

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Spring 2 – Academic Year 2020-2021

Introduction from the Head

It has been wonderful to welcome all our pupils back to school this term. We do appreciate that some have found the transition from learning from home and coming back into school difficult, but we are working with all our families to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible. Our pupils are delighted to be back in school with their friends and are now benefiting from direct and high-quality teaching and being able to access the experiential curriculum.

We will be launching an on-line reading platform next term called MyOn. Many of our pupils love reading and we know that reading is key to pupils successfully accessing all areas of their curriculum, expanding their vocabulary, developing their imagination and creativity, gaining a deeper understanding of the world around them and developing their levels of concentration. We will write to you next term with further details.

We held our first parental workshop this term which was run by Fola our Occupational Therapist. The feedback from parents who did attend was very positive. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend. We are pleased that you found this useful. Our next workshop will be on Tuesday 27th April with Nicki our Play Therapist.

We are having extensive building and repair works carried out this term. This will involve some electrical work and the creation of additional learning and office space. We will email visuals to you at the end of the second week which we would request you share with your child so they can be prepared for the change on their return back to school.

We have written to you about COVID testing over the Easter break and would ask that although this is voluntary, that our families take part in the testing programme as it helps to keep our whole school community safe. We continue to operate in “bubbles” in school and from next term this will be reduced to two bubbles – one upper school bubble and one lower school bubble. Transport arrangements will remain as they are.

A reminder please, particularly for those pupils in the upper school about the requirements for your child to wear their school uniform. Please let us know if you need any assistance with this or require any modifications to be made to meet any sensory needs your child may have. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

On behalf of all the school and the Trustees, we wish you a pleasant Easter break and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday 19th April 2021.

Alicja Emmett – Headteacher

Key Dates

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

Term 5:
19/04/21-
28/05/21

Half Term:
31/05/21-
04/06/21

Term 6:
07/06/21-
16/07/21

**Summer
Holidays:**
19/07/21-
03/09/21

Bank Holidays:
02/04/21
05/04.21
03/05/21
31/05/21
30/08/21

Experiential Curriculum Term 4

Pupils are engaging well this term at Challenger and Tiger Troop. They are developing their communication and interaction skills, working as part of a team, learning new skills, following instructions, and getting fit and healthy.

Here you can see pictures of pupils Engaging in den building (which was supposed to be watertight I believe!) getting fit enjoying the outdoors and following instructions to work together. Pupils are thoroughly enjoying this programme and this will be continued into Term 5.



Curriculum – Relationship and Sex Education

Following one of our Parent Advisory Group meetings, and following the consultation with parents on the content of our Relationship and Sex Education Policy, the school has produced a parental overview of what will be covered in the Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum next term. This includes helpful links to further reading or resources. We thought this may be useful to help with any questions that may arise following the sessions we are delivering in school. This overview has been sent to you via email – but paper copies are available should you need one.

Red Nose Day:

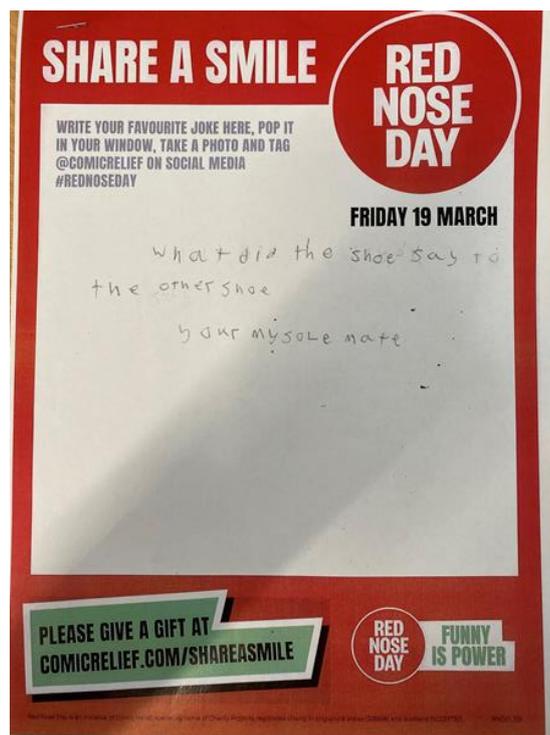
The pupils had a fun filled day raising money for Red Nose Day on Friday 12th March.

The Children left jokes around the corridors to keep us all laughing, Like this one by Kian-

'What did the shoe say to the other shoe?'...

'You're my soulmate!'

Staff and pupils also had the opportunity to purchase headbands and red noses and managed to raise an amazing **£187.00!**



Personal Safety:

Recommended for use by Kent Police, The 'Hollie Guard' app was created in memory of a young girl called Hollie Gazzard. The App is available on both Apple and Android platforms. Once registered this app turns your phone into a personal safety device. Simply by shaking or tapping your phone you can send an alert to your emergency contact who will get a live video with a sound recording of your location. There is also a 'Journey' setting where you can alert your emergency contact that you are leaving somewhere specific and they can track your progress over a live feed until you confirm you are safe.

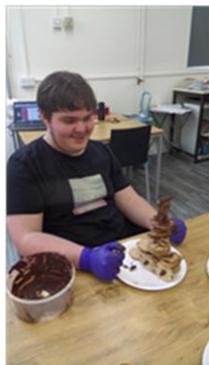


Equality and Diversity Calendar. This term we have covered a wide range of topics:

Science Week:

Pupils took on British Science Week's theme of 'Innovating for the future'. They were encouraged to be creative with their materials and think of innovative designs to build some crunchy architecture. The materials used included biscuits, wafers, crackers, and edible cement (melted chocolate). There were some excellent designs and structures built - well done to all involved!

Pupils also attended a Science club where they made their own lava lamp. They used water, oil, and food colouring to make their mixtures. The experiment looked at the density of different materials, as well as observing liquids that don't mix.



World Book Day:

We celebrated World Book Day at City of Rochester school with a very special guest. Karen Scudder, a local author and illustrator joined us for a Zoom call. She read pages from her book 'Twig and the UFO' for our primary pupils and held a question and answer session for our older pupils. We even received a special signed copy of her story for our school library. We completed lots of fun activities throughout the day and were able to wear our own comfy clothes or come dressed as our favourite book characters!



Mars Class Assembly/ Autism Awareness Week:

Autism Awareness Week is a time to come together and share understanding, knowledge, and experiences of what autism is and how it affects people every day.

It is a time when we should celebrate our differences, talents and skills.



Our staff and students created and designed our own individual jigsaw puzzle pieces, to show that even though we may all be different, we all fit together to make one whole picture.

Mars Class produced an assembly which was shared between all classes that had real-life stories about how autism can be a positive as well as highlighting some of the challenge's individuals experience.

