

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Summer 1 – Academic Year 2020-2021

Introduction from the Head

Our children continue to transition from learning at home to coming back into school. We have seen a number of pupils achieve 100% attendance this term and attendance overall is improving.

We have sent out information on our new on-line reading platform called MyOn with the End of Term Reports. 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 have had another parental workshop this term which was run by Jutta our Speech and Language Therapist. The feedback from parents who did attend was very positive. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules. However, attendance was low and we want to work with all our parents to get the most out of these forums. I look forward to more parents attending our workshops in the future.

A reminder please, particularly for those pupils in the upper school, about the requirements for children to wear their school uniform. What has been more important to us is that your child is attending school, but next term we will be having a focus on school uniform. Please let us know if you need any assistance or require any modifications to meet any sensory needs your child may have. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

We have had a very busy half term and I hope you enjoy reading what has been going on in school and seeing some of the photographs of pupils getting the most out of their learning and experiences at City of Rochester School and developing **Confidence**, **Resilience** and **Success**.

I wish you all a very pleasant half-term break and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday 7th June 2021.

Alicja Emmett – Headteacher

Key Dates

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

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

Motor Vehicle Engineering.

The school is working with another local provider who run a Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Course. Identified pupils will attend this college once a week on day-release from school and will work towards an accredited and nationally recognised (Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) Programme. We look forward to sharing the news with you when this is underway.



Our other partners.

We continue to work collaboratively with White Rocks Farm, Curly's Farm and Squirrels Riding School. We cannot emphasise enough the benefits our pupils receive from working with animals, particularly from a therapeutic perspective. Some pupils who attend these placements are also working towards nationally recognised qualifications. Thank you to Sue Woods, Kyle Ratcliffe and Hayley Squirrel for the support and the experiences you provide to our wonderful pupils.

Careers.

The school has an independent external careers advisor who works closely with us to support pupils who need to be considering next steps. Careers interviews have taken place for those pupils who are eligible, and we are hoping that some work experience opportunities can take place for those pupils next term, this will however, be COVID dependent.

Our Community:

Our Parents

Thank you to all our parents who continue take part in our Parental Advisory Group – if there are any more parents who would like to be involved, we would welcome your input so please contact Kelly on: kelly.lovell@cityofrochesterschool.org. We have sent the Careers Policy to the group who will provide us with some feedback and inputs. Once finalised, this will be available on our website, or in hard copy should any parent request this. Parents have requested an informal virtual coffee morning and this has been scheduled for 18th June at 11am for an hour. We look forward to welcoming you then. Further details to follow.

We recently canvassed our parents for their views and opinions on our school via a questionnaire and some of the highlights from this are below:

- 100% of parents agreed that their child was happy
- 100% of parents said that their child feels safe
- 100% of parents said that the school makes sure the pupils are well behaved
- Any bullying that had taken place at the school, 100% of parents said the school had dealt with it quickly and effectively
- 100% of parents said that the school has high expectations for their child
- 100% of parents said that they would recommend this school
- Suggestions to improve:
 - Reminders and recordings of parental workshops
 - Coffee morning so parents can meet informally
 - A mental health professional as part of the therapy team
 - An online portal to see how individual pupils are progressing and to ensure effective communication

Curriculum News:

Experiential Curriculum Term 5

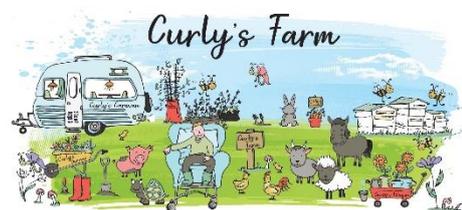
Tiger Troop and Challenger Troop have continued this term with high levels of engagement and achievement. This term, pupils have focused on the theme of **Integrity** and learning to:

- Communicate effectively with their peers and staff
- Demonstrate good listening skills and follow instructions
- Work as part of a team and respond to a number of challenges – these being:
 - Participating in Sumo Wrestling competitions
 - Fire Lighting and a Fire Flag Challenge
 - Developing fitness and learning new exercises and responding to team challenges



Experiential Curriculum Term 6

Some pupils in the upper school will be attending Cyclo Park and will be learning to ride their bikes with confidence and work alongside peers to develop resilience and teamwork. Permission slips have been sent to those parents whose children will be attending. Please can you ensure that these are returned asap if you have not done so already. I look forward to sharing news from this programme and how successful we anticipate it to be.



Our Primary pupils will be attending Curley's Farm on a Friday where they will be consolidating some of their science topics this year, in particular what has been learnt about animals, with a focus on identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. This learning will coincide with our maths for this term, measurement. The children will experience and apply their measurement skills to help feed the right amount of food to the animals at the farm.

Neptune will also be attending Anna outdoors. This is part of the Covid catch up. The children will identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. Neptune's art lessons will also take place during their Anna outdoors session with our brilliant art teacher, Holly. The children will work towards making nature sculptures inspired by Andrew Goldsworthy.



Construction

The school has converted a classroom space and set up a BTEC in Construction Skills. Pupils who have been enrolled on this programme have enjoyed taking part. The programme comprises: Carpentry, Painting and Decorating, Tiling, Plumbing & Electrics.

Equality and Diversity Calendar

This term we have marked a number of key events from our calendar including:

- National Earth Day
- Cultural and Diversity Day

For National Earth Day, pupils learned about global warming and how to be responsible citizens. The photographs below show pupils celebrating Cultural Diversity Day where each class decorated their rooms

representing countries from around the world. Pupils learned new words in different languages, went on virtual tours, listened to music, played games and tried different foods. The day was a huge success with pupils visiting different classrooms with their “passports”. Countries “visited” were Japan, Egypt, Mexico, France and Australia.



Other Curriculum News

Our Pupils

Pupils have taken part in a survey on school life. Some highlights from this are below:

- 91% of pupils said they enjoyed learning at school
- 91% of pupils said that teachers helped them do their best
- 95% of pupils feel listened to
- 100% of pupils said there is an adult they can talk to if something was worrying them
- 91% of pupils said behaviour was good in the school
- 7 pupils felt that the behaviour of others could be better
- Suggestions to improve:
 - Further work with pupils on being kind to others and accepting each other's' differences (as part of our school values)

Our Local Charity - wHoo Cares

The school continues to support a local charity, wHoo Cares, and has already undertaken a number of activities on their behalf – these being a harvest festival collection and designing Christmas Cards. This term, a number of pupils on the Construction Programme have made planters which have been donated to this cause. The recipients of these lovely planters were extremely grateful and have thanked all who were involved. We are planning some more activities next term (COVID dependent) and we will share our exciting plans with you in due course.



Our Trustees

Our Board of Trustees have been carrying out some monitoring activities which has included quality assuring the provision. This work includes:

- Safeguarding
- Curriculum
- Health and Safety
- The Self Evaluation and School Development Plan

We have a new Trustee joining our Board in the very near future and I look forward to sharing details with you in due course.