



# Girls' Newsletter - 21st January 2022

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 21st January 2022

Cumnor House School

## *A Message from Mrs McShane*



One of the things that I value so much about the pupils at Cumnor Girls is their ability to talk. As you know, we have placed a great emphasis on oracy at the school, actively encouraging the girls to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings. The girls have opportunities to discuss in lessons, assemblies, breaktimes and staff sit with the girls and chat with them at lunchtimes. This begins in Reception and carries on all the way through. The effect of this is two-fold: firstly, the girls are very confident when speaking to any adult in the school, this can be general chatter about their day, what they are doing for birthdays, seeing family etc or, it can be that they need to express a concern or a worry. Whatever the subject, I know that the girls feel able to talk to any member of staff, this not only helps the girls to grow as communicators but also ensures that we maintain our strong sense of being a safe community. The second benefit to our culture of oracy is that because the girls are enabled to bounce ideas around, encouraged to share their opinions and to justify them, they are more able to write them down; because in speech they are less hindered to use creative vocabulary they are more likely to write it. Speech comes before writing and varied speech leads to better writing – in all subjects. I am proud of the way our girls present themselves whether they are in Reception or in Year Six and we will continue to build on this as a key part of our teaching and learning. This is, after all, not just something for their primary years, or their senior school years, it is a life skill.

I am pleased to say that the new coat in lost property has been claimed. The larger sized coats that have been on order from Perrys are due to be delivered very soon. If you have not got a school coat for your

daughter, please order one as soon as possible. Too many girls are wearing a random assortment of coats.

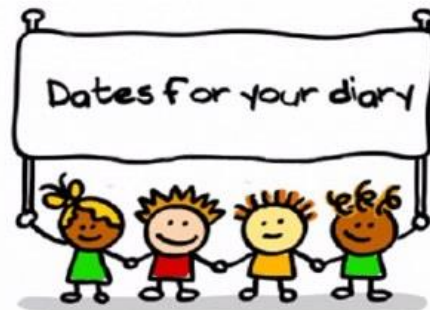
Thank you for responding positively to the messaging about morning drop-off of children and also the afternoon collections. It makes such a difference when everybody does the right thing.

We will soon be launching the parents' evening appointments. We have made the decision to keep these on-line, although the guidance on events is beginning to relax, I am still reluctant to have too many people mingling in close proximity. The priority must remain on keeping our whole community safe. We have listened to and taken note of feedback from parents and extended the form teacher time from 10 to 15 minutes which should make the meeting feel less rushed and negate the need for a follow up meeting. There will also be opportunity for Years 3, 4 and 5 to make appointments to speak with specialist staff as parents in Years 4 and 5 in particular, may wish to discuss senior school scholarship potential. Due to possible numbers, these meetings will be 5 minutes long. Please be prompt to any scheduled meetings as the platform is quite brutal and will cut off at the end of the scheduled time.

**“Your voice is the most potent magic in existence.”**

Michael Bassey Johnson

### *Important Dates for your Diary*



Saturday 22nd January	Year 3-6 Cross Country League @Woodcote High School
Wednesday 26th January	Year 6 Hockey v Banstead Prep (a) 2.30pm
Tuesday 1st February	Year 5 trip
Wednesday 2nd February	Year 5 Hockey v Seaton House (h) 2.30pm U11 Hockey (a) Aberdour
Friday 4th February	ISA U11 Netball Tournament
Monday 7th February	Swimming gala U8-U11 @ Banstead Prep
Tuesday 8th February	4.30pm - 6.45pm Parents' Evening online (details to follow) Year 3 Hockey (a) v Aberdour 3pm
Wednesday 9th February	Year 6 Hockey Tournament @ Banstead Prep 1pm 4.30pm - 7pm Parents' Evening online (details to follow)
Thursday 10th February	Reception Fairy Tale Ball tbc Year 4 Hockey v Aberdour (h) 3pm
Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February	Half-Term
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Charity Election Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-Prep Look at Learning
Thursday 17 March	Prep Look at Learning
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Reception and Year 1 Mothers' Day Concert 8.30am
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Break up for Easter

## Reminders.....

### Extra Curriculum Activities - Cancellations

Please note that the following clubs are **cancelled** on **Tuesday 25th January** due to staff training:

Little Voices Choir - Year 1 & 2

Computing & Coding Club - Year 5 & 6

Please remember to collect your daughter/s at normal time at the end of the day or alternatively you can book ASC through Cognita Connect.

### Student Laptops - Years 3 to 6

Windows 10 PCs often have system updates which we strongly advise performing due to the new feature releases and security updates.

However, it's recently come to the schools attention that some Students Laptops may be advertising the opportunity to **upgrade/update to Windows 11**, which for the time being, **needs to be avoided**.

It is common practice amongst pretty much all the worlds' industries for these substantial system updates to be halted for a variety of reasons; and this is no different.

Many thanks

IT Department



## Absence Notifications

Please can we remind parents that if your daughter is going to be late/absent from school can you please call the school office on **020 8668 0050 option 2** and/or email her Form Tutor and [admin.purley@cumnorhouse.com](mailto:admin.purley@cumnorhouse.com) for **each day** of her absence.

Late/ill - please inform us **before 9.30am** each day

Appointments/other - please inform us at least **24 hours** in advance where possible

## *This week at the Girls' School.....*

### Swimming

Mr OB and Mrs Lewis were very proud of all the girls in the Years 3-6 Swim Squad, who competed against Downsend (Away) on Monday. Many of our swimmers took to the challenge of swimming up a year group, impressively and worth a particular mention are all of Year 3, who swam against Downsend Year 4, furthermore it was Abigail and Rianna's first school gala. It was a very loud and excited environment with all the girls of all year groups supporting each other, unfortunately, we lost the gala 102 points to Downsend 138 points; however, it is safe to say fun was had by all!



### Year 4's Sound Survey

Year 4's topic for Science this half term is 'Sound'. For their Science lesson, Year 4 went on a sound survey around Cumnor Girls school grounds to see what they could hear. We spoke about what sounds we could hear and why it may be different in each area we visited. When we were near the office we could hear Mrs McShane typing on her key board, we could hear Mrs King teaching English in The Hive and when we were outside on the playground, we could hear Mr OB talking about the rules of hockey. What sounds can you hear in different places in your home?



*Other News.....*



**Biathlon Championships**

The PE department are delighted to announce that Arielle, Ella and Fatima in Year 5 have all qualified for the National Schools Biathlon Championships, run by Pentathlon GB. The event will be held in Bath during the weekend of the 19th – 20th March. The girls will compete against other girls in their age group from around the country swimming 50m and running 800m. To qualify the girls took part in a regional event at Aldershot Garrison earlier this month.



### **Voice of the Parent**

At Cumnor House School, one of our key aims is to ensure that our close partnerships with our families remain strong throughout your child’s educational career. Having a solid understanding of your views on the school, enables us to work together to ensure that Cumnor House is moving forward in the right direction.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our Annual Parent Survey which will be sent to you on **Tuesday 1st February 2021**. We recognise that the last academic year has been like no other, but we believe it is important to reach out through our survey, to understand your views of how the school is performing. Every year, your answers help us to plan effectively and to make sure that we are placing our energy and resources in the right place to deliver the best education for your child. Please do look out for the email invitation arriving in your inbox. Please note if you have more than one child at Cumnor House you will receive a survey per child - please complete your answers based on each child's experience of the school.

**The survey will remain open until 21st February 2022.**

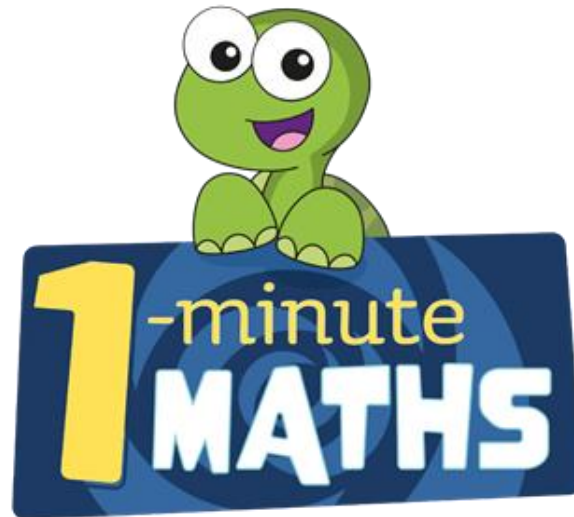
### **New White Rose App for Key Stage 1**

You may be aware that at Cumnor Girls we follow the White Rose curriculum for our Maths lessons. This week, White Rose have introduced a new app called ‘1-Minute Maths’. This first version of the app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils. Individual one-minute tasks will focus on adding and subtracting – and on ‘Subitising’, the skill of instantly recognising the number of items in a group without counting. Multiplication and division will be added soon!

Your daughter can choose any topic they want to try. They then answer a unique series of questions (so it’s a different set of questions every time). If they’re struggling with a question, a ‘Hint’ button will give

a helpful clue by showing the question in a different but familiar way. When the one minute's up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done.

This app is completely optional for parents to download onto a tablet or device of their choice. This is not a new platform for school and will only be used at home.



### Next Thing Education - Tech Camp

Over the February half term we are delighted to offer another activity for pupils of Cumnor House school aged between 5 and 11. Next Thing Education will be running a week long tech course where children will cover all manner of things to do with coding, movie making, app design etc. All activities that will give pupils a greater knowledge and understanding of technical and logical skills. This camp will take place on the Girls' School campus. Please see the attached flyer for further information about how to book.





### Year 3 & 4 Cricket Course

Purley CC are running a beginner's girls cricket course for year 3 and 4 girls for six weeks on a Wednesday evening from 6-7pm at John Fisher School from February 23-March 30 inclusive. The cost is £30 (and this fee would be discounted from a full cricket membership for any girls who would like to continue into the summer). The course is run by fully qualified coaches and no equipment is needed. Please see the attached flyer for contact details and contact Chris directly for more information or to sign up.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, do please call me on 07802419090.



Wishing you a happy, warm and restful weekend.

Amanda McShane

Headmistress of Cumnor Girls