



Cumnor House Boys' School & Nursery

Friday 25th February 2022

Key Dates - Early Years & Boys' School



A reminder that the school calendar is located under the 'calendar' section of your Cognita Connect app.

EARLY YEARS

Parent Progress Meetings (face to face):

- **Reception:** 3pm-4:30pm Monday 28th February / 4pm-6pm Wednesday 2nd March.
Bookings are now open, please refer to the 'Notice' sent to parents on Tuesday to access the appointment system.
- **Pre-School and Kindergarten,** please click [here](#) to view dates and timings. (booking details with follow)

World Book Day, Thursday 3rd March.

BOYS' MAIN SCHOOL

Parent Progress Meetings (face to face):

We have amended some of the dates previously published to allow for 15 minute appts with Form Tutors.

- **Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 Parent Progress Meetings,** 5pm-8pm Thursday 3rd March / Tuesday 8th March (Bookings are now open, please refer to the 'Notice' sent to parents on Thursday to access the appointment system).
- **Year 5 Parent Progress Meetings,** 5pm-8pm Thursday 10th March / Tuesday 15th March (booking details will follow).
- **Year 6 Parent Progress Meetings,** 5pm-8pm Monday 7th March / Thursday 10th March (booking details will follow).
- **Year 7 Parent Progress Meetings,** 5pm-8pm Thursday 10th March / Tuesday 15th March (booking details will follow).
- **Year 8 Parent Progress Meetings,** 5pm-8pm Monday 7th March (booking details will follow).

World Book Day, Thursday 3rd March.

A reminder that After School Clubs/Activities run up until the preceding week prior to the end of a **full term** (Friday 25th March for the Spring Term).

This week in the Boys' School.....



Dear Parents

I must start with the **outstanding performances** from the London League Gala on Wednesday evening. I felt **extremely privileged** to attend and watch the boys do so well against some excellent schools in the South London area. **Thank you to all the parents who were there in support** - I can certainly say that the loudest cheers came from us. I am in **absolute awe** of the **belief and endeavour** of each and every boy who was involved. Their **dedication to training** for this event and the way they worked as a team was outstanding. With our current 'open air' pool training has been interrupted but that did not deter the boys one bit. **Mr Fitzgerald and his team have worked tirelessly** to be able to train with the swim squad and **Mr Fitzgerald's passion and dedication to the sport is second to none**. I would like to **personally thank him for what he does for swimming at Cumnor on a daily basis**. Special thanks to **Mr Bennett, Mr Jones and Miss Redman** who also supported last night. **Well done, boys - your applause and congratulations** are thoroughly deserved and we will be celebrating your win in assembly next week. The full swimming report is below.

In more good news for our Head of Swimming I am sure you will join me in congratulating **Mr Fitzgerald and his fiancé, Lauren who are now engaged to be married**.



Mrs Figueira shared some wonderful half term homework from **4F** this week. I enjoyed reading the stories where the boys had to put themselves in the place of a **refugee** and worked hard to understand and portray emotion in their writing. You can see **Henry and Wilan's** story here. **Well done, boys** - I enjoyed the language and writing techniques you have used so beautifully.

Slowly, Jack packed his bag. He went to an airport in Afghanistan, and he jumped on the aeroplane. Then he went on to the plane and then the plane took off. He could see the wheels out of the window as they went up in the sky.

In Ireland the plane lands on the ground. Then they went to get the luggage, and they put it in the car. They went on the Train and Jack left his family because he left them on the platform, he made a new family and he made new friends.

When they got home in the UK went to his new house he went to bed in his lovely bed, and they went to a pool. They went to lunch and had spaghetti and then they went home.

Jack went to college, and he had an English test. His maths teacher's name is Stuart. He is very confident and is kind at school.]

My Refugee Narrative

Slowly, I packed my old, green bag with my best, warmest clothes. As I folded my blue, woolly jumper, I listened to the outrageous, ferocious bombs exploding like a man-eating, snail, dangerous dinosaur demolishing our beautiful city. Sadly, I watched our beloved creations being demolished into ashes and flames. Suddenly my mum shouted, "Come on!" from downstairs. I quickly shoved all my stuff into my suitcase and sprinted downstairs like a rocket. My sister, mum and dad were waiting for me in our hallway.

I quickly hopped into the back of the truck, and we set off as fast as we could so we could avoid from the war and explosions. I felt really bored because I thought that I might get hit by a missile on my head. My sister was a frightened hamster diving into my mum's arms. It was a very bumpy ride in the truck because the bombs had made marks in the ground. It had also been immensely cold. My teeth were chattering, and my bones were shattering like a child's mobile toy.

We finished the ride on the rickety truck and climbed onto the dingy to our camp. I was really bored, as we didn't have any thing to do or play with. I was really missing my home in Syria, and I really cried because I missed it so much. I even missed my cuddly teddy bear to play with and my Lego.

Then my dad said there was only five minutes until we got there. Unexpectedly our bear toppled over on the sand.

All soaked and destroyed we slumped over to the camp and dried ourselves off. Then I heard someone say "Hey Wilan" from behind me. When I turned around, I was surprised to see my best friend! He was mourning away too, and his family were making food. I asked, "Can we join in?". He said his family wasn't going to eat all of it so of course he said, "We joined in the feast and filled our tummies with food until we were full up."

After our full-filling feast we set off a long walk to London. It was very lucky we had such a big snack, more like lunch to fill us up. Finally, we got to England and luckily, we were let in. I was relieved to have been let in with my friend so we could have fun together. It was amazing to have a good life but I was still missing Syria.

On Thursday evening Mr Beattie presented an **online workshop** for parents to provide you with information about our new **EdTech platforms**. Thank you to those of you who joined us. **If you were unable to attend** please click on the [link](#) below to watch the video. We are excited to see the boys using **Century Tech, LbQ and Atom** to reinforce learning, assess for prior learning before a new topic and to challenge and extend the boys. If you have any questions please contact tyler.bs@cognita.com

Many thanks to Mr Beattie for an informative and fun session.



Year 1 have been busy **designing and making egg protectors** to be able to drop their egg safely from a height. As you can see from the picture, **Zohan in 1S** has worked hard to provide great protection here and I love the additional parachute. **Well done, Zohan.**

After receiving further **Covid guidance** this week we have put together a **Covid Update** at the **bottom of this newsletter**. Please do read the changes. Whilst testing is no longer mandatory and the isolation period is also no longer mandatory, as a school, we would still advise you to notify us if your son/daughter has tested positive so that we can notify the class and year group, where necessary to enable parents to be up to date with current infections in the school. You may then wish to take additional precautions to protect families and pupils who are vulnerable. It is also important, as with all illness, that if your child is unwell they should stay at home until they are feeling better.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Kind Regards

Miss Edwards

Head of School

Sports News

LONDON LEAGUE SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

*Well done to all the boys who competed in the **London League Final** held at **JAGS** on Wednesday evening. This was an extremely high standard of gala, with the **top 6 schools** - from over **20 schools** who took part in the preliminary round - competing against each other in the final.*

We had high hopes of winning this competition for the first time, after a very impressive heat performance which ranked us first going into the final. Despite an interrupted preparation over the past few weeks, with both Covid and storm Eunice we performed exceptionally well on the night. This unforeseen interruption to our training schedule did not stop us from putting up a very dominant performance and lifting the trophy in an impressive fashion.

*We will now go on to compete in the **Grand Final** later in the year along with the second, and third placed schools against the **top 3 schools from the other side of the river**.*

*This was very much a team effort with **34 boys competing**. Our strength in depth really shone through, especially in the relay events which ultimately won us the gala, we **won 10 of the 15 relays**. Please see below a breakdown of the individual year groups.*

Year 3

We were top school in this year group. We were extremely dominant winning 5 of the 6 races and finishing second in the other.

Winners

Sebastian - Backstroke

Ayden - Breaststroke

Christian - Front Crawl

Medley Relay - **Sebastian, Ayden, Jenson, Christian**

Front Crawl Relay - **Christian, Henry, Sebastian, Ammar**

*A special mention to **Christian** and **Henry** who are in Year 2 swimming for the year above.*

Year 4

We were the top school in this year group and again very dominant, winning 9 of the 12 events.

Winners

'A' Breaststroke - **Edmond**

*'B' Breaststroke - **Elijah***

*'A' Butterfly - **Arnav***

*'B' Butterfly - **Gabriel***

*'B' Front Crawl - **Daniy***

*'A' Medley Relay - **Oliver, Edmond, Arnav, Daniy***

*'B' Medley Relay - **Rhys, Elijah, Gabriel, Henry***

*'A' Front Crawl relay - **Arnav, Edmond, Gabriel, Elijah***

*'B' Front Crawl relay - **Zaeem, Daniy, Noah, Henry***

Year 5

We were once again the top school in this year group, winning 5 of the 12 events. and finishing no less than 3rd in any event.

Winners

*'A' Breaststroke - **Archie***

*'B' Breaststroke - **James***

*'A' Medley Relay - **Max, Archie, Arshia, Sebastian***

*'A' Front Crawl Relay - **Sebastian, Arshia, James, Archie***

*'B' Front Crawl Relay - **Max, Ansh, Ayaan, David***

Year 6

Although we didn't win the Year 6, the performances and results of this year group show the great depth we have in swimming at Cumnor. Many of our swimmers were performing at London League for the first time and despite a new look team from last year, the Year 6 team performed beyond expectations. They all deserve a special mention.

*Well done to **Sean, Andre, Nicholas, Kayin, Joshua, Ishaan, Aiden, and Dylan.***

*We also **won** the squadron relay (12 Boys, 4 from Years 4, 5, and 6).*

The boys in this event were **Arnav, Gabriel, Rhys, Elijah, Sebastian, Ansh, Archie, Arshia, Joshua, Kayin, Aiden, and Sean.**

A fantastic performance from all the boys, who remain unbeaten in all galas this year. Hopefully, our pool will be open again very soon, and we can start our preparation to win the Grand Final.

Keep up the hard work!

Mr Fitzgerald

Head of Swimming

RUGBY



This week in Reception and Nursery.....



Dear Parents

Please can I politely remind **South Croydon** parents **not to park at the top end of the entrance between the Bungalow and the Pavilion**. If you wish to park on site at drop off and collection then you must please drive down past the Pavilion building and park at the far end of the site by the school field. We have safety concerns with parents parking and turning in the **'No Parking'** zone which is causing **safety issues and congestion** blocking the school mini buses and other drivers from entering the site.

This week **Reception** children have started a new topic which is called **Habitats**. They have taken a look at what is a habitat and which animals or plants we can find in each one. After exploring some habitats, **RS** boys have decided they want to work on 4 different habitats, which are coral reef, ocean, mountain and flower bed. **RUS** boys have decided they prefer to discover more about jungle,

ocean, farm and savannah. This week both classrooms we have been discovering which animals and plants we can find in the ocean and representing them in our displays.

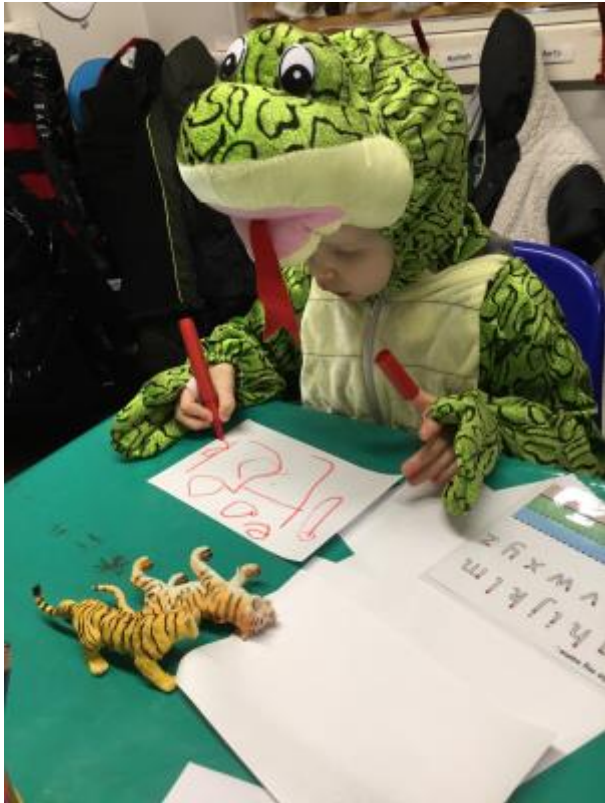




The **Pre-School** children at **Purley** have enjoyed all of the activities surrounding their new topic '**Animals All Around The World**'. The children had such fun dressing up in our animal costumes, using the zips and getting the head-pieces on independently, and immersing themselves in our classroom "jungle safari" role play corner. They continued with their independent learning activities (such as writing) with their animal gear on!

This week in **Pre-School** at **South Croydon** the children have also started to learn about our new topic '**Animals All Around The World**'. We have been focusing this week on animals found in Savannas on the African continent. The children have been enjoying the story 'We're going on a lion hunt' and making lions with different fabrics.







This week in **Kindergarten** at **South Croydon** we have enjoyed focusing on our theme '**Animals Around Us**'. The children always show a huge interest in the role play area, so we have turned it into a veterinary surgery. The children have been caring for the animals and their medical needs applying bandages and plasters. They have also focused on their fine motor skills by writing out notes for each animal. The children also enjoyed pretending to be patients by trying on different animal masks. We also turned our water tray into a fish tank.





This week **Kindergarten** at **Purley** are also looking at '**Animals Around Us**'. We have been learning about some animals and their babies. We have been talking about the adult animals and then learning what their babies are called. The children have worked individually and in groups matching the babies to their parents. Over the week the children have become more confident naming the babies after returning to this activity several times.

In a few weeks (**14th March**) we will be discussing our pets, if you have a a cat, dog, rabbit, fish or anything else we would be very grateful if you could send in a picture.



Congratulations to the children below who received awards this week:

Gold Awards:

South Croydon Pre-School: **Noah B-K**

Purley Pre-School: **Reya**

Reception: **Rohan (RS) Arjun S (RUS)**

Star of the Week:

South Croydon Pre-School: **Eden and Lyan**

Purley Pre-School: **Srey**

Reception: **Ibrahim (RS) William D (RUS)**

A gentle reminder to parents that all medication that is to be administered during school hours should be provided in its **original packaging with the prescription label** clearly visible along with a medication syringe or spoon.

Kind Regards

Mrs Shelley

Head of EYFS

NOTICES:

Covid Update

Further to the recent **Government announcement** and taking into consideration the safety of our school community we advise parents to continue to report positive cases to the covidresponseboys@cumnorhouse.com mailbox and it is advised that staff/pupils who test positive stay at home to isolate for at least 5 days. Where a positive case is confirmed we will continue to notify parents via Cognita Connect. However, this is not mandatory.

Testing & Isolation

- Guidance for staff and Y7/8 pupils to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing **is now removed**.
- The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test **is removed**. Adults and children who test positive **are still advised** to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and continue to follow this guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a **confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19**, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.
- Fully vaccinated close contacts and those under 18 years of age **no longer** required to test daily for 7 days.
- The legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate **is removed**.
- Routine contact tracing will end and contacts are **no longer** required to self-isolate.
- Staff and pupils should attend their school setting as usual and this includes staff who have been in close contact within their household.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings **no longer** need to be worn by staff and Year 7/8 pupils in communal areas.
- In line with London Transport wearing face coverings on the school buses **is recommended but not mandatory**.

Hygiene Measures

- We will continue with hygiene measures including regular handwashing and classroom ventilation.
- Daytime cleaning will continue at all sites.

Cognita Connect

Having received feedback regarding **Cognita Connect** from my meetings with parents and the annual survey I am pleased to update you on **planned improvements**.

The launch of this new communication platform in July 2020 was designed to help us simplify school communication as well as provide a portal through which payments can be made for extracurricular activities.

By and large this objective has been met but we do recognise that the experience of using the app can be frustrating on occasions. Our colleagues at Cognita School Support Centre have been working with the supplier to make improvements and I am pleased to say that there are some quick updates planned for delivery by the summer term which includes being able to share content (messages, images) and being able to sync with the calendar on a user's phone. We will keep you updated as soon as we know that they are about to go live.

In addition to this, there has been a major review of the whole platform and the plan is to relaunch a much-improved Cognita Connect app in the Autumn 2022.

If anyone would like to be involved in the review and testing of the new platform, please do contact heads.pa@cumnorhouse.com as we would love to include you.

Kind Regards

Miss Edwards