



Cumnor House Boys' School & Nursery

Friday 21st January 2022

Key Dates - Early Years & Boys' School



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

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



Dear Parents

We have had another **eventful week** at Cumnor and I had a lovely visit from **Alessio, Sebastian and Dhiyaan from 2R** who have been telling me all about their **woodland habitat** topic. They presented some lovely woodland habitats including badgers, foxes and rabbits. Their work is stunning and the **3D background** is very clever. **Well done, boys** - you have worked so hard.







I also had a lovely visit from **Zachary in 2R** who came to show me his very special morning snack. **Zachary's banana skin** had some **sums, questions and lovely messages** on it for him written by mum and dad. What a super idea! Thank you, Zachary.



Mrs McShane, Headmistress of the Girls' School has asked me to politely request parents dropping off/collecting children from our **Purley Nursery site**, and dropping off/collecting children that take the bus from/to the **Girls' School**, to please **consider the residents of Woodcote Lane**. Please do take a moment to read the **Woodcote Lane rules** under the 'Notices' section below. We would ask that you please support us in continuing our good relationship with our neighbours.

With the **rugby season** now upon us, it is very important that parents are aware of the signs & symptoms of **concussion**. In December, the boys watched the following **RFU concussion awareness** video which we have shared here for your information [Understanding Concussion](#).

You may recall that we shared the **Carol Service** as a recording just prior to Christmas as sadly we could no hold this at the Minster due to Covid restrictions and the rising cases. The **retiring collections** which were due to take place at the Service were '**The Refugee Day Centre**' and '**Marie Curie**'. We would welcome parents to please still **donate** to these worthy charities by visiting the '**Payments**' section of your **Cognita Connect app** as we were sad to see that we had only received a donation from **one parent**, and we would really like to support these two charities by raising as much as we can. The donation pages will remain open until **Monday 31st January**.

As you will be aware the government made an announcement yesterday regarding **face coverings**. As of **yesterday, 20th January** our **Year 7 and 8** pupils will **no longer have to wear face coverings** in their own classrooms. We still recommend that **staff and Year 7 and 8** pupils **wear there face coverings in all indoor communal areas until Thursday 27th January**.

Finally we would like to wish Mrs Upfold good luck as her baby is expected to arrive shortly. She will now be on maternity leave and **Mrs Shelley** will be looking after our **Early Years**, with my full support. We look forward to meeting **baby** soon.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Miss Edwards

This week in Reception & Nursery.....

Dear Parents

For **Pre-School** parents with **daughters** we would like to warmly invite you to attend our **first transition event of 2022, our annual Fairytale Ball!** Held at **Cumnor Girls' School**, on the afternoon of **10th February 2022**. For full details and to register to attend please click [here](#).

Miss Jama will be leaving us at the end of the month to focus on her family. She has been an **excellent member of staff** and I know you will all **wish her well** with future endeavours. **Mrs Upfold** will begin her **maternity leave** on Monday 24th January and **Mrs Shelley will take on the role of Acting Head of Early Years**. **Mrs Upfold** would like to thank all the parents for their support and their very generous gifts. We wish **Mrs and Mr Upfold** well as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives

The **Reception boys** have been reading '**Handa's Surprise**' this week as part of our topic '**Stories around the world**.' They have been learning about the **similarities and differences** between **Kenya and England** and have started writing their own version of the story **Handa's Surprise**.

In **Art** the boys have started to make a **djembe drum** and have enjoyed playing the **musical instruments** in class. **Nana and Ayaan** really enjoyed using papier-mâché to cover the outside of their drums.

In **Numeracy** the boys have continued to learn about **two digit numbers to 20** and have been learning how to represent tens and ones using cubes, tens frames and the part-whole method.



This week in the **Purley Kindergarten** the children have been learning about the colour green, number 2 and sound k. Continuing with our 'Nursery Rhyme' theme we have been talking about buses, (wheels on the bus) what colours they are, if they are big or small and who has been on a bus. The children have had a variety a buses to colour and have also been encouraged to draw their own.

They have been decorating **Humpty Dumpty eggs** with faces and thinking about how many eyes, noses and mouths he needs. Kindergarten talked about what happened to Humpty Dumpty when he fell off the wall and broke our own eggs. The children then put them back together using plasters. They really enjoyed re-enacting the nursery rhyme.

In **PE** this week Kindergarten have started to learn how to kick a ball, using little kicks and I was very impressed with their early skills and control when I saw them.

At **South Croydon Kindergarten** have also had a lovely week doing lots of activities based on the '**Nursery Rhymes**' theme. The book they have been reading this week is called 'Doing the animal bop'. This story encouraged the children to think about different animal sounds and move their bodies in different ways.

The children have been practicing drawing **shapes and naming 2D shapes** and developing their fine motor skills. Kindergarten's sound of the week is 'u' and we have been looking at different objects beginning with this sound. They have spent lots of time in the garden and the children have enjoyed using their problem-solving skills on the obstacle course and moving in different ways riding the scooters, running and jumping.

The children have also shown a big interest in caring for babies and to extend this we set up a nappy changing station in the home corner.









This week the **Purley Pre-School class** learnt all about the sound "**p**" in phonics and they focused on **mass, capacity and measurement in maths**.

Their story focus was "**Jack and the Beanstalk**" and there was much excitement as the children helped to trace around Miss Peterson as our giant, to record and compare our heights to. The children have been enjoying taking turns to dramatize the sequence of events from the story of "Jack and the Beanstalk" whilst wearing roleplay masks.

They have also been making **playdough beanstalks** and using the **cube-blocks to measure** how many blocks tall the beanstalks are. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring mass with the scales at the messy tray and also writing and drawing pictures about our story focus - the teachers have been encouraging them to label their pictures to draw attention to the importance of writing.

At Forest School the children all planted their own beans to grow into beanstalks (we hope!) which are busy catching sunlight on our classroom windowsill.



In **Pre-School** the children have been reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and so at Forest School they planted their own "bean stalks" which they are hoping they can watch grow!



This week in **Willows Pre-School** the children have been learning about 'one less' in maths' by learning the songs 5 currant buns. The children role played buying currant buns from the bakers and then had a go at working out how many were left.

They have also been learning about the continent Africa, linked to the story 'Little Red and the very hungry lion'. They were very lucky to try delicious foods from Uganda and Somalia where Mrs Martin and Miss Jama are from. The children also had lots of fun with Miss Secker making different wintery sounds with percussion instruments and learning lots of football skills with coach Harry.

Congratulations to the children below who received awards this week:

- **Stars of the Week: Elora and Freya Croydon Pre-School, Maximilian Purley Pre-School, Leo RUS, Reuben RS**
- **Gold Awards: Theodora Purley Pre-School, William U RUS, Nana RS**

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Shelley

Sports News

EAT SLEEP RUGBY REPEAT!!!

After a staggering 22 months without competitive inter school rugby fixtures, we are back! Here are some of the reports from this week (taken from the sports website):

U13A v Homefield (won 60-25)

A great first game of the season for the U13A team and the boys moved the ball well with good catch-pass skills and scored some well worked tries. The focus for next week will be around our defensive line and working in unison. Well done boys; a good first outing with plenty to build on! Mr Barnett

U13B v Homefield (Lost 50-60)

We began the rugby season with a tag rugby match that proved to be a tightly fought contest with Cumnor narrowly losing by 2 tries. There are lots of things to work on but still plenty of positives to take away with effort and involvement good across the entire team. Well done, boys! Mr Bennett & Mr Blackford.

U12A v Homefield (Won 55-30)

Excellent start to the Rugby season!

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- *Tackle technique awards: 1. Shanav (most tackles) 2. Johnny 3. Zachary*
 - *Breakdown (rucking) awards: 1. Travaun (most rucks) 2. Zachary 3. Johnny*
 - *Handling awards: 1. Malachi 2. Zachary 3. Shanav*
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Team attack: 10/10 (excellent handling skills, offloads in contact & lots of space found wide) - please keep up the good work and keep the ball alive (avoid contact).

Team defence: 5/10 (some outstanding individual efforts; we will now work on our defensive shape and continue with safe tackle technique practice).

Mr Brotherton

Director of Sport

NOTICES:

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**.

Thank you for your time in completing the survey and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions in relation to the above.

Miss Edwards

Head of School

Woodcote Lane Rules

A reminder please to parents when using Woodcote Lane:

- Please do drive carefully being considerate of the neighbours
- Please drive at 15mph or below
- Please do not do any U-Turns in the road
- Please park on the school side of the road
- Please do not obstruct any driveways.

If the wooden gates at the end of the lane fail to open it needs a little time to reset. Reverse back from the gate, wait a minute or two then drive forward. The gates should open. If the gates still fail to open, please do not force them open as this damages the underground opening mechanism which is very expensive to replace. You will need to turn around and enter/ exit the lane from the other end. However, the gate is set on a timer to be open at busy school times so this should not be an issue.

A reminder regarding the end of the day pick-ups:

At the end of the day when collecting pupils from the buses at the Girls' School site, parents must **park in the lane** and wait for their son in the gravel semi-circle. At these times there are a lot of children that we are trying to get to parents safely. There are now an increasing number of parents driving in and trying to park or doing multiple circuits in and around the driveway. This compromises the safety of all of our pupils. The driveway is only to be used if you need to turn around so that you do not turn in the Lane.

The safety of our pupils is paramount and therefore we need everyone to abide by the rules, without exception.

Tech Holiday Camp - February Half Term

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 flyer below for further information about how to book.



An Introduction to Liz Martin



Liz Martin joined our Pre School at South Croydon in November as a Nursery Practitioner. Liz grew up in Uganda, and has lived in England for over 15 years. Over the past few years she has worked with teachers and senior teaching assistants in various settings supporting pupils in reception and KS1.

Her previous role involved working as a teaching assistant volunteer at Cumnor House Boys' School whilst pursuing her education studies. She is very passionate about contributing to the development of children and seeing them thrive. She is enjoying getting to know all the children at the nursery.

PTA News/Events

- **Wednesday 26th January - Cake Sales** (after school). The PTA will be holding cake sales at the Boys' School and both nurseries Thank you in advance for your contributions and continued support.
- **Friday 28th January (after school)** - Tuck Shop at Boys' Main School
- **Monday 31st January , 7pm** - Committee Meeting (further details to follow)
- **Friday 4th February 5pm-7pm** - Year 1 & 2 Spring Disco Flyer - Please see below flyer for more details and click [here](#) to book tickets.





