



Girls' Newsletter - 23rd February 2024

Upcoming Key Dates.....

All school dates for this term are available to view on the 'Calendar' section of your Cognita Connect app, please regularly check to keep up-to-date with upcoming events at school.

- **Monday 26th February** - Year 1 Trip to St Patrick's Church (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Tuesday 27th February** - Year 4 Trip to Hampton Court (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Wednesday 28th February** - Year 6 Hockey V Seaton House (a) (please see sports website for further details)
- **Wednesday 21st February** - Year 5 Hockey v Aberdour (a) - Parents Welcome (please see sports website for further details)
- **Friday 1st March** - PTA Quiz Night (please see flyer further down the newsletter for more details)
- **Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March** - Book Fair Week
- **Wednesday 6th March** - Year 5 & 6 Fitness Games Qualifiers @ Seaton House (please see sports website for further details)
- **Wednesday 6th March** - Year 3 & 4 Performing Arts Recital (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Thursday 7th March** - Year 1 Trip to Sutton Ecology Centre (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Thursday 7th March** - PTA Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop
- **Thursday 7th March** - PTA World Book Day Tuck Shop from 3pm to 4.30pm
- **Friday 8th March** - International Women's Day & World Book Day (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)

A Message from Mrs McShane

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to begin this week's newsletter by sharing with you the very happy news that Mrs Kestell is expecting a baby in July. Her plan, should all be well, is that she will remain at school until the end of the academic year. Please join me in congratulating Mrs Kestell.

It was lovely to see so many parents were able to attend either the in-person or the online Parents' Evenings. If, for any reason, you did not make, or were unable to keep an appointment please contact the office. Any catch-up sessions will be online, through the school cloud, and will be the usual 15 minutes.

Thank you again, for your patience and understanding with the VoP this year, it was a glitch that took a while to fathom. Hopefully, we have learned from this so that it will not reoccur next year. The VoP is still open for a few more days. Thank you to all those who have already filled it in.

This week has seen some great sporting success in cross country and swimming. See the reports later in the newsletter.

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the waterworks on Monday and this tied in beautifully with their science and geography topics and enhanced the girls' learning experience. Thank you to the parent helpers who supported this trip. Reception went to Waitrose to shop for ingredients for their gingerbread men, they have been learning about money in class and this trip made their learning relevant. Next week, Year 1 will be visiting St Patrick's Church and Year 4 will be steeped in history as they visit Hampton Court Palace. Trips are such an important and integral part of our learning and thanks must go to all the staff who make them happen.

Several girls have been bringing lip balm into school, whilst this is permitted it is not necessary. If your daughter does need to bring it in because they have particularly sore, chapped lips, it must be plain chapstick, or equivalent, – not coloured or sparkly gloss. It needs to be named and girls must be reminded not to share with other girls. We will be reiterating this in class too.

The "McShane Bars" have been an exciting part of the PTA fundraising and, so far, two lucky winners have selected their prizes. These will continue to be sold for the remainder of the term.

I am sure that the PTA reps have been reminding you to get a team together for the Quiz night next week, this looks to be a lot of fun with some gentle competition and camaraderie.

Looking forward to later in the term, and to give you good warning, Celebration Evening will take place on Wednesday 13th March starting at 5.00pm and ending at 7.00pm. This is a lovely evening where the girls showcase their learning and their talents. Please make a note of it in your diaries. More information will follow nearer the time.

I am getting an increased number of absence requests for pupils and whilst many of these will be authorised, they cannot be for family holidays. Taking your daughter out of school during term time does have a detrimental effect on her learning and asking the teacher to provide the work that she will be missing is not a substitute for being in the classroom. Please try to limit your holiday dates to fit in with our term dates. If, for any reason, you need to take your daughter out of school a yellow request form must be obtained from the office, completed and given to me please.

Several families mentioned to me that parenting can be tough at times, each child has certain quirks, whether it is not eating green vegetables, being averse to loud noises, or not wanting to go to bed – this list could be endless. At the end of a long day, it can be a challenge to deal with and sometimes you can be left feeling that you do not know what to do for the best. I have been following Kate Silverton on Instagram for a while and feel that her posts of advice are sound, and I think she is worth a follow. You

may recognise her as having been a journalist and BBC News anchor, but she stepped down from news presenting to concentrate on counselling primary and secondary-age school children. Her Instagram tag is @katesilverton, take a look there is a great deal of really useful bits of advice.

“We don’t make mistakes, just happy little accidents.” - Bob Ross

Important Info/Reminders.....

School Trip Consent Forms

This is a reminder for **Year 1, 4 & 6** parents to please complete the consent forms on Cognita Connect for their daughters' upcoming trips. (Please refer to the Notices that were sent out on Cognita Connect for further details.)

Year 4 - Hampton Court Palace - Tuesday 27th February

Year 1 - Sutton Ecology Centre - Thursday 7th March

Year 6 - Temper Temper Chocolatiers - Monday 11th March 2024

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

Reception

This week Reception have been reading the story of the Gingerbread man. As part of this, we have been looking at coins and their values and how to write and follow a recipe. To further extend their learning, the girls went to Waitrose in Banstead on Wednesday to buy the ingredients for a gingerbread man, which they then made and decorated at school.







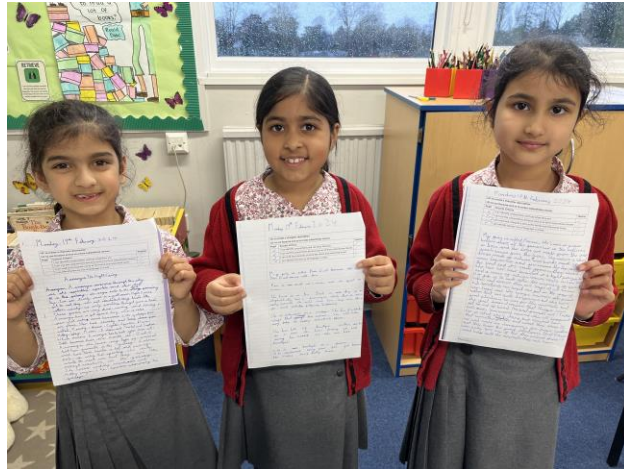






Year 3

This week Year 3 have been learning the techniques to create a detailed character description and they did this by planning and then writing a descriptive account of their very own magical fairy by using rich vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, adjectives, and adverbs.



Year 5

Year 5 had a fantastic trip to SES Water where we looked at how the water in the reservoir is cleaned and filtered into drinking water. We even got to see the pipes under the reservoir and saw the sand filtration tanks. The water cycle was explained using an interactive light-up board which was a great revision and at the end of the learning session, we went into the Blue Room which had interactive activities such as connecting water pipes to model houses. All the adults and girls enjoyed it and we learned so much!

















Dear Diary,

Have you ever thought about how water comes in your tap clean, fresh, instantly and ready to drink? Where does this water come from? Well on 19th February 2024, year 5 visited Bough Beech Reservoir for our school trip and all these questions were answered and many more were answered and explained very well.

It was the first day back after half-term and it comes with a school trip. Mrs King, my schoolteacher, strictly told us to bring our coat and wellington boots. However, I had lost my coat in school! Unwillingly, I put on my non-uniform coat on, my wellington boots and my smile. I hoped not to get told by Mrs King off at school and that my teacher will not notice.

In the rush of getting on to the minibus, I made a quick attempt to find my coat. Just as I was about to look, we were each given a wristband by Mrs King, and we all sat in the Minibus. I was sitting next to my best friend, Iva, and we were both excited.

After the scenic journey, which was 50 minutes long we had arrived! Our tour guide, Lisa, showed us straight to the education room and there we learnt all about the treatment to get clean water. What surprised me the most is that it took seven steps just to get clean water. In addition, she wasn't only going to tell us all about these steps, she was going to show the humongous machinery used to produce clean water.

Firstly, Lisa showed us the reservoir where they collected water to clean. Then we got to see a beautiful bridge, and there was what looked like a humongous blender. This was filled with an endless amount of water that overflowed in the reservoir and this water would go to River Eden.

The first two steps of this process are screening and aeration. The third step coagulation was one of my favourites. It looked like a car park but with no cars and water! This step is supposed to clean water. Next came Sedimentation. Lisa told us that this process separates the small particles (sediment in water). This process looked like a fidget spinner but only with one wing and it was in a round circular shape like a pound coin.

At this point, we all had lunch in the education room. Did you know we are drinking the same water as dinosaurs?

After that, she showed us the machinery used for filtration: this one looked cool. This is here so that the clear water passes through the clay sand or charcoal. I thought it looked very satisfying when the water became clear at once. This one could be in two different forms. One was again like a car park. However, the other type of form had circular blades that consistently twisted round like a helicopter. Chlorination was the second last step! The purpose of this was that it could kill all viruses and bacteria.

Lastly, was supply treatment. We could not actually see this happen in front of our eyes because the water went to a special factory where there was UV light. Although the day wasn't over.

To finish the day, we went in the Blue Room. This was probably my favourite. In this room we were split into four groups and there were four activities. The first one was a quiz about how many litres you use for everyday activities. The second one, you had to predict how many times you could do different stuff and how many times it would take to fill a cubic metre. Then came my favourite activity; this one was like a puzzle. You had to connect different pipes with magnets on the end to the houses in two minutes so that each house could get water. The last one showed you how many litres of water on average you should use for everyday activities which included water. Then we had to carry a litre of water because in some areas of Africa people don't have water near them. Therefore, they have to travel long distances to get water and most of the time this water wasn't clean. They had to carry a kg of water like we did, and we all felt sympathy and thought how hard it must be for them.

Today was an unforgettable day. I have learnt some very interesting things. The two most important thing I have learnt from this school trip is NEVER forget your coat. But mostly never ever waste water or food. We can't survive without water. It is vital to us, and we need to treat it carefully.

Amnah

Sport.....

Croydon Schools Swimming Finals

CSSA

Creyden School Swimming Association

On Wednesday 21st February 2024, some swimmers went to Trinity for the CSSA finals, and we all did incredibly well. There were many medals and trophies won by all the girls who attended.

The first event was the medley relay and Abigail, Daisy and I just managed to get the bronze medals, placing 3rd. After, Sara and Alyssa competed in Y3&4 front crawl, and both swam excellently. Then were all the breaststrokers (Daisy and Lyla swimming for Y5 & Zeynab swimming for Y4), who all swam amazingly.

The gala finished on the freestyle relay, which was swam by Daisy, Layla, Abigail & I. At the end, all the awards were given out. Everyone got a medal however Daisy got a shield for Y5 Breaststroke, so she is getting her name engraved although she is not the only person to win this trophy because back when Mrs Harvie was in Y5 she won the exact same shield, and her name is engraved onto it.

As well as Daisy's shield Cumnor also won best girls school, which means if all the schools were weighted down to the same size, Cumnor would win. We all had a fabulous time and it's an incredibly enjoyable event to be a part of and a huge thank you to all the teachers who organised it.

By Shyla





ISA Regional Cross Country 2024

On Tuesday afternoon 10 girls from Years 2-6 went to Radnor House to compete in the regional qualifiers of the national cross-country championships with the top 10 girls from each race qualifying for the national finals on Saturday 2nd March. First up was the U9 team of Evie, Posy, Zeynab, Alyssa, and Olivia, they performed brilliantly with Evie running a superb race coming in 10th place therefore earning herself a trip to the finals, the fact that she is 2 years younger as well makes this result even more staggering, Posy, also 2 years younger, was next to cross the line in an amazing 16th position, she was quickly followed by Zeynab in 26th, Alyssa in 32nd and Olivia in 33rd, this earned the girls 3rd place overall in the team event. Then it was the turn of the U11 team of Sienna, Lyla, Izzy, Aliyah, and Ava over the longer race to see if any of them could join Evie. They all ran fantastically well with Sienna improving on last year's silver by superbly winning gold and earning a third trip for herself to the finals in as many years and this time she would have her younger sister for company. Next across the line was Lyla in 19th, followed by Izzy in 48th, Aliyah in 63rd, and Iva in 68th. With Lyla and Iva both being a year younger they will still get the chance to compete for places in the finals next year. All the girls were a credit to the school and we here at Cumnor could not be more proud of them. Well done!















Spotlight on Digital Safety.....



The digital leaders created games, puzzles, and quizzes for girls around the school to use on Safer Internet Day.

Why not have a go at Lyla's quiz and see what you would do?

[How well can YOU keep safe online?](#)



Other.....

Parent Webinar-Atom

You will be aware that we use the platform, Atom, in Years 3 to 6. As part of our subscription, there is free access to you on the parent portal. Atom have offered the opportunity to hold a webinar to explain the parent portal and how this can be used to help you to support your daughter's learning.

I would be grateful if you would complete this short questionnaire to let me know if this is something you would be interested in attending:

[Atom Learning-Parent Workshop Form](#)

Many thanks,

Mrs Syradd



PTA.....



CHG PTA easyfundraising

Just letting you know that Cumnor House Girls PTA is now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a **BIG** difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely **FREE** and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at [CHG PTA - easyfundraising Page](#)

Thank you so much!

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



Uber Eats