



Spring Term Newsletter

Number 417 – 17th March 2023



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we had the first of our Parents' meetings for the Spring Term. It was lovely to see so many of you and it was great to hear all the positive comments about our school. We have wonderful children in our school and very supportive parents. This partnership with parents is vital in ensuring the best outcomes for all our children. Next Monday on **March 20th** we will have the second meeting I encourage all of you to attend. If for any reason you are unable to attend, please make sure you let the office know so that the message can be passed on to the relevant teacher. You can do so by sending an email to admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk

Maths Challenge

We are delighted to report that our Year 6 children recently took part in a Maths Challenge against other schools in the All Saints' Trust as well as some local schools. They beat off stiff competition to emerge as winners. Congratulations to Mr Pridding and Year 6.



Should you have any queries please contact us on: admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk
iheath@clitherow.brent.sch.uk or bnolan@clitherow.brent.sch.uk

Queen Elizabeth Tower Competition

To mark the completion of the Elizabeth Tower restoration, UK Parliament invited children to design their own tower.

The brief was to construct your own tower, inspired by the Elizabeth Tower. The children were free to use any medium they liked – matchsticks, building blocks, clay, Minecraft, or even cake!

Some of our children rose to the challenge and participated in a competition. Aniela and Bryan in Year 4 created a wonderful 3D model of the tower and Ivy represented the tower in cake. We are delighted to say that we both entries came second in their categories and will receive their prizes shortly through the post.

Congratulations to Aniela, Bryan and Ivy.



Volcano project Y3

The children in Year 3 were asked to construct a volcano as part of their homework assignment. The children worked very well and showed fantastic imagination in creating their volcanos. We put them on display in the hall for all to see. Well done Year 3.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday 3rd March. The children came to school dressed as their favourite book character. It was all very exciting. The winners on the day were:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Oliwia	Zoya	Shenzah	Isabella	Cacey	Sama	Zara

Movie Nights

Please ensure that you have made the payment on Parent Pay if you wish for your child to attend Movie Night.



News Items



Parent Workshops

As some of you know, we have adopted a new phonic scheme at St Margaret Clitherow School. Some parents have said that they would like some help with supporting phonics at home as many people would not have been taught phonics when at school themselves. Miss Nolan would like to invite Reception parents in to see how we teach a phonics lesson. This will enable parents to support their child in phonics at home. As the children will be in the lesson, space will be limited. Therefore, there will be 5 sessions available and 6 parents will be able to attend each session. The session will start at 9am and will last for 30 to 40 minutes. The dates available are:

Wednesday 22nd March

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 19th April

Wednesday 26th April

Wednesday 3rd May

Please sign up on the sheet outside Reception classroom from Monday 20th March.

School Uniform

Please ensure that children wear full school uniform at all times. All items should be clearly labelled. In this season of colder weather, please ensure that your child has a school coat which is clearly marked with their name.

Please take notice that the school uniform is a white shirt and **not a white or yellow polo shirt**. We want children to take pride in their uniform as the uniform represents the school. Wearing the incorrect uniform does not represent the school in a good light.

Please also ensure that coats are black or navy and shoes are appropriate. No boots should be worn to school.

Parking

Once again, we have had complaints from local residents about people parking inconsiderately blocking their driveways. When dropping your child to school, please park away from the school and walk. There is lots of parking to be found on neighbouring streets.

Clubs

Next week beginning 20.03.2023 will be the last week for all clubs. **No clubs** will take place on the last week before the Easter holidays.

Parental Communication

Parents are reminded that it is very helpful for school to be kept informed of any factors that may impact on your child's learning or well-being. This is to ensure that we are all doing everything we can to support your child and family. Please make an appointment to see our Inclusion Lead, Mrs Kailou, to discuss any matters that school should be aware of so we can make informed decisions together.

Attendance

If your child is not going to be in school, please call the office on 020 84503631 or email the school at: admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk before 8.50am on every day of absence. If you have any medical questions about your child's health, please contact your GP or call NHS on 111. In addition to making a telephone call by 9.00am on every day of absence, this must be followed up in writing. Parents may complete a Reason For Absence form (available from school office or school website) or you may write a letter / email to confirm the reason for the absence. When you know in advance that your child will be absent, please inform the school in advance and provide appropriate documentation such as the medical appointment letter. Please remember that all school policies are in place for a reason with the main purpose being to ensure the safety, well-being and secure development of your child. If we have any concerns about a child's absence, we may carry out a home visit. We may also contact Brent Education Welfare and Social Services. Please remember term time leave for family holidays and celebrations are not permitted in line with our Attendance Policy. Unauthorised absences are referred to Brent Education Welfare who have the authority to issue Education Penalty Notices of £120 per child, per parent. This reduces by 50% if paid within 21 days.

Online Safety

Parents frequently receive information from school regarding the safety of children while they are accessing online activities and games. Parents are reminded about the need for vigilance and strict monitoring of children's activity on online devices and social media apps. At St Margaret's, we embrace the wonders of modern technology and online live learning was a great success during the most recent national lockdown. However, there are risks when children use their own devices outside of school. Please be aware that it can take just a few minutes for a stranger to gain a child's trust online and this can often be achieved by the stranger pretending to be a child themselves so they can commit an offence against a child. Children that know each other can also become involved in inappropriate conduct through online chat and social media. Previously, the school has become aware of a number of WhatsApp groups in which children have been extremely unkind and made hurtful comments. This then becomes an issue in the school community as the feelings caused by online activity in the home are still present when the children see each other in class. Another important factor that parents must bear in mind is that children aged 10 years old or over are considered in law to be at the age of criminal responsibility. Children may therefore be part of a police investigation if they are involved in any malicious communications or accessing illegal content. If you are unsure how to protect your child from the potential dangers of online activity, please ask us for further information.

Expressing Ourselves Safely Online

Many of us are using devices (tablets, laptops, games consoles, phones) to keep in touch with friends and family across the world. Children enjoy using technology to share their passions and interests but this should be with parental supervision so they are expressing themselves safely and appropriately. Please support your child in being safe with online interactions, and how this should be appropriate and only with people they really do know and trust. Encourage your child to let you know immediately if they see or hear anything on their devices that worries them. Please also be mindful of the amount of time your child spends on their devices, particularly as they are online for home learning.

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This week all the children made flowers to share with residents in a nursing home to celebrate Mother's Day.



We would like to wish all mothers a very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.



Curriculum update

Last week we were visited by our School Improvement Partner who inspected our Science Reading and Phonics' offer. She was impressed by the teachers who lead the subjects (Mrs Davies, Miss Nolan) and the children who spoke so well and, in the work, produced. She feels that we have high expectations of our children and that the children are making excellent progress.

She has also been similarly impressed on previous visits in the last year when she has looked at Maths, English, History, Geography, Art and DT.

These are achievements that we should celebrate and continue to encourage our children to strive for excellence.

Well done to all involved!

Have a blessed weekend and thank you for your support.

Mrs Heath
Headteacher



News Items



Children who have been awarded certificates w/e 10/03/2023

1 Mia K, Emilia

2 Victor, Kidus, Paola, Maya

3 Shannon, Liam

4 Kezia, Robert-Christian, Layla

5 Nela, Serena

6 Next Newsletter

FORTHCOMING DATES

20 March	Open Evening
21 March	Y4 trip to Wallace Collection
23 March	Y3 trip to Nat Hist Museum
27 March	Y5 & Y6 Film night
28 March	Y3 & Y4 Film Night
29 March	Y1 & Y2 Film Night
31 March	Wear something Yellow £1 support for Marie Curie
31 March	School Finishes at 1.30pm
17 April	School opens for the summer term

ATTENDANCE w/e ending 03/02/2023

1st	Year 3	98.7%
2nd	Year 6	98.6%
3rd	Year 5	98.5%
4th	Year 1	94.6%
5th	Year 4	94.5%
6th	Year 2	93.6%

Total for the week **96.5%**

A Mother's Day PRAYER

THINKING OF *You* ON MOTHER'S DAY
 AND SAYING A *Special* PRAYER
 THAT *God*, WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE
 WILL KEEP YOU IN *His* CARE
 THAT HE WILL *Bless* YOUR DAILY LIFE
 WITH *Joys* OF EVERY KIND
 WITH *Perfect* HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
 AND *Peace* OF HEART AND MIND