



William Gilbert Endowed CofE Primary School and Nursery



Clever Cubs Newsletter Autumn Term Two 2023



Welcome back after the October holiday. We are delighted with how settled and happy the children are in school. In order to create a class identity, the reception children are our 'Clever Cubs'. You may have already met our class cubs Claude and Claudia - we have enjoyed hearing about their adventures in class. In Year One the children become 'Terrific Tigers' and in Year Two, the oldest children in the infant department become 'Learning Lions'. Our baseline of the children is now complete, and your child will be grouped accordingly. These groups enable us, during teacher led learning, to provide the right balance of challenge or support. These groups are different species of cubs -. Lions, Lynx, Leopards, Tigers, or Puma cubs. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff or ring the school and make an appointment (either for a longer face to face appointment or a telephone response). The school telephone number is 01332 840395.

Clothing

As we move now into the colder months, please can you ensure that you send your child to school with appropriate clothing. Children should no longer come to school in summer attire i.e. summer dresses. **Please ensure all uniform meets the school's uniform policy which is available on our website.**

We will continue to access our outdoor learning space and the mud kitchen frequently. Therefore, we encourage the children to bring hats and gloves and a warm waterproof coat. **Please ensure that all items of your child's clothing/belongings are labelled clearly with their name.** We can provide the children with wellies and waterproof all-in-one suits for our mud kitchen, so there is no need to bring any from home, unless you prefer to do this.

Please make sure your child has the correct, labelled, P.E kit in their P.E bags. **One** t-shirt, **one** pair of shorts, **one** pair of jogging bottoms, **one** school fleece (optional), **one** pair of socks (optional), **one** pair of black pumps and **one** pair of trainers is all that is needed please. The PTA will be selling nearly new uniform, including PE kit at parents evening on 14th November from 3:30pm. If you are in receipt of pupil premium funding, the school has PE kit clothing bundles that you can collect from the school office in complete confidence.

Please remember to include water bottles too when you are naming items as we often find that popular designs will be owned by several different children. **Please make sure that you only put water into these bottles.** Please note that the snack table will be set up throughout the day with fruit and water for all children to access.

School Lunch



All children are entitled to a free school meal. The children are now all very settled at lunch time and are benefitting from a hot meal at lunch. Please have a look on the menu on our website to see the daily menu. It is important that we are aware of any allergies or dietary requirements.

Please remember your child is entitled to milk until they turn 5. After this, you can sign up to the milk scheme via www.coolmilk.co.uk and pay for your child to have milk.



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Reading

We are delighted with the progress that the children are making with their phonics. During this term some children will be moving onto reading ditties, which are short, decodable stories. Miss Day and I will continue to read these with your child regularly. It is important that you also read with your child at least 4 times a week. Please sign to say that you have read with your child in order to get the book changed.

The children will also have access to our library every Friday. Please ensure library books are returned so your child can be issued with a new one.

Please be aware that we ensure each child is working at the correct stage in their personal reading journey. Please avoid the temptation to compare your child's journey, with another child, as they are unique and will develop at their own pace.



Christmas

We will be performing our Christmas Play 'Inn-spectors' on

Wednesday 6th December at 1:30am and

Thursday 7th December at 9:30pm

We will also be having a Christmas Party on Wednesday 20th December.

More details about both of these events will follow shortly.



Creative Homework

Your children will have the opportunity to show their creative skills through our creative homework. Your child will be given a list of creative activities linked to our topic on a separate sheet that will be stuck in their reading record books. We do encourage that you have a go at one or two of the activities; however, it is not compulsory so it is up to you as to whether you do all, some or none. Once an activity has been completed, we invite your child to bring their homework into school so that we can share it with our class.



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Our theme this term is 'Celebrations!' Below is a brief outline of some of the things we will cover each week. Please remember this is an outline of our topic. Some things may need to be added or changed during the term due to a busy school environment. Important dates are highlighted in red.

Week Three: 'Thanksgiving'

This week we will be looking at other celebrations such as Thanksgiving. We will look at different artifacts and traditions that are celebrated, then look at the similarities and differences between our own traditions.

Week Four: 'Birthdays'

This week we will think about birthday celebrations. We will be thinking what birthdays are and why they are a special celebration. Children will write invitations and plan a party to celebrate.

Possible visit to Duffield Library - TBC

Week Five: 'Advent'

This week the children will learning about the start of advent. We will be preparing children for the Christmas celebration and the meaning behind advent. We will learn about the advent wreath and what each part symbolises. We will also have class advent calendars to start our Christmas traditions.

Christmas Nativity performance - Wednesday 6th December 1:30am

Christmas Nativity performance - Thursday 7th December 9:30pm

Christmas post box out -

children may bring their cards to school (w/c 4th December)

Weeks Six and Seven: 'Christmas Celebrations'

During these two weeks we will be busy practising for our Christmas play and we will learn about the first Christmas and the Epiphany. Our focus stories will be 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' (Week 6) and 'The Christmas Story' (Week 7)

Week 6 - Reception trip to Derby theatre - Friday 15th December 10:30am

Week 6 - Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 13th December

Week 7 - Carol Service at St. Alkmunds Church - Tuesday 19th December 2pm

Week 7 - Christmas Party - Wednesday 20th December - PM

Week 7 - 22nd December - Carols around the tree for children

22nd December - Break up for the Christmas break

Return to school - Monday 8th January 2024

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions regarding our topics or general enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me on our Early Years email;

earlyyears@williamgilbertend.lderbyshire.sch.uk

Many thanks,
Miss Whiting