

Collett Catch-Up



Friday 23rd September 2016

Settled In

It is hard to believe that we have already completed three weeks of the term. Our new pupils have settled in wonderfully and everyone is getting used to their new classes and class adults. Everyone is settling down to work and enjoying the little local trips that the teachers arrange to extend the pupils learning or purely as a reward for their hard work.

Vole Class

Thursday morning the pupils and adults from Vole Class walked up the front path in their wellies carrying their water bottles. The pupils excitedly told me that they were going to the woods. They all climbed onto the mini bus, sat in their seats and did up their seat belts. When I saw them this afternoon they were still very excited about their trip and I'm not surprised, they had a great time.



Wellies at the ready

Outdoor Learning Space

This week The Little Thatch Company has started work on our 'outdoor learning space'. We are all very excited as this will provide an area where pupils can go, be under a shelter, and take part in small group work and activities. It can also be used by the pupils during break times. This is just the beginning of our playground development plan which is very exciting.



Outdoor Learning

Chatterbox Meeting

Tuesday afternoon we had an informal drop-in session which gave parents the opportunity to come and see our new sensory equipment and extended learning area in The Hive. There was only a small group, as many parents took the opportunity during Parents' Evening last week to have a look, but I hope you found the visit useful.

Harvest Festival Lunch

Yesterday we had our Harvest Themed School Dinner where the pupils enjoyed Meat Cobbler or Cheese and Onion Slice (V), Roasted Vegetables and Sweetcorn with Apple Peasant Pudding and Custard.

Coffee Catch-Up

This morning was the first Coffee Catch-Up this year. Once a month there is an informal coffee morning after the Friday assembly. All parents and carers are invited to come along, meet other parents/carers and have a coffee and a slice of cake. The next Coffee Catch-Up is on Friday 14th October.



Coffee Catch-Up

Lessons in the Sun

While the sun was shining today several classes made the most of it and moved their lessons outside. There were several groups, some more structured than others, but all the pupils were engaged and enjoying their lessons.

URGENT - School Census

Every term we are required to complete the compulsory 'School Census' which asks details about the number of pupils and staff in school. It also asks general questions regarding the number who receive Free School Meals, have an EHC Plan etc. This term they are requesting additional information which we do not currently hold on file, for example, Ethnicity, Nationality and Country of Birth. It is therefore vital that parents complete and return the letter that Mrs Mills has sent home to all pupils asking for these details. If you have not already returned it, please do so next week.



Not Just A Free School Meal

When families claim Free School Meals, the child's school receives additional funding. This funding can be used for staff, equipment and resources to support pupils within the school. Families may also be entitled to other support, for example bus and train travel. Please take 5 minutes to apply online at <https://beta.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>



School hours

The school day starts at 8.30 am when teachers are in their classroom and pupils start arriving for registration. If your child arrives after 8:45 am, when registration closes, they are recorded as late. Afternoon registration takes place at 12:45 pm and the school day ends at 3:00 pm.

Mrs Mills and Mrs Weston are available in the school office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Parents are requested to contact the school office (01442 398988) if their child is absent due to sickness. Messages can be left if you are telephoning outside of the normal office hours.

Safety

I would like to remind parents/carers that if they are driving into the school car park to drop their child off in the mornings, please pull up to the gate to the right of the main building. There will be members of staff (wearing hi-viz jackets) available to help ensure your child enters the school playground safely. On a number of occasions parents have allowed their child to get out of the car and run across the car park. This is extremely dangerous as vehicles pull into the car park from two different directions.

It has also been noted that some parents are still parking their cars on the corner pavement opposite the school. This blocks the visibility for vehicles coming round the corner and could cause an accident.

Parents' Listening Service

Last week the 'Listening Ears' from the Parents' Listening Service came into school and they will be back next Thursday morning, 29th September, between 9:00 and 11:00 am. It is a confidential, independent service that provides someone for you to talk to. The Listening Ears have personal experience of being a parent to a child with special needs and have completed a course run by 'Families in Focus'. They can offer a friendly face, a cup of tea and an understanding of how frustrating and isolating life can be at times. Please come along.

Courses

On our school website, under Latest News, there are three leaflets regarding courses for parents.

- Parenting Courses Workshops September – December 2016
- Talking Teens Workshop
- Anger: Escaping the Trap

For further details go to http://www.collett.herts.sch.uk/?page_id=38



Hours



Danger

Talking Teens
For parents & carers
at Adleyfield School, Arley Cooper School and Langdon School

Would you like to find out more about how the brain is developing during the teen years and what you can do to help?

Do you struggle to cope with your teenager's changing moods?

Come along to a free workshop run by Supporting Links for parents and carers of all children from Year 7 upwards.

Looking at:

- Why teenagers take risks and want to experiment
- What is happening in the teenage brain?
- Recognising the physical and emotional changes that are happening
- Why their behaviour changes
- Why arguments escalate and how to stop this happening
- How to negotiate during a conflict situation

"Excellent teen brain explanation. Very well delivered and engaging session"

"Good tips on how to cope and manage the teenage years - well done"

Monday 3rd October 7pm to 9.30pm
Lecture Theatre, Adleyfield School, Langdon, HP2 4DE

Booking is essential

Supporting Links
01442 300185/01752 700256 Email: info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Please note that this workshop has been funded by DASHAM Family Services and is only open to parents of children at Adleyfield School, Arley Cooper School and Langdon School

Facebook DASHAM Supporting Links

Parent Courses

'Roll Up Roll Up'

Do we have anyone who can spare a short time to help at the annual autumn event? There are more stalls this year and we are asking for volunteers to help man them. We already have some but if we can get some more helpers it would mean that everyone has to do less. You can even choose which stall you would like to help on. Do you fancy the Cake Stall, Hot Dogs & Veggie Burgers, Sweet Stall, Refreshments, Hoopla, Bottle Tombola, Name the Bear, Ball in a Bucket, Lucky Dip, Raffle, Face Painting, Punch Balloons, Trampoline or Hollywood Bowl's Bouncy Castle Bowling? The event will be held at school on Saturday 8th October from 4:00 pm. If you are able to help please contact Angie Grange on 07999 910799 or angiegrange26@hotmail.co.uk

The money raised at the event will buy a trampoline for the Upper School playground.



'Roll Up Roll Up'

Winter Nasal Flu Vaccine

If you have not already completed and returned the consent form for your child to have the Nasal Flu Vaccine on 1st November, please do so next week. The School Nurses will be collecting all the consent forms the following week.

Communication

On Wednesday 12th October we will be having a 'No Pens Wednesday' to promote communication. The lessons during the day will be based on speaking and listening rather than writing. Along with class discussions pupils will be encouraged to speak to a class mate about the topic. There will be drama sessions and other fun activities to boost communication. A day like this is important because speaking and listening is the basis of learning.

Harvest

Donations for our Harvest Festival can be brought into school from Monday 3rd October.

Spooky Stories Night

On Tuesday 18th October it will be a scary night at The Collett School. Pupils, parents and carers are welcome to come and see what happens after dark. Now is the time to check that the batteries in your torch are working. Further details will follow soon.



Collett after dark

Curriculum Focus

Welcome to a new section of our weekly Collett Catch-Up. Each term we shall have a curriculum subject as the focus and will be including guides, tips and any information that may help. This term we will be focusing on 'Reading'.

Reading

I think every parent has experienced a time when their child does not want to read. They don't like reading, find it boring or say it is too hard, they want to play on the computer or ipad instead. Well below are a number of websites that have stories your child can read by themselves, listen to or have the combination of words and sound. So if your child thinks that books are 'lame' why not show them how they can read online. Some of these sites also have tips and techniques to help with reading, an all-round win!



Online Books

Clifford Interactive Story Books - <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/>

Story Place - <https://www.storyplace.org/>

CBeebies - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>

ABC Fast Phonics - <http://www.abcfastphonics.com/>

Literative - <http://www.literative.com/Home/index.asp>

Childtopia - <http://childtopia.com/index.php?module=home&func=cocce>

Starfall - <http://www.starfall.com/>

Storyline Online - <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

ABRACADABRA - <http://www.abracadabraradio.com/>

Book Trust - <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/programmes/primary/time-to-read?gclid=CMqjxfWmo88CFcYp0wod6R00uA>

Reading Bear - <http://www.readingbear.org/>

Oxford Owl - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Turtle Diary - <https://www.turtlediary.com/kids-stories.html>

The Book Trust have launched their 'Time to Read' campaign to encourage families to read together more. Their research shows that "children who read for fun will do better at school, even in subjects like Maths". Reading with your child also gives the opportunity for bonding, creating precious family memories and emotional health and wellbeing. Just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference. For more details see

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/programmes/primary/time-to-read/>



Reading with Dad

Achievements and Results

Friday Assembly

Our new School Council Members were introduced to everyone this morning. Congratulations to Harry, Katelyn, Bradley, Nicky, Conor, Lillie and Torren. The aims of the School Council are to promote good relationships amongst pupils, involve pupils in managing and improving our school, help with organising events in school like anti-bullying week and expressing Pupil Voice.

Aspen Class then showed us what they have been learning during the last three weeks. They talked to everyone about sentence openers, using tone in Art, making pasta and eggs on toast in Cookery, working with animals at Oaklands College, the persecution of people in History and how to multiply decimals. They have all been very busy and worked very hard; they even planned and prepared their assembly.

Darrah, who is doing GCSE dance, showed us one of his latest dances during the Talent Spot. Abi sang Photograph by Ed Sheeran and got everyone clapping along.

Achievements

Bronze Award – Conor

Forthcoming Events

October Events

Thursday 6th October – Donkey Sanctuary

Saturday 8th October – Collett Day 4:00pm till late

Wednesday 12th October – No Pens Wednesday

Week commencing 17th October – RE Themed Week

Tuesday 18th October – Spooky Stories Night

Friday 21st October – Harvest Festival

24th – 28th October – Half Term Holiday (School Closed)

Mrs Rachael Lampey

The Collett School

www.collett.herts.sch.uk