



West Cliff Primary School Newsletter 07.07.16



Celebration Assembly

Puffins	~ Christine Zhang & Olivia Harvey
Starfish	~ Pheonix Howard
Turtles	~ Belle Steele
Penguins	~ Lucas Green
Seahorses	~ Shakibul Islam
Dolphins	~ John Cross
Seals	~ Ben Underdown

Magic Monday ~ 11th July

Homemade sausage roll or cheese & onion roll with chocolate Krispy cake

Ocean Fun Club

Activities next week are:

Monday	~	Outdoor games
Tuesday	~	Windmills
Wednesday	~	Outdoor chalk patterns
Thursday	~	Games night
Friday	~	DVD night

Attendance ~

As you know, we expect children to have attendance of at least 96% over the school year.

Puffins	~	98.1%
Starfish	~	100%
Turtles	~	86.7%
Penguins	~	94.4%
Seahorses	~	94.6%
Dolphins	~	94.6%
Seal	~	88.7%

Please continue to support us to make our attendance as good as it possibly can be. Our whole school attendance is still only 94.5% so far this year so we need to do much better this term!

Yorkshire In Bloom

On Tuesday we had a visit from Yorkshire in Bloom to judge our outside area. We look forward to hearing the results in September.

Sports

A huge congratulations to the Year 3/4 football team who won the local schools tournament last week. They were all magnificent and did the school so proud. Check out the photos on our facebook page.

Dates For This Half Term

08.07.16 - Sports Day 1.30 - changed

11.07.16 - Transfer week Y6

12/13.07.16 - West Cliff transfer days

18.07.16 - Reports out

25.07.16 - Sponsored walk (and hopefully beach barbecue!)

26.07.16 - Leavers Assembly - 1.30

September - New Whole School Enquiry

In September our whole school will be asking the question 'What were significant turning points in British history?'

If you have any ideas then please let us know! Our Puffins and Guppies will be looking at significant events in their own lives.

Trophies

Can all trophies from leavers last year be returned as soon as possible? It is almost that time again!

Beach BBQ

Paul Gildroy, Ben Laws, Kath Breckon and James Howard are hosting a beach barbecue at the end of the sponsored walk on Monday 25th July at 2.15 ish. Tickets for food are available from Mrs Grady at £2.50. All funds raised will go towards buying I pads for Year1 ☺

Swimming Money

If you have not done so then please pay your swimming money for this term.

Christina Zanelli Tyler
Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

I am writing behalf of the governors to bring you up to date about the following.

- SATS
- Fundraising for iPads and for other school projects - how parents/carers can get involved
- West Cliff is "an amazing school"! That's the view of a leading educational newspaper

First, the Year 6 SATS results are now available to the children concerned and to their parents, though they are not yet public.

As the school has already informed you this year the SATS has changed, making them very much more difficult for the children. The curriculum has changed and become much harder - now covering work that used to be done in Year Seven; the children have only had two years to cover a curriculum which would normally be done over four years; and the pass mark has been raised. You will know that these changes have been criticised by schools, their teachers and the teachers professional bodies.

Our children are the most tested in the world and there is no evidence at all that this helps them to achieve their best. Without exception, the countries which do best by their children test much less than we do here in Britain.

Our Year 6s have really risen to the challenge. They have worked really hard and have had a great attitude to learning and to the tests they have to take. I saw this myself as I worked for a couple of weeks immediately before SATS assisting in one of the maths groups. They really worked to do their best.

Unfortunately as will be the case with thousands of children up and down the country, not all of them will have achieved that the government believe to be "acceptable" marks. This does not mean that they have not done their best or that they have under achieved. The problem lies with the tests - not with the children, their teachers or the school.

So I write to say that when the results come out, they will be misleading. (Speaking for myself, I don't think they will tell the children, their parents or the school anything which is particularly useful. Though naturally, everyone is delighted for those children, who despite everything have done well.)

You can rest assured that Mrs Zanelli and her team will continue to make sure that our children continue to have an education which focuses on the key skills and knowledge our children need to have to meet the curriculum, but which also gives equal priority to providing a wide experience and the confidence that will help our children to grow up to become happy, confident, well informed and responsible adults. We will also continue to be a school that is welcoming to every child, which values each child equally and will work to help each child reach their potential and will celebrate with them on their journey.

Second, fund raising activity - The governors at a recent meeting reviewed the use of iPads. They received a report from Paul Burnett and myself recommending that more iPads be bought, so that every child in KS1 could have their own. We also heard that this was a number one priority from the school council when Susan Clough (vice chair of governors) and I met with them. Mrs Zanelli also indicated a number of other whole school projects which would only be possible if we can find additional funding. The iPads alone will cost £4,760.

Paul Gilroy, parent governor is therefore leading a major fund raising initiative for the school, to find the money for the iPads and hopefully to start on other projects. This is to provide a first report and to indicate how you can become involved.

Great North Run - Paul will be running on behalf of West Cliff. Sponsorship forms are available in school. Please sponsor generally - it's a great effort by Paul (though it's by no means his first GNR!

- **Beach barbecue - to be held on 25th July.** Paul, with his Magpie hat on, and Kath, our very own National Cook of the Year, will be leading a team of cooks to make this a great experience. Please buy a ticket from the school office
- **Bag packing at the Co-op on the 11 September** - details to follow
- **Quiz night at The Conservative Club on 16th November** - teams wanted! Put the date in your diary. More details to follow

Third, West Cliff is an amazing school! That's the view of the Times Educational Supplement, the leading newspaper covering education. The editor came to school this week and was completely bowled over by what we are doing with our children.

- He loved the focused way our children were working at an enormous range of things.
- He loved the Beach School.
- He loved our work with Taming Tigers and thought our work with the Islam Diversification Centre is ground breaking in the positive way it allows our children to explore difficult areas.
- He loved how our Big Books allowed the children to chart their progress though the school - and that it celebrated all the things that they do, and not just the "academic" work.

As a result, Mrs Zanelli Tyler has been asked to write some articles about what we are doing. What a lovely thing to have happened in an otherwise difficult week! If you need more information (on anything) from me or Mrs Zanelli Tyler, please get in touch with school!

With very best wishes,
Diana Jeuda Chair of Governors