



Clandon CofE Primary School
Newlands Federation - Roots to grow, wings to fly.

Newsletter 20th October 2023

Dear Families

We can't quite believe where the last seven weeks have gone but we know we've packed a lot into this half term at Clandon School!

Protect Our Hedgehogs:

We enjoyed a visit from Dr Tara Pirie (PhD) this week who is Chair of the Hedgehog Working Group at the University of Surrey. She talked to us about the decline in hedgehog numbers and things we can do to protect them such as checking bonfires before lighting them during our firework celebrations and creating hedgehog boxes in our gardens so that they have somewhere safe to shelter. Dr Pirie has sent a lovely follow-up email commending our children and following up on some of their questions:



I just wanted to say I was very impressed with the children and how good their questions were! It was great to see so many keen to ask questions and I hope they never lose that! You may have already looked it up but just in case for the question I couldn't answer, there are 17 recognised species of hedgehog in the world. I may have also aged them a little living 6-7 years old rather than the 8-10. I think I had a porcupine in my head! I hope the children enjoyed it! Thanks for the invite!

School Attendance:

As we come to the end of the first half term we would like to remind all families how important it is to come to school. The staff and governors at our school are all clear that good attendance is vital. We are certain of this because we see the impact of poor attendance and punctuality on individual children and their classmates. When a child is absent from school they miss important learning and when they return adult time is spent helping them 'catch up'; this takes valuable support away from other pupils. Sadly, sometimes it is not possible for children to catch up; when absence becomes too frequent, gaps in learning can become too great.

We know that children pick up bugs and we are all more mindful of spreading illness since the pandemic. If your child is too poorly for school, then please keep them at home until they are better. However, when it is tricky to make that call, we would encourage you to send them in. We promise we will send them home if they don't feel well at school or are flagging at any point.

In our regular register checks with our School Inclusion Officer, term time holiday is often flagged as an issue. As above, this absence results in missed learning for your child lost teaching time for the rest of their class.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

All parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with class teachers from 1.00–6.00pm on Wednesday 8th November. Bookings are open on Parentmail at 4.00pm today. If you are unable to attend during the time allocated for these meetings please speak with your child's class teacher or email the school office to info@clandon.surrey.sch.uk.

Sponsor Forms:

Last Friday saw our fantastic gymnastics session with Olympic gymnast, Courtney Orange. Thank you to many of you who have returned your child's sponsorship forms and money. Returns of money and forms will remain open until Wednesday 1st November so please do remind your child to bring these in after half term.

Forest School Updates:

We still need more volunteers for our **Forest School Working Party** on **Saturday 4th November 10am–12pm**. You don't need any special skills but do dress to get stuck-in and bring some sturdy gloves if possible. Owing to the nature of the work that needs to be done, we are not able to have child helpers for this working party. Please let the school office know if you are able to come along.

Talking to young children about big events:

The world feels like a scary place at the moment, with so much conflict and tragedy. We can try to protect our children from hearing reports and seeing disturbing images but, with the media so loud and accessible, this can be difficult. Children seek reassurance from parents and teachers, especially when they are scared or confused; it can be helpful to feel informed so that we can respond in a way that supports children as best we can. We found this guidance from UNICEF particularly good [How to talk to your children about conflict and war | UNICEF Parenting](#).

At school adults do not initiate discussion about tricky topics; we do not want to introduce children to events they may know nothing about. However, we will always listen and respond if children ask questions or share worries. In these instances, school adults give an answer that is both age appropriate and reassuring. We will always let you know if your child has shared this type of concern at school.

Information on Help Available with Childcare Costs:

The Department for Work and Pensions has produced a helpful guide to help with the costs of childcare for parents who would like to get into some form of employment. The advice sheet is attached after the dates list in this newsletter.

Guildford Children's Centre Newsletter:

The newsletter from Guildford Children's Centre is packed with information for parents about courses, cost of living advice, half term activities and much more. We have attached this with the school newsletter as we think many of you will find the information useful.

Help for Families Facing Hardship at Christmas:

We know times are tough for families at the moment and Christmas brings extra challenges when wanting to buy gifts for our children. Miss McGowan has been in touch with a couple of local charities who supported some of our families last year:

- Jigsaw provides a £25 gift card for each child referred between the age of one and up to those in Yr6 at primary school. The voucher can be used at The Entertainer Toy Shop either in store or online.
- Stripey Stork provides a £15-£20 main present for children who otherwise won't get a present.

Please contact Miss McGowan, in confidence, by Friday 24th November by email to kmcgowan@clandon.surrey.sch.uk if your family may be eligible for either of these.

Applying for September 2024 Reception or Junior Places:

Online applications for school places for next September open on Tuesday 30th October. The application portal will remain open until 15th January 2024. Applications are made online and you can find more information via this link: [School admissions - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/school-admissions)

Developing Communication Skills:

Here is this week's question to encourage the children to explain their reasoning:

Would you rather skip back in time or go forwards in time? Why?



Paired Reading Launch Event:

We held our first paired reading event today and it has been a huge success 😊. Year 6 paired with Year 3, whilst Years 4 and 5 visited Woodlands. Do take a look at the photos below and over the page of the children enjoying sharing some favourite books together.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 30th October. For now, we wish all our families, staff and governors a relaxing, restful and fun half term.

Warmest wishes from

Vicky Voller, Headteacher & Stacey Reynolds, Head of School
The Newlands Federation

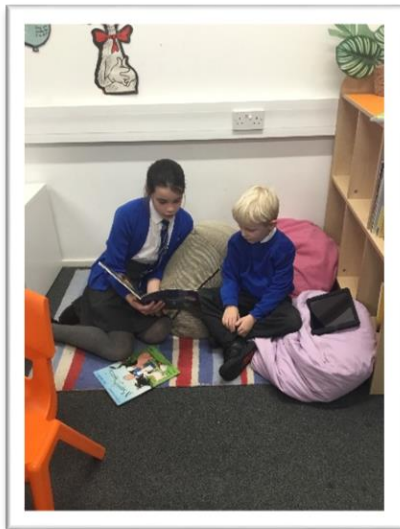
Email Vicky: head@newlands.surrey.sch.uk

Email Stacey: sreynolds@clandon.surrey.sch.uk

Tel Clandon: 01483 222442

Tel Shere: 01483 202198

PLEASE NOTE the new Active Hour mobile number: 07377 147643







Autumn Term Dates

*New dates added or updated event

October	Thu 5 th	Whole School	Individual Photographs (postponed due to illness)
	Fri 6 th	Whole School	PTFA Cake Sale - Squirrels to donate cakes, shop bought or homemade (please list allergens if homemade) for sale after school (50p per cake)
	Wed 11 th	Kestrels	Visit to Henley Fort
	Fri 13 th	Whole School	Visit from Athlete – Courtney Orange
	Sat 14 th	Parents	Forest School Working Party (moved to 4 th November)
	Thu 19 th	Whole School	Individual Photographs (moved to 7 th November)
	Fri 20 th	Whole School	Sponsorship due for athlete event
	W/c 23 rd	Whole School	Half-term holiday

November	Fri 3 rd	Whole School	PTFA Hot Chocolate Sale after school
	Fri 3 rd	Year 6	Friendship Workshop with Matrix Trust
	Sat 4 th	Parents	Forest School Working Party 10am-12pm
	Tue 7 th	Whole School	Individual Photographs
	Wed 8 th	Parents	Parent Teacher Meetings 1-6pm
	Fri 10 th	Whole School	Remembrance Visit to Memorial at the Church
	Sat 11 th	Families	Forest School Open Morning 10am-12pm
	Fri 17 th	Whole School	PTFA Mufti Day - donate a bottle for the Christmas Fair

December	Fri 1 st	Whole School	PTFA Christmas Fair after school
	Wed 6 th	Key Stage 2	Carols in the Wilderness at 2.30pm
	Fri 8 th	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
	Fri 8 th	Whole School	Reindeer Run
	Tue 12 th	Whole School	Visit to Pantomime at Yvonne Arnaud Theatre 4pm finish
	Wed 13 th	Woodlands	Nativity at 9.30am
	Fri 15 th	Whole School	Last Day of Term, school finishes at 1.30pm

Help with Childcare



We can help you with your Childcare costs to remove the barriers preventing you from accepting a job offer or starting self-employment.

You may be able to claim up to 85 per cent of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit, Income Support, Job Seekers allowance or Employment and Support Allowance and some other qualifying benefits.

The amounts you could receive:

- Up to £951 per month for one child
- Up to £1630 per month for two or more children

Childcare support is paid in arrears because we pay for the hours that you have used.

As extra support to help you start work we can help you fund the upfront costs up to a month until you get paid! We will usually ask you to report your childcare costs online.

Depending upon the age of your child you could receive free government childcare funding. We usually pay the difference between your free entitlements and the cost of your childcare.

There is lots of support available and we would always recommend that you speak to your local family information service / family hub to find out what you are entitled to. (see Additional Support overleaf).

Upfront childcare costs

Upfront childcare costs are any costs that you incur in relation to childcare between starting work and receiving your first wage. Examples include:

- Parents starting work
- Deposits / one off advance payment
- Retainer to secure a place
- Taster / settling in sessions
- Up-front fees in advance of the childcare being provided
- Work related training

Types of childcare we will pay for

We will pay for childcare provided by any registered or approved childcare provider such as :

- Nurseries
- Child Minders
- Day care services
- School-based care
- Holiday play schemes
- Or a combination of any of these

You may be entitled to*:

- **£260 per week for one child** (up to a daily limit of £52)
- **£446 per week for two or more children** (up to a daily limit of £89)
- There are forms that must be completed before we can release the funds, so do not agree to anything until you have checked with your Work Coach
- Payments are made directly to the childcare provider

*for upfront childcare costs



Additional Support

Childcare
Choices



Free Childcare and guidance at
Childcare Choices
www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



GOV.UK Tax free Childcare

You can get up to **£500 every 3 months** (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare



Where to find childcare providers

**Surrey Family
Information
Service**



Surrey Family Information Services – Surrey based childcare
www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/families



West Sussex Childcare options
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-education/childcare-options-and-funding/childcare-options/>



Brighton & Hove Family Services
<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/families-children-and-learning/childcare-and-family-support/family-service-directory>



East Sussex Childcare help
<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/finding-childcare>



Childcare.co.uk - A directory of UK childcare with reviews
www.Childcare.co.uk



Gov.uk - Find before and after school and holiday clubs
www.gov.uk/after-school-holiday-club

Speak to your local Jobcentre to find out more.



Splash Test Dummies

Rub-a-dub-dub, The Dummies are here with some splish-splashing circus set to drown you in tears of laughter. The Splash Test Dummies are off on an exciting adventure of oceanic proportions! With a brilliant array of catch-your-breath stunt work, dazzling acrobatics, dexterous juggling and side-splitting, slapstick comedy, the Dummies are ready to roll out their beach towels and spring into an exciting hour of circus-filled hilarity for the whole family.

Tickets: £15 | Family Ticket (2xA & 2xc): £56

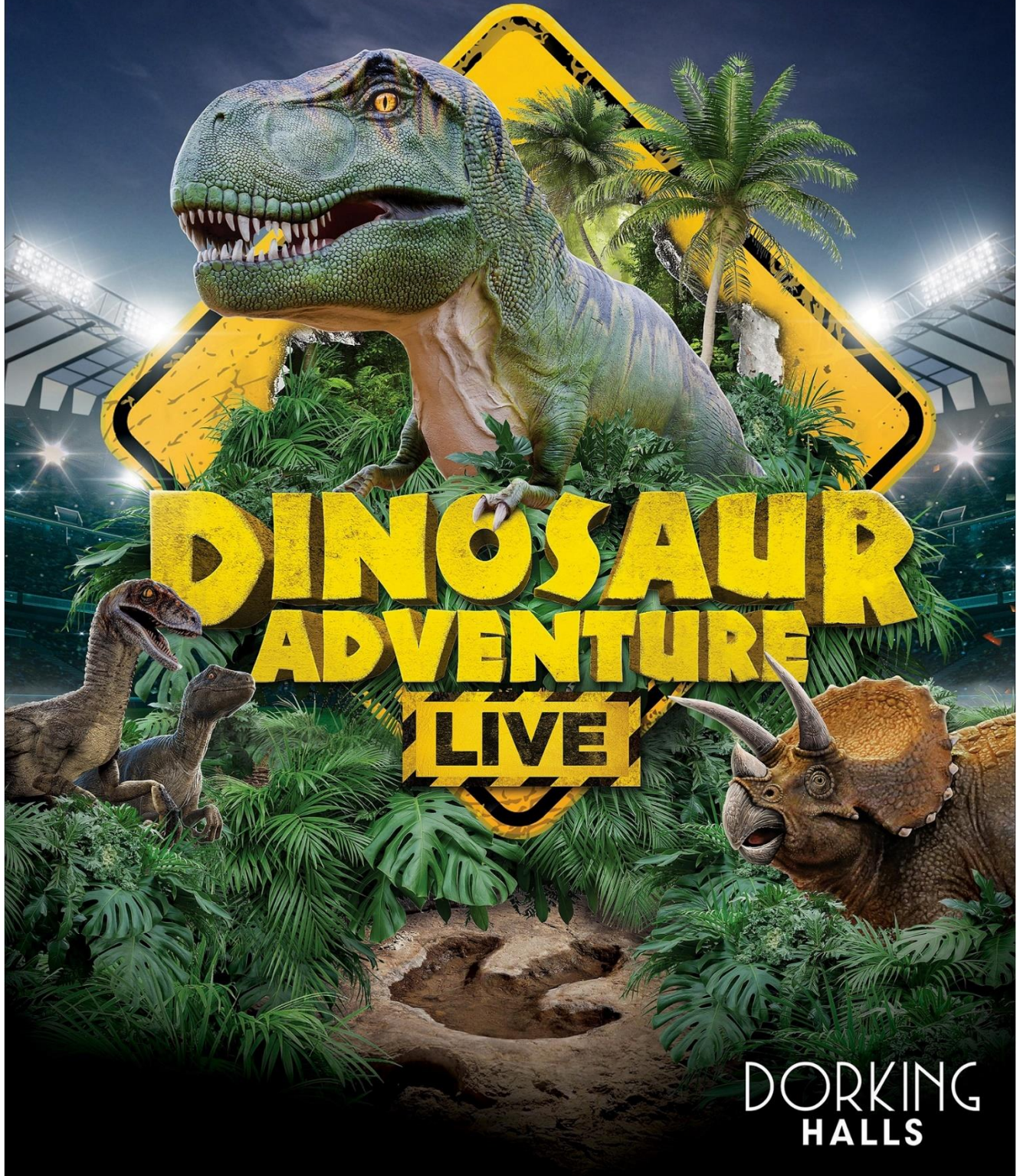
Dinosaur Adventure Live

Join our intrepid rangers on a quest to recover the data crystal, restore power to the island and save the Dinosaurs!

This awe-inspiring interactive stage show captivates both young and young at heart, immersing audiences in the enthralling & realistic world of Dinosaurs. You won't want to miss this adventure of a lifetime, so hold onto your kids as this show will blow them away!

Tickets Row: £16.50

65 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING
MON 23 OCTOBER 2PM & 4.30PM



**DORKING
HALLS**