



Celebrating Diversity,
Learning Together

Colston's Primary School

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Headteacher: Alex Bell

13th January 2017

Dear parents and carers,

The smattering of snow this morning has brought a wintry feel to the end of our first full week of 2017.

I've visited every class this week and have been so impressed with the positive learning atmosphere everywhere I've been. The children have been so focussed on their learning that most of the time they didn't notice me there and in many ways, that's the way it should be. My favourite moment was in Year 6 when they were all reading Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce. They were so engrossed in the story and couldn't wait to read on!

At the PTAF meeting on Wednesday night we reviewed all the amazing events held recently and what to do with the funds raised so far. Along with many other suggestions, money is being put towards stocking the Cotham Grove Library and providing more rich text books for our younger readers at Elmgrove. They have also funded the purchase of the parking signs being used outside both sites. I know you'll agree that these have made a huge improvement to safety issues directly outside school. Once again I'd like to thank the PTAF for supporting the school so well.

Whatever you're doing this weekend, I hope you have fun time

Alex Bell

CERTIFICATES

Well done to all our certificate winners this week: Rico Sangha, Dexter Rigg, Yonis Abdi, Ellis Murphy, Zunairah Arslan, Hania Shahzeb, Alice Rowan, Jamila Abdi, Millie Insall, Aishah Hussain, Ed Ebot, Habiba Haider, Mohamed Mohamed, Papa Mbaye, Michael Sillence Davis, Ma'ab Basaleh, Joy Lin, Evelyn Stayley, Victor Kay, Amorise Kissoon, Roisin Bradley, James Stas, Rayan Basaleh, Yousuf Debes, Archie Stone, Isobel Jackson, Bronte Carmichael Sturrock, Nadira Ali, Grace Williamson, Elliot Ritchie, Dan John, Louisa Brown, Amillee Sharpy and the whole of 5W.

A WORD FROM THE GOVERNORS

Happy New Year

New Year, New Challenges ...

If you read the latest Governors' newsletter you will know that the budget is tight. Not just for our school, but for all schools. On December 14th 2016, the government unveiled its new funding formula for schools. Under the proposals, as reported by Whitehall's spending watchdog, the National Audit Office, '... schools in England ... [are] ... facing an 8% real-terms cut in funding per pupil by 2018-20 as a result of £3bn worth of cuts'. Put another way, this means all publicly funded schools nationally need to find £3bn worth of savings between them, over the next 3 years. No school will lose more than 3% overall, with a maximum cut capped at 1.5% per year.

What does this mean for us at Colston's Primary?

Like all other schools in England, Colston's is under pressure to make savings, both in the short and long-term. The school put some early measures in place in anticipation of the above and this has resulted in some changes to support staff roles.

These changes are for the good of the school. Colston's needs to be in a secure position to continue its overriding mission - to provide the best educational opportunities for the children possible; adapting at the same time to an ever changing political and increasingly challenging financial landscape.

One governor initiative has been to set up a fundraising group of fundraising professionals within our community who have kindly volunteered to offer their expertise and advice. The idea will be to set a strategy and then work closely with school staff, the PTAF and the Co-operative Forum to make it happen, and raise much needed funds. If you'd think you may be able to help with this, please do be in touch on chair.governors@colstonsprimary.co.uk or via the school office.

Thank you in advance for your support for the school on this.

With best wishes on behalf of the governing body

Kate Swainson Price
Chair

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2017 - DEADLINE

DON'T FORGET to apply for a reception place for your child.

Children born between 1.9.2012 and 31.8.2013 are eligible to start school in September 2017. **The closing date for applications is midnight on 15th January 2017.**

The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line by following this link. www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Alternatively, you may wish to make a paper application. Application forms are available on the School Admissions website, or by contacting School Admissions by phone/email.

Tel: 0117 903 7684 (9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 4.30pm Friday)
Email school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk

CO-OPERATIVE FORUM MEETING

Just a note to let everyone know that there is a Co-operative Forum meeting this Wednesday 18th at 6.30pm in the library at Cotham Grove. If you wish to know more speak to Alex Jarman or Jo Bush.

YEAR 2 SATS MEETING

Year 2 parents and carers are invited to attend a SATs information meeting on Tuesday 17th January at 18:30pm in the Cotham Hall.

CHOIR

Choir starts back again next Tuesday (3.30-4.30 in the CG hall). Thanks to all who have returned their forms. There are a few spaces available so please see the office for details if you'd like to try it out. We are going to start working on a musical production of Alice in Wonderland this term so it should be great fun.

DRUMS

Spaces are available for children in years 2-6 who would like to learn how to play the drums. Lessons are available on an individual or 2-1 basis. Please contact the office for more information.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!

Having a post Christmas clear out?

We are always on the look out for quality texts for our libraries. If you have any phonic based reading books or good condition fiction that you no longer need (picture books and chapter books) please get in touch with Emeline Smith or Alan Thomson.

PTAF EVENTS COMING UP

Friday 20th January - Year 3 'Tea & Cakes' in Cotham hall and Friday 3rd February - PTAF Film night. More details to follow.

COFFEE MORNINGS

EAL and PP parents, join us on a Tuesday morning 8.45 - 10.00 in the school hall at Cotham Grove for our coffee morning.

PARENTING COURSE

After the success of the last course, Sam Martin will be running another Incredible Years Parenting course starting again from Thursday 19th January 6.30pm until 9.00pm at the Cotham Grove site. For more information or to sign up please contact Sam Martin.

CHESS CLUB



Spaces are still available in Chess Club for years 3-6. If you would like your child to join, please contact the office to get a form.

ART CLUB

Lucy Parish and Nicola Scott are running an afterschool Art Club at Cotham Grove this term. Mondays for Year 5 and Wednesdays for Year 6.



If you would like further information please email Lucy and Nicola directly at: we_heart_art@outlook.com

DIARY DATES

17th Jan	KS2 Choir starts
17th Jan	Yr. 2 SATs Parents meeting 6:30pm
18th Jan	Co-operative Forum meeting 6:30pm
19th Jan	5M Class Assembly
20th Jan	Year 3 Tea & Cakes
24th Jan	Yr. 6 SATs and camp meeting
26th Jan	4W Class assembly
26th Jan	6JO Netball and football festival trip
1st Feb	Violin Assembly
3rd Feb	PTAF Film Night
6th Feb	Year 1 Trip
6th Feb	Year 5 Trip
7th Feb	Teatime Concert
7th Feb	Year 2 Trip
9th Feb	Co-op WOW day
10th Feb	Last day of term
13th Feb - 17th Feb Half Term	
24th Feb	PTAF Quiz Night
2nd Mar	World Book Day
10th Mar	Year 6 Market Bazaar
16th Mar	4J Class Assembly
23rd Mar	3T Class Assembly
27th Mar	International Week
28th Mar	Parent's Consultations
30th Mar	Parent's Consultations
30th Mar	3A Class Assembly
6th Apr	3R Class Assembly
7th April	Last day of term
10th - 21st April Easter Break	