



# Crest Infant & Nursery School

## Weekly News Update

27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,



Thank you so much for your support with the MacMillan Coffee Morning this morning. We will let you know how much we raised as soon as we can.



I mentioned last week how well our new children were settling in but forgot to mention the new staff who are settling in too! We give a warm welcome to Mr Lovell, our new caretaker, who has already worked wonders around the school; Mrs Bichescu who is doing a great job in Starfish Class and Mrs Wakelin who is a real asset in Whale Class. They and the rest of the staff team are very much appreciated – we have such a dedicated group of professionals who work so hard as they just want to do their best for your children.

I also hope the Y1 and Y2 parents enjoyed spending some time with their children during our 'Join us in Class' sessions last week. The children certainly enjoyed showing off their new classrooms.

### Extending the curriculum



As well as all the clubs I mentioned last week, we are very lucky to have managed to secure some exciting activities over the next few weeks for the children to enjoy and which will add to their learning experiences. On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, we have 'Zoolab' in and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October we have the Drama 4 All company in doing workshops with the children. Year 1 children are also visiting St Justus Church as part of their RE learning. Exciting times!

### Attendance Matters

Attendance is one of the areas used to judge a school and how effective it is. We do understand that children will get ill, indeed there may be times when we call you as your child has become unwell at school. However, we cannot stress enough how much learning is lost when children do not attend school regularly. We celebrate the best class attendance each week during Friday assembly time when the Attendance Teds are given out.

#### Attendance Ted Awards

For last week:

**Reception: Whale Class - 98%**

**Year 1: Penguin & Seahorse – 99%**

**Year 2: Stingray – 99%**

*Amazing attendance this week!*



#### The government target for attendance is 96%

**Across the school year:**

**98% = 4 days of absence**

**95% = 10 days of absence**

**90% = 4 weeks' absence**

**85% = 5 ½ weeks' absence**

**80% = 7 ½ weeks absence**

**FACT: the more time spent in school, the better your child's future life chances will be**

*Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Shields*

NB: All newsletters are now sent via Parentmail. Alternatively you can find a copy each week on the school website – [www.crestinfants.co.uk](http://www.crestinfants.co.uk)

### Crest's Governing Body

We still await the result of our Parent Governor election but we have welcomed two new governors, Neil Charlwood and Claire Reed onto the Board in recent months. Our governors are a group of volunteers who give up their own time to support the leadership of the school. We are very grateful to them for this commitment. Each governor has an area in the school to monitor and you will be able to read about their visits across the course of the year. Mrs Hyde, our staff governor has carried out a recent visit (giving up a non-teaching day) to speak to Mrs Marco about inclusion and I include her comments below:

*"As a school governor I was really pleased to be able to join Mrs Marco in her role as Inclusions lead. She talked me through her role and how Crest makes sure all children, regardless of any extra needs, can access every area of the curriculum at the level which suits them, in order for them to achieve. I was surprised to learn exactly how much of Mrs Marco's time is taken up by chasing other services- this has increased due to the new data protection laws and has a direct effect on support being put into place quickly. Funding for extra support has been consciously ring fenced by senior leaders but the spending per child is much higher than might be anticipated.*

*Inclusion is closely linked with Crest's 'Behaviour for Learning' Policy. This ensures that children with Emotional needs, the second largest group of need at Crest (after Speech and Language), are supported in the best way to help them succeed in their learning and their emotional development. Mrs Marco is supported by several members of staff including Mrs Gibbons who does a tremendous amount for many of our most vulnerable families.*

*Walking around the school, it is clear that behaviour has improved significantly, especially with the new Character education work being done. Children clearly enjoy the extra support sessions they are given to help them in their learning. There are also places where children can go for a quiet time including the Haven, the new Sanctuary sensory room and even at lunchtime when children can spend some time quietly reading in the library.*

Perhaps the most important thing I noticed was the effort made by school staff to treat every child as an individual, to diffuse situations as quickly as possible and to enable children to take responsibility for their learning in a calm and positive environment. Crest learners know how to tackle their own learning, are resourceful and do not give up – what more could we ask?

Mrs Hyde

### School start and end times

We have had an increasing number of children arriving late and being collected late for the school and Nursery. A reminder of our school timings are:

School starts at	8.55am - 12.00 noon 1.15pm - 3.15pm
Nursery sessions are from	8.30 – 11.30am or 12.30-3.30pm.

All children may enter their classroom from 8.45 am onwards. Parents are requested not to send their children to school before 8.45am as it is not possible to provide supervision before this time. Parents are responsible for walking Year R and Year 1 children to the classroom door and Year 2 children to the main entrance door where they can walk to their class independently. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children before 8.45am even when on school premises. Please note that the Nursery staff only have a short amount of time to have their lunch between sessions, so please ensure they are promptly collected after the morning session.

If you arrive later than the specified times, you will be required to go to the school office to sign your child in/out for the day.



### Jumble Sale

We will be holding a Jumble Sale on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 3.15pm – 4pm. More information will be provided shortly but if you would like to donate anything we will be collecting items from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. Please hand into the school office.

