



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending 09/09/2022

A message from the Head:

It would perhaps be remiss to not start with mention of yesterday's news and how we will respond as a school to the passing of Queen Elizabeth. Class teachers have today addressed the issue in class, as they felt appropriate for the age of the children. This was done using a variety of published resources and with guidance received overnight from the DfE. As we move into the 'period of national mourning' we are told to expect further guidance and will then act upon this accordingly. If your child requires any further support at home we are advised by the DfE that –

'If children and young people are upset, [Minded.org.uk](https://www.minded.org.uk) is a source of information to support children and young people to manage death and loss.'

Should you require any further support with this issue or have any further questions relating to how it will be covered in school please do not hesitate to get in touch.

That news aside, we have had a delightful start to the new school year. The children are back with sunnys, smiles and a spring in their step. It has also been wonderful to see them so quickly adapt to new classrooms, new teachers, new classmates, new routines and all manner of changes that come at this time of year. We of course also welcomed Mrs Pears into our school community and her Year 2 and 3 class certainly seem to have hit the ground running.

Attached to this email you will find the first details of this term's events and diary dates and next week we will inform you of other key dates for the year ahead. The schedule is already looking busy, with a variety of trips, visitors and special occasions still to be added. Please keep an eye on your email for further details.

A variety of housekeeping messages –

SeeSaw accounts should hopefully all be up and running by the end of next week. Some issues migrating classes to the appropriate year groups have slowed this process down but we are assured this should be resolved soon. Please note – SeeSaw is not meant to be used as a way of directly communicating with your child's class teacher in a 1:1 way. Please still direct questions, queries and comments to staff either via email to admin@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk or call the office to request an appointment. It is likely messages sent via SeeSaw will be missed and staff will not routinely reply to these.

We are pleased to let you know that all our pupils will benefit from Doodle Learning again this year, including our new Reception pupils. All children have a reminder of their login details at the back of their Home School Journal. These login details are the same for Doodle Maths, Doodle English, and Doodle Spell. Please see the separate letter attached to remind you of why we use Doodle and how you can stay connected with your child's learning. Please remember to look at your child's home learning in the newsletter each week to see our expectations for Doodle.

We now offer an even greater variety of options come lunchtime ! Those on school lunches will choose from the main meal of the day, a vegetarian option or a jacket potato with a variety of fillings. Pupils can 'pick and choose' on a daily basis so hopefully there is always something for everyone. Just a reminder for those bringing a packed lunch that foods brought into the school should be peanut and nut free wherever possible, no fizzy drinks and a balanced meal to get them through the day. Thank you.

Weather remains changeable – please ensure pupils have a suitable coat every day, a change of clothes in their PE bags and suitable outdoor trainers as part of their uniform. Thank you.

Have a super weekend !

Reception/Year 1:

Reception and Year 1 have had a lovely first week back! Our new starters in Reception have settled in so well, full of smiles and fun- we are really enjoying having them in class! Our Year 1 children have also stepped up to their new role in the classroom, caring for and helping to settle the Reception children into our routines. We are so proud of all our children!

'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas has been our focus this week and has inspired us to talk about our own feelings and those of others! We have also enjoyed looking at the colours used to represent the different emotions. The children have explored colour mixing with paint, to make them! We have been designing and making our own colour monsters too!

The children have enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor areas, and we have been modelling play and resources (with lots of help from our Year 1s!). We have enjoyed singing number rhymes and songs, and reading stories together. You might have also spotted our fantastic new outdoor climbing frame which is proving to be a big hit with the children!

Just a reminder that we have switched off private messaging on Seesaw to ensure that important messages are always seen, so please use email for these now.

Home learning this week:

Reception:

- Enjoy sharing your library book at home with someone in your family!

Year 1:

- Enjoy sharing your library book at home with someone in your family!
- Stay in the orange zone on Doodlemaths and reach for the green!

Home reading with school books will start next week for everyone! Have a lovely weekend! Mrs Wilson

Year 2/3:

It has been a pleasure to join Cliffe this week and get to know the fantastic Year 2's and 3's! They have settled back into school life, welcomed two new children into our class and adapted to a new teacher and routine with admirable enthusiasm.

We have enjoyed reading and writing about a beautiful short story, 'The Storm Whale'. We wrote postcards from the main character and found out some facts about whales. In Maths we have been consolidating our grouping and counting of objects up to and beyond 50, as well as writing numerals and number names correctly. All this along with devising a class behaviour charter, learning who our trusted adults are and creating a 'Helping Hands' display. Well done to everyone!

Mrs Pears and Miss Waddington 😊

Homework:

Read at least three times across the week and record in your home journal. Reading is still a priority in our class so are starting a new incentive with a weekly 'Reading Raffle'. Every child who reads 3 times at home will enter one ticket into the raffle, anyone reading 5 times will have two tickets! Prizes will include books, magazines and stationary!

Complete your Doodling activities; stay in the yellow and aim for green! There is an extra task set to practise our work on spelling number names (Y2) and using capital letters (Y3).

Year 4/5:

We've had a great first week back in Year 4/5. It was lovely to welcome the year 4s into our classroom and they have integrated so well with the year 5s. We have been very impressed with the positive attitudes and hard work shown so far.

In English we started with writing some very creative poems about the things they DIDN'T do during their Summer Holidays such as having a party on the moon or teaching a crocodile to dance! They considered rhythm and rhyme and really got chance to use their imagination. Later in the week the class were introduced to our new book for the half-term, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. They made predictions and discussed the character of Lila.

In Maths, the class have been learning all about Roman numerals up to 1000. They have also explored and represented numbers up to 10,000.

We started our Mexico topic by finding Mexico on a world map and recapping on the different continents. We sorted cards into those that showed places in Mexico and those that showed places within the UK. We will use this information to write comparisons next week.

In Science the class learned about sound sources and how sound is created through vibrations. They conducted a sound survey around school and discussed how the sounds were being made.

Mrs Moulds came to teach the class music on Thursday. You will be receiving a permission letter soon so your child can take their ukuleles home (hopefully from next week).

Your child may have brought home a classroom library book this week. They are allowed to borrow these alongside a scheme book if they are still on the reading scheme.

Many of you may be wondering about home-school journals and reading records. We are looking to change things a bit this year and trial a reading activity through Seesaw instead of signing the home-school journals. Your child will be set a weekly activity on Seesaw today to complete based on the book they're reading at home (this can be a scheme book OR a book they're reading for pleasure). They simply respond in the same way they did during lockdown, depending on the nature of the activity (a note or recording, for example). Your child will receive Dojo points for completing the activity and extra Dojo points for completing the challenges. For this reason your child does not currently have (or need) a home-school journal. Of course, please still share books with your child and encourage them to read aloud as this is extremely valuable reading practice.

Children may bring a pencil case to school if they wish – they certainly don't have to. If they do want to bring a small pencil case it should only contain items such as pencils, black ballpoint or "Finewriter" pen, a small ruler or colouring pencils.

Our PE lessons are on a Wednesday afternoon. We are often out in all weathers so particularly on Wednesdays, extra warm clothes are advised!

Homework:

Seesaw reading activity

Doodle Maths - stay in the yellow, reach for the green

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Capewell and Mrs Townend

Year 6:

What a great week we have had! We started with writing some very creative poems about the things they DIDN'T do during their Summer Holidays. The children came up with some wonderful, creative ideas and their published poems are on display in the classroom. We have explored the difference between a fixed and growth mindset and considered how we can train our brain to have more of a growth mindset. We discussed 'mental wellness' and all of the things we do at home and in school to look after our mental health. We also created a 'huff' poster listing all of the things we can do when we are in a 'huff'. We made bookmarks for our new reading books. After yesterday's news, we spent this morning reflecting on the queen's life. From this week, children in year 6 will take turns to write our newsletter each week 😊 Have a great weekend!!

Notes from Miss Rose-

- Bikeability next week. This will run from Tuesday – Thursday. Children can leave their bike in school if this is easier, but we encourage them to ride to/from school if possible. Children should wear school uniform (now that we have an active uniform), but please see the letter sent home for further details.
- PE: Our PE lessons are on a Monday afternoon. We are often out in all weathers so please ensure your child has spare clothes in school as the weather turns.
- Equipment: Your child should bring their reading book and Home School Journal with them every day. A pencil case and equipment has been provided so they do not need to bring anything additional from home. However, if your child prefers a ballpoint pen to the ones we use in school, they can bring their own.
- Homework: Homework will be the same each week. Reading, Doodle Maths, Doodle English and a spelling activity. Please note there is no spelling activity for this week. A reminder of your child's Doodle log in is in the back of their Home School Journal.

Y6 Homework:

Read 3 x weekly and record this in your Home School Journal

Doodle Maths - stay in the yellow, reach for the green

Doodle English - stay in the yellow, reach for the green