

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER
"FOR EVERY CHILD TO REACH THEIR
POTENTIAL



December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to the December and some may say the Christmas edition of the Cage Green Newsletter.

It's been a very busy month with lots of events happening in and around school. I would like to say a big thank you to all of the children, parents/carers who kindly donated money to Children in Need, including supporting our Head Boy and Girl, and Deputies, for their Sponsored Silence. We raised £614.60 and all the children (and staff) looked fantastic in their super hero costumes. I am delighted to report that the PTFA's Christmas Fair raised a profit of £3,814. Thank you everyone.

As the weather is becoming more wintery it would seem an appropriate time to remind parents of the 'Winter Closure Routine'. 'Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents' - Department for Education

As the quote from the DfE suggests, every effort will be made to keep the school open, even if only a limited number of pupils can attend. However the school may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. If the decision is taken to close I will notify parents via the Kent Closures website, and our Cage Green website. Therefore to determine whether Cage Green Primary School is open or closed visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. I would also recommend parents sign up for SMS/E-mail alerts on the Kent Closures website. The service will send an SMS or e-mail alert to let parents know if the school is closed. Parents can also listen for alerts on KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Parent Consultation Evenings—these are vital in ensuring the partnership between home and school is a successful one in supporting your child's learning. More than 95% of families attended and most of the feedback received regarding the online booking system was positive. We hope to continue this when the next parent consultation meetings are held on 16 and 17 March 2016.

On the 10 December Year R performed their Nativity play to a packed audience which was a huge pleasure to watch. The children performed with confidence and clarity and were a credit to the school. With this in mind Years 1 and 2 will be performing their Christmas Carol Concert at the Baptist Church at 10 am on Friday 18 December and Years 3—6 at 2 pm. I do hope to see many of you there dressed in your Christmas jumpers as it is also Christmas Jumper Day as part of the Text Santa appeal. All monies raised will be donated to the appeal which is in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Make A Wish and Save the Children. The children can wear their Christmas Jumper **as part of their school uniform**. As in previous years all children will return to school following the performance.

Online safety is vitally important to ensure children stay safe whilst accessing the internet. To learn more about the risks facing our children when they use computers, please log on to <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>.

Other useful websites you might like to visit:

<http://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-live/online-privacy-and-safety/online-safety>

<http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Parent-Factsheet-0413.pdf>

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/ufiles/Facebook-checklist-Nov2013.pdf>

<http://www.digizen.org/downloads/cyberbullyingOverview.pdf>

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Internet Safety

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) is a police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online.

www.ceop.police.uk

www.internetmatters.org

This is a new online portal for parents to access advice about online safety for their children. It provides tips on protecting children from online grooming, cyberbullying, privacy and identity theft and inappropriate content.

Staff Changes

Occasionally at the end of a seasonal term we need to say a farewell to members of staff. This time it is to Mrs Notley, a member of our Senior Leadership Team and our Special Educational Needs Coordinator, who has secured a Deputy Headteacher position. Many congratulations to Mrs Notley on her promotion.

Also Miss Pegram, who has been working as a Supply Teacher throughout the school for the past 3 years, is leaving us at the end of term.

I, on behalf of everyone at the school would like to thank both Mrs Notley and Miss Pegram for the commitment and expertise they've showed towards the children and the school throughout their time working at Cage Green.

Another change is to Class 5N—Mr Neal has kindly accepted the challenge of continuing to move the quality of teaching and learning in PE to outstanding. This will need Mr Neal teaching PE throughout the school to all year groups demonstrating good practice to colleagues as well as inspiring the children to try different sports. He will also run many after school clubs, in particularly to Key Stage 1 children which I know is an area we need to improve.

The school has been fortunate to secure Mr Gurr as a class teacher in Year 5 and comes with a wealth of experience. I have been extremely impressed with Mr Gurr's knowledge of teaching and learning throughout the time he has worked with us and he has already worked in 5N a number of times. To ensure a smooth transition, Mr Gurr will be working within the school over the coming week and at times with 5N. This will allow continuity between Mr Neal and Mr Gurr.

Please be assured that I have thought very carefully regarding this decision but feel very strongly it is the right one for the children. Therefore can I please ask parents/carers to support the decision and help make the transition as smooth as possible for your children. As always I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Since this is the last newsletter before Christmas, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see many of you at forthcoming events. The next newsletter will be published on Friday 29 January 2016.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite



Academic Year 2015-16

Christmas Break	Monday 21 December—Friday 1 January
Term 3	Monday 4 January—Friday 12 February
February Break	Monday 15 February—Friday 19 February
Term 4	Monday 22 February — Thursday 24 March
Spring Break	Friday 25 March — Friday 8 April
Term 5	Monday 11 April—Friday 27 May Monday 2 May—Bank Holiday
May Break	Monday 30 May—Friday 3 June
Term 6	Monday 6 June—Friday 22 July

Academic Year 2016/17

Monday 31st October 2016 to Friday 4 November 2016—Staff Development Days

