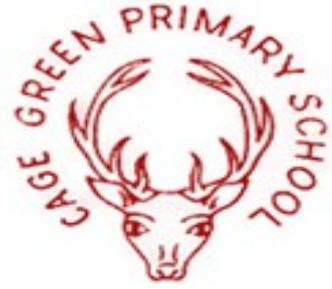


# CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER

**"FOR EVERY CHILD TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL"**

February 2015



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to the February edition of the Cage Green Newsletter. Christmas now seems to have faded into the distance and we're looking forward to Spring and all that it brings—in particular the warmer weather!

As you read in last week's bulletin there have been many events happening in and around the school ranging from sporting fixtures to a creative arts day aboard a boat named Light Vessel 21 (LV21) docked at Gillingham Pier to the children taking part in a Victorian experience here at school. Other events this week include 'Bedtime Stories' where our Year R, 1 and 2 children dressed in their night clothes after school to listen to and read a selection of stories. It was fantastic to hear from the teachers the vast majority of children were able to attend the sessions and the children tell me the hot chocolate was very tasty! I hope this again shows the importance the school is placing on reading and I have noticed more and more Reading Record books being brought into school daily and comments written in. There are still one or two children in each class who are forgetting or losing their Reading Records on a regular basis. Due to the cost constraints placed upon the school if your child needs a third Reading Record book we may have to charge parents/carers for a replacement.

Our Year 6 children had the pleasure of attending the Young Voices Concert which was held at the O2 Arena in Greenwich on 26 January. A big thank you to all the children who attended as well as the staff for giving up their evening to accompany the children. Connie and Emily have written a description of the evening:

*When we came to the O2 it was a long wait to get to the main area. First we came up to the second level of the O2 by a huge escalator, then one more escalator to get to the very top. When we got to our seats we practised all of our fun O2 songs, then we had lunch.*

*Finally it was the moment the O2 performance was about to start, so we all sat patiently and waited for the lights to dim and the crowd to sit down. We were also joined by Urban Strides, an awesome dance group, who helped us learn all of the moves to some of the songs.*

*Everyone enjoyed the dancing, free style parts and waving their torches in the colourful lights. Whenever the camera came round, everyone smiled at it and waved; we were also given O2 shirts to look similar to one another. Also, some celebrities came and did some performances with us and some solos.*

*We all had lots of fun singing the songs. Here are some of them:*

- ◆ *Lonely Boy*
- ◆ *Wait For Me*
- ◆ *Pop Medley 2015*
- ◆ *Andrew Lloyd Webber Medley*
- ◆ *Tribute To Mandela*

*And many more!*

**E-Safety Day**

This year E-Safety Day is on 10 February 2015 and all classes will take part in activities teaching them about keeping safe online. Even though we have an E-Safety Day this is a topic that is discussed daily—the influence technology has on our lives today is huge and teaching children about keeping safe online once a year wouldn't be sufficient. The day will be used to embed those messages and the 'do's and don'ts' when online. The link below contains some very useful advice for parents and carers:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>

**World Autism Awareness Day**

On the 1 April Cage Green Primary School will be supporting World Autism Awareness Week by asking the children to wear something pink or purple to school in return for a small donation which will go directly to the National Autistic Trust. Their purpose is to provide information, support and pioneering services as well as campaigning for a better world for people with autism.

**Year 4 Residential Visit**

This year the school will be providing the opportunity for our Year 4 children to attend an outdoor adventure centre for 3 days. The visit will run from Friday 1 May to Sunday 3 May 2015. The cost is approximately £135 which includes all activities, accommodation and food and the centre is located in Cranbrook just outside Maidstone. This would be an ideal opportunity for children to experience a residential visit before parents/ carers have to commit the week long residential in Year 6. Inevitably there are going to be those children that won't be able to attend with reasons ranging from cost to families who have other commitments that weekend. This is the reason for holding it over a weekend— the visit is purely voluntary since the children's education will not be disturbed. The children will leave for the centre on the Friday afternoon and return Sunday afternoon allowing the Friday to be a 'normal' day. Any further questions please don't hesitate to ask. As long as the visit proves to be popular and financially viable I hope this visit to continue over future years. Please return the slip attached to the recent letter by Wednesday 11th February latest.

**INSET Days**

As you know Government legislation states schools are not allowed to authorise term time holidays. The school is still receiving holiday requests and as explained previously I have set up an Attendance Panel to look at these to decide the outcome. Analysing the holiday requests shows one of the main reasons for requesting term time holidays is the cost—therefore for the next two academic years I have set the school's INSET/ Training days as a block to allow parents/carers the choice to take those cheaper holidays. Therefore the days are as follows:

**Academic Year 2015/16**

3 and 4 September 2015 (2 days)

2, 3 and 4 November 2015 (3 days)

**Academic Year 2016/17**

31 October 2016 to 4 November 2016 (5 days)

Next newsletter will be published on Friday 6 March 2015.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite - Headteacher