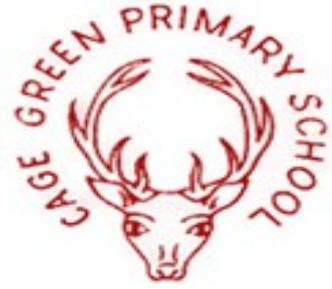


# CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER

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

January 2015



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to the January edition of the Cage Green Newsletter. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year for 2015.

The run up to Christmas in a primary school is always a magical time and this year was no exception. Seeing the excitement build within the children (and staff) throughout the final week was a delight. The two Carol Concerts that were performed at The Baptist Church were a roaring success, partly down to the number of parents/carers that attended—the support for the school seems to build year on year.

Another event that was a huge success was the Christmas Music Concert performed in partnership with Music Station. The children who took part had only been learning their chosen instrument for a short period of time and to have the opportunity to perform alongside a fantastic band made the children feel a real sense of achievement.

This term brings a new year and with it staffing changes. After 'numerous' years at the school Mrs Rodgers has decided to work part time: Monday and Tuesday. Therefore I would like to welcome Mrs Gordon to Cage Green who will be working Thursday and Friday. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Dove who is expecting her third child in April 2015. As mentioned in Mrs Beggs' newsletter we will inform parents/carers of the arrangements for Unicorn class in the coming weeks.

Over the last term we have been looking at how we as a school listen to the children read as well as the frequency of home reading. We all feel that both areas needed improving. The commitment to reading is essential in ensuring the children are successful learners; it is the building block of learning. Therefore the 'Home/School Reading Record' books are going to be key and every child who has 'misplaced' theirs has been given a replacement. I am expecting these books to be used as a record of how often the children are listened to. The class teacher will note when your child has read in class as well as the focus for his/her reading and I would hope parents/carers, older brothers or sisters, grand parents or whoever listens to your child read would put a comment in the book showing the duration and successes/difficulties your child had. The Senior Leadership Team and I will be looking at the Reading Record books at least on a termly basis. The school is also investing large amounts of money in purchasing good quality, suitable books for the children to read. The vast majority of children at Cage Green enjoy reading and I want to sustain that enthusiasm as well as encouraging our more reluctant readers.

Over the next week Mr Hall will be collating all the necessary information regarding clubs. I am sure we will be inundated with replies with clubs beginning the week commencing 19 January 2015.

A reminder to parents/carers who have children ready to start school in September 2015—the closing date for applications is Thursday 15 January 2015. A small selection of parents/carers assume because their older child attends Cage Green it gives the younger child a place automatically. This is not the case and an application form will need to be completed for all children. Due to the growing popularity of the school and the increased number of pre-school children, this is all the more important.



## Winter Guidance

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Cage Green Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points.

How will we let you me know if the school is closed?

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, I may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made the school will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether our school is open or closed please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://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. We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if Cage Green Primary School is closed. Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed or visit the school website, [www.cage-green.kent.sch.uk](http://www.cage-green.kent.sch.uk)

What can you do to help?

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies, etc., or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping us remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

## Change of Menu

Advance notice that next week the menu for Wednesday and Thursday will swap. Therefore Wednesday will be 'Chicken and Vegetable Puff Pie/Creamy Tomato Twists' and Thursday will be 'Roast Beef/Spicy Vegetable Wrap'. I know Wednesdays are very popular and I would hope this wouldn't cause too many difficulties. The menu will revert back to normal week commencing 19 January 2015.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 6 February 2015.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite  
Headteacher