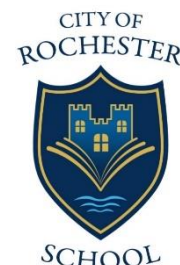


City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 2 2022 – Academic Year 2022-2023

Introduction from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

As the term comes to an end, we can look back and celebrate the amazing progress our school and our pupils continue to make. Our pupils continue to learn and make progress, striving at all times to reach their true potential. They have been sitting formal examinations, have been out on experiential placements and trips, have engaged in a wide number of activities in school and have been giving something back to our local community through the projects we are supporting. I hope you will enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have been happening at City of Rochester School.

We also look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas performance and Parents' Evening on the 15th December.

We wish you all a safe, restful and relaxing time with family and friends over the festive period. We look forward to welcoming our children back after the Christmas break.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Alicja Emmett
Headteacher

Staffing Update

We welcome the following staff to our school:

welcome

Michelle Sargent. Hello. I started working at City of Rochester in November. I transferred here from a mainstream secondary school where I was a specialist in Literacy and Numeracy. It was whilst I was there that I found my passion for working with students with special educational needs. I have been made to feel very welcome here and look forward to meeting more of our students and their families over the coming weeks and months

-Andrew Whitton. Hello. I came to work at the school because it's the type of school I would have benefitted from had I had the opportunity when I was a student. I keep myself busy in my spare time with hobbies that include 3D modelling, building PC's, Game development, Art and comics. I have 5 pets, 1 dog and 4 cats. While I'm the IT technician and support pupils in class, I also enjoy teaching as well and I am looking forward to teaching the ICT in the upper school.

-Nathan Cripps our ICT teacher has moved into the upper school to teach maths. Andrew will be teaching ICT.

-We say goodbye to Rob who is moving onto a career with the Highways Agency.
We wish him all the very best!



Key Dates

Term 2:
07/11/22-
15/12/22

**Christmas
Break:**
16/12/22-
03/01/23

Term 3:
04/01/23-
10/02/23

Half Term:
13/02/23-
17/02/23

Term 4:
20/02/23-
30/03/23

Term 5:
17/04/23-
25/05/23

Bank Holidays:

25/12/22
26/12/22
27/12/22
01/01/23
02/01/23
07/04/23
10/04/23

**Reports Sent
Home:**
09/12/22

Curriculum News

Pupils in the middle school have taken part in St John's Ambulance First Aid training. The children learnt how to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with someone who is choking. The children have said their favourite sessions were when they learnt how-to put-on bandages and treat burns. Another favourite was practising the Heimlich manoeuvre on a practice dummy. We received great feedback from Katie, the first aid trainer, " The group of kids I have are amazing! I'm so impressed with not only their knowledge but their willingness to get involved! They aren't self-conscious at all; they love a bit of role play. They're keen to have a go and ask questions, which for this age group is quite rare!"



We congratulate all nominees who were selected as finalists for the Medway Youth Awards. The pupils were: Tegan-Lilly Tester, Riley Baglan and Louie Cross. There was a dinner and ceremony at Gillingham Football Club to honour all nominees. Families and staff from attendance.

We are super proud of all of them. We are pleased to announce that Tegan won in her category.



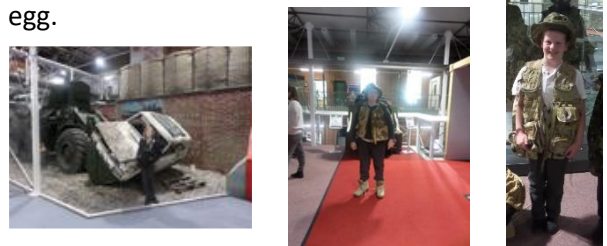
Pupils in the lower school visited The Royal Engineers and took part in a wide variety of workshops linked to their history curriculum. The workshops included: Catapults at the ready- the children learnt about the different types of historical siege engines and their effectiveness at breaking down castle walls. They then designed their own catapults and tested their effectiveness by competing against each other, firing different coloured projectiles to breach the walls of a model castle.



Zulu Warriors- we learnt about the Zulu war of 1879, and explored Zulu armour and arms. The children tried on armour and carried a Zulu shield, they then went on to creating their own Zulu headdresses and shields.



Turrets Tracks and Tanks- the children discovered the different modes of transport the Army use to support their work. The children explored tanks and armoured trucks up close and built their mechanical vocabulary. We looked at pictures of the first types of tanks used in the First World War and found out how they got their name. To end the session, we focused on the tanks' protective covering and conducted a science experiment to create protective armour for an egg.



Snob the dog: children unearthed the story of Snob the dog. We discovered how he was found beside the body of a Russian officer after the Battle of Alma and adopted by the 11th Company Royal Sappers and Miners and brought back to England. Learners found out how he was re-christened Snob after originally being called Alma when he preferred the Officer's Mess at Chatham to the Guardroom. The children met the real taxidermy of Snob in the Crimean War Gallery and found out how he was awarded a miniature Crimea Medal with a Battle of Alma bar; to reward him for his involvement in the Battle. We then made our own sock puppets of Snob complete with a



Equality and Diversity Calendar

Anti-Bullying Week

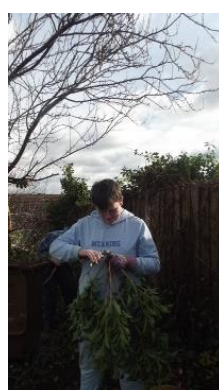
Pupils watched a virtual assembly along with other schools across the county about World Kindness Day. Staff and students wore odd socks to show that it is okay to be different. They decorated paper odd socks to hang on a "washing" line and wrote kind words on a jigsaw piece which were connected together and displayed. A talking and friendship corner was set up in the hall giving the students a chance to talk and spend time with friends.



Medway Youth Council

Some of our school council members attended a Medway Youth Council event at Cliffe Woods Primary School.

They talked about what the council does and how young people can have a say in what happens in Medway. In groups they decided things that are important to them in the community and improvements that could be made. Our students talked about homelessness and pollution.



UK Parliament Week

Pupils were sent information to their classes to explain what Parliament is and what British Values are and why they are important. Pupils and staff made their own manifestos, and an election was held to vote for 'Prime Minister of City of Rochester School'. The winning vote won a prize including some items from Parliament.



Community Links

Work continues at St Francis Church in Strood where we are working to support the maintenance and upkeep of the church and the grounds.

Giovanni, Estates Manager, had these kind words to say..

Since September this year St Francis Of Assisi Church has welcomed a team of young people from the City Of Rochester School who are undertaking some voluntary work for us in the grounds of the church.

The team has taken the task of clearing, tidying and maintaining the green grounds surrounding the Church and their fantastic work has been noticed and many who attend our weekly community activities have commented on the impact of the work carried out so far.

At St Francis we are really grateful to have this connection with the schools in our community and our ongoing partnership with City of Rochester School is a valuable contribution as we serve this community of South Strood with other activities such as Holiday Clubs during the half term, Coffee Morning and Ukrainian support to mention just a few, as well as our Church services.

On behalf of St Francis and the community we serve here in South Strood, we thank you for your invaluable support and commitment with the work you do with us and we look forward to an ongoing working partnership