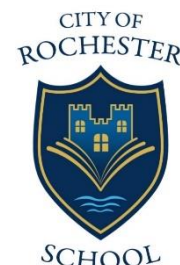


# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Summer 1 2023 – Academic Year 2022-2023

### Introduction from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted to have been awarded the NAS Autism Accreditation “Advanced Status” at the end of April and as you know we have put this information onto our website, Facebook page and sent you a copy of the report. Thank you to all our parents who were so supportive of this process and to those of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire. We have written to the local paper with our news, and we will let you know if this is published.

It feels like it has been such a short term with the two bank holidays, including one to mark the King’s Coronation. We celebrated in school with a Big Lunch where we all sat together outside to eat our lunch, we played games and pupils and staff competed in a bake-off which was judged by myself and Michelle our Deputy Head.

Trustees have been to visit the school to look at behaviour, assessment, safeguarding, a deep-dive in science and to meet pupils in the School Council. Trustees are pleased with the progress pupils are making and what a safe and happy school our pupils attend.

We had many nominations for staff for the Kent Teacher Awards, and I am proud to say that Gary Lovell our Caretaker won an award for his work with pupils. Gary’s role is far reaching at City of Rochester School. As well as his caretaking duties, he supports pupils on and off site. Congratulations to Gary, his recognition is well deserved.

We wish you all a wonderful half-term break and I hope you are able to spend time with loved ones. We will welcome our pupils back to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Alicja Emmett  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

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

**Term 6:**  
05/06/23-  
12/07/23

**Summer  
Holidays:**  
13/07/23-  
05/09/23

**Term 1:**  
06/09/23-  
19/10/23

**Half Term:**  
20/10/23-  
03/11/23

**Term 2:**  
06/11/23-  
14/12/23

**Christmas  
Break:**  
15/12/23-  
03/01/24

**Bank Holidays:**  
29/05/23  
28/08/23

**Reports Sent  
Home:**  
25/05/23  
07/07/23

### Hello and goodbye:

*hello*

We welcome Alicia – Learning Support Specialist to the team

*Goodbye*

We say goodbye to Ben from our learning support team. We wish Ben every success with his new role and to developing his exciting writing career.

### Tuck Shop

We have set up a small tuck-shop in school. Pupils in the upper school put together a pitch asking for an initial investment for set up and presented it to key members of the Senior Leadership Team. I can say that the investment was awarded and we now have a tuck shop that is open at lunch times for staff and pupils. Well done to pupils in Mars Class for running this.

## Curriculum News

Pupils in the lower and middle school have taken part in African drumming workshops. This has been a wonderful experience for our pupils as pupils have been learning:

- stomp style,
- samba drumming,
- boom whackers
- bamboo tamboo and junk percussion.



### Focused outcomes include:

- Pupils use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- Use their voices confidently in different ways
- Recognise and explore how sounds can be organised
- Begin to sing in tune with expression and control



We have re-introduced Forest School into the curriculum and this will be rolled out across the lower and middle school. Cliffe Woods Primary School have very kindly offered us the use of their space. Pupils have been engaged in den building, learning to weave, tie knots and have set up a wildlife camera where we have been able to observe the foxes and badgers. In return we will be helping Cliffe Woods develop the space and build items such as benches, a bridge, planters etc, with the support of pupils who are on our construction course.



On placements, pupils continue to enjoy Squirrels Riding School, Creepy Claws and Curly's Farm. Pupils are all engaged in accredited programmes that are helping them develop life skills and prepare them for the future.

At Squirrels, pupils have shown improvement in their understanding of horse anatomy.

At Creepy Claws pupils have demonstrated they are able to follow instructions and work independently. They are working hard on communication skills and provide the appropriate care for the animals that is required.

At Curly's pupils have put in a lot of effort and worked really hard. They have followed instructions shown that they can use tools safely. Pupils have engaged in all tasks set and seem to have really enjoyed working at the farm this term.



## Community Links

**St Francis Church – Strood.** We have met the new vicar and have been busy clearing the trees and brush from along the side of the car park. We have also been discussing the church's need for a new kitchen and how we can help to support this.



**Eternal Lakes.** We have installed the last of the four life saver boxes and have been asked to build some more as our boxes now make the rest look very old and tired. We have also been clearing the trees from along the walkways so that people can access the pathways, sorting the willow as we want to encourage long strong branches to build an archway.



## Equality and Diversity Calendar

We have had four fun Cultural Diversity events this term. Towards the end of term, the whole school took part in a Culture and Diversity Day where pupils took part in planning and celebrating countries from around the world. The whole school community tasted food from around the world and learned about culture and customs.



## National Museum Day

Two Zoom workshops, one for the upper and one for the lower school, were delivered by the Horniman's Museum to celebrate Museums Day. The first was about the rainforest and the second about Ancient Egypt. The pupils used props provided by staff to recreate interactive experiences including following the journey of the Hatshepsut down the Nile to the temple. Jupiter class enjoyed it so much that they asked to continue the learning when they got back to class



## World Dance Day

For World Dance Day the pupils were invited to join workshops, run by The Right Step Dance company, based on books they know. The lower school danced to The Highway Rat and the upper primary used Around the World in 80 Days. The workshops were 20 minutes each and focused on short and sharp movement sequences to keep the pupils engaged and interested. The pupils had lots of fun and sent letters to The Right Step Dance Company afterwards to thank them for the workshops.



## The King's Coronation – Big Lunch

The football pitch was decorated with bunting and flags for a lovely afternoon in the sun to celebrate the Coronation. Tables were arranged and the children and staff had their picnic lunches together. Various games were set up for the children including quoits, croquet and football and a bake-off competition was organised for both staff and students. We were impressed with the number of entries we had as well as the talent of our young bakers.

