



Coleridge Primary School

Learners for life

CREATIVE, CARING, RESILIENT

Newsletter April 2019

Welcome back to the summer term at Coleridge. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new families who have recently joined us, I hope you and your child/children will be very happy during your time at Coleridge.

Staffing

Sinead Garvey, is returning to Coleridge and will be working in a teacher job-share with Laura Parnell in the nursery, two days a week, until the end of the term. From September, Sinead will be working one day a week with us, continuing the job-share with Laura.

At the end of this half term, Jon Goddard (Year 3) will be taking a break from teaching to look after his baby daughter during the summer months. He will return to his teaching post in September. We are really pleased that Seb Chamberlain, one of our former teachers, will be returning to Coleridge to teach the class until the end of the term. We're really looking forward to Sinead and Seb joining us once again.

Unfortunately, Jo Burston, who works as a part of our admin team, has paid the ultimate cost of being a BMX champion and had an accident on her bike during a race. Her injuries mean that she will be off work for at least a month. We wish her well and an extremely speedy recovery.

A new look website and communication

At the end of last year, we ran a parental survey looking at how we could improve our school website. It has taken a while to get it right, but we're pleased that our school website has now been refreshed, and we launched the new look site during the holidays. There are still a few snags that we are sorting, but overall it is much improved. There is now a better and more accessible mobile site for smart phones and tablets, as well as the main site for desktop computers. I would very much like to thank Kit Bhatti, a Coleridge parent, for her time spent in school taking some of the photos that currently populate the new site.

Thank you to all the Reception and Year 1 parents who recently filled in the survey looking at their experiences of joining the school. The findings were extremely useful and are currently being used to further streamline family's experiences of joining the school.

Combatting lateness

Thank you to all of you who have been making an effort to get to school on time over the last term. We have seen a real reduction for children recorded in the register as arriving to school late. Between November and December in 2018, we hit an all-time high of 912 children arriving late to school. From February to March this year we reduced the number of children being late to school to 429. Obviously while we are pleased with this, we would like to further improve on our attendance.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 24th June 2019 - INSET DAY

INSET days—Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September 2019

Combatting lateness continued

Research highlights the positive impact punctual and regular attendance has on children's well-being and learning. The Senior Leadership Team will continue to be on the gates on both sites for drop-off. Where there is persistent lateness, we will be in touch with you to arrange a meeting. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss morning strategies to support getting your children to school on time and we can identify if there is a need for other agencies to be involved to offer further support.

Working alongside parents

Nina Grimes held a coffee morning for parents of our families who have adopted children. It was an opportunity for parents to meet each other in an informal setting. Nina talked about our current offer and her ideas for the future; she also asked parents for their views on any changes we can make. Parents are keen to make this a regular event and we will be looking at linking with other schools to invite other adoptive parents to come and join a network meeting.

The SEND team ran a session last term for all parents who have children with Educational Health Care Plans or EHCPs. The aim of the coffee morning was to allow parents to network and meet each other, and has hopefully provided a starting point for conversations about how we can further support our families who have children have additional needs. They discussed the idea of running themed workshops and arranging for specialist speakers to come in and give talks.

Pepper the dog

We now have our own therapy dog called Pepper. Pepper and her owner Pam, will be in school once a week on a Monday morning, when they will be working with children who have been identified by staff as benefiting from some time with Pepper and Pam.

Pepper had her first session with the children last term and despite some initial nervousness, the children really enjoyed it and got a lot out of their time with Pepper. Thank you again to Trina and DD for organising this.

Kindness at Coleridge

This term we are particularly focusing on children being caring, one of the school's core values. An analysis of behaviour incidents that occurred last term highlighted that one of the triggers for incidents were due to children not being thoughtful towards others and making unkind remarks to each other. This term and last term children in their PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) lessons were learning about relationships, discussing and learning about managing friendships, kindness, and managing emotions. This term I began the term with an assembly based on the book, 'Have you Filled a Bucket today?' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EuemNAo6XE>

Some of the children in Year 6 are running a #choosekind campaign. They are planning to go into other classes and teach other children in different year groups about kindness. There will be assemblies and other opportunities where we will be talking and working on enhancing kindness around the school.

Volunteering time and skills at Coleridge

We fully appreciate that not everyone is in a position to donate to the school financially, we also very much appreciate the time that people give up and spend helping in and around the school on a daily basis. Our libraries would not be the lovely spaces they are without the parents who volunteer weekly. We also have parents who help out with reading across the school. Parents have helped out and advised on building and renovation projects across the school, plus other parents have been involved in a marketing group. Thank you so much to all of you that have given up so much time to the school.

If you are interested and have the time and would like to volunteer in and around the school please do get in touch and leave your details with the school office.

The Learning Enhancement fund

Thank you to all those of you that have donated so generously to the school's Learning Enhancement Fund. The Learning Enhancement Fund is a means for parents who wish to make voluntary financial contributions to support school improvement. Any funds raised are used to purchase such things as IT equipment, resources to support learning, art materials, sports equipment etc. depending on what is needed.

This term, we will be spending the money raised on resources to develop the teaching of spelling and handwriting across the school. It will also be spent replenishing stocks of resources needed to teach design and technology.

We used the Learning Enhancement Fund to send two of our teachers to learn how to become Forest School leaders. Forest School offers children regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Mr Skrein and Ms Bosworth have been refining their skills and enjoying taking their classes up to Queen's Wood. This is a yearling course and both, Mr Skrein and Ms Bosworth are working on how to embed Forest School practice throughout the school over the next few years.

In such challenging times, any money donated makes such a difference to all our children and what we can offer as a school.

Thank you

How to donate:

If you would like to contribute to the 'Learning Enhancement Fund you can do so in one of the following ways:

1. If you are a U.K. Taxpayer and want to gift aid a donation to Coleridge Families please

Email coleridgefamiliestreasury@gmail.com and they will provide you with all the details and a gift aid declaration to complete.

The CF bank account details are as follows:

Coleridge Families

Nat West A/C no 51554119

Sort code 60 06 26

Please put your surname and GAid as the reference for your payment.

2. Standing Order with your bank to make a one off, monthly, termly or annual payment direct from your bank to The Learning Enhancement Fund.

Account Name: Coleridge Primary School, London Borough of Haringey

Account Number: 10 45 45 63

Sort Code: 30-99-86

3. Making a one off payment at the school office, by cheque (please make any cheques payable to Coleridge Primary School).

I look forward to seeing you all around the school over the next term, and if there is anything you would like to discuss with me, please see Katie Block in the school office (West) to make an appointment or email: head@coleridgeprimary.net

Leon Choueke