



**Newsletter 25**

**19 March 2021**

Dear Parents

Another great week back at school! Now we have the dinosaurs safely back in their Jurassic era the children have settled back in to their usual timetable of learning.

Except of course, I could not fail to mention, the Year 2 pupils who finally got to celebrate Christmas! Yes...Christmas at Cassiobury in March, and why not! Thank you to all our Year 2 pupils for waiting so patiently to celebrate (due to bubble closure and lockdown) and I am thrilled that you enjoyed your day and finally received your delivery from Santa!

I have not been in school much this week due to various training sessions and budget setting day (fortunately I wasn't photographed leaving for the day with my red case held aloft!) but I have enjoyed keeping up to date with the learning via the Twitter updates. Well done everyone!

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD**

Our target is to be at **96%** attendance throughout the year. This week we have made it!

This week	<b>93.5%</b>
Week beg 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>96.4%</b>
Best week to date	Week beginning 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 ~ <b>98.63%</b>



**ATTENDANCE**

**Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March:**

CLASS	RED <95%	AMBER 95%	GREEN 96+%
BADGER		<b>95.5%</b>	
FOX	<b>94.7%</b>		
HERON		<b>95.10%</b>	
HEDGEHOG	<b>92.5%</b>		
KINGFISHER	<b>93.4%</b>		
ROBIN			<b>98.0%</b>
OWL			<b>97.0%</b>
RABBIT			
WOODPECKER	<b>87.9%</b>		
SQUIRREL	<b>88.7%</b>		

Well done to **Robin Class**.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Well done to one of our families who made it in to 'Croxley My News' this week with a fantastic display of community spirit and team work (just like Bee). An amazing amount of litter picked just goes to demonstrate how it can mount up. I am sure our Eco-Council will be grateful of some support once we are back to 'normal'.

## Family set fine example with team litter picking

Written by Holly Bullen

**A** Croxley family have been doing their bit to help protect the beloved woodland and green spaces in the village.

Martin Austin was drawn to the village after noticing the wonderful woodland and green spaces on offer and has since been determined to keep them protected.

During lockdown, Martin said he has been litter picking with his children, hoping to help them understand the importance of their local environment.

He said: "The children have gone out to their local woods and picked up litter because they don't want the deer to be hurt.

"I mean what a great lesson for them - they're getting out into the community, they're learning to be respectful of the land and to have a bigger



Martin and his children recently collected six bags of litter from the woods surrounding the golf course

outlook than just themselves.

"I just want to make them a bit more aware of their surroundings, conscious about their environment and have a slightly bigger picture than just them and their own needs."

## GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

The full Governing Body met virtually on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and covered the following:

- Governors heard how well the children have settled back into school
- Received a report on the planning taking place around gaps in learning
- Governor Skills Audit findings and recommendations
- Governor link roles and plans for virtual visits
- All governors have attended safeguarding training recently and the Board discussed how safeguarding is embedded across all aspects of the school and governance
- Discussed Covid safety measures in school
- Approved policies on Attendance, Bullying & Harassment, Grievance and Health & Attendance
- Approved a plan for reviewing the school's strategy in the summer term
- One new vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor and communications from school and the nomination process will be shared after the Easter holiday

## DOWN'S SYNDROME AWARENESS: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

This Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, is Down's Syndrome Awareness Day. This year we have decided to celebrate on the last day of term by wearing odd or funky socks with our non-uniform. Any donations will be given to the charity 'Wouldn't Change a Thing' who work to promote the individual voices of children and adults with Down's Syndrome and spread understanding and positivity. This year they have created a Special Edition Carpool Karaoke which we will share with the children as part of our celebration. When we watch the video we will be keeping our eyes peeled for our very own special guest... I can't wait to find out who it is! Parents...all will be revealed in next week's newsletter!

## SURVEY MONKEYS

Keep a look out for a couple of 'survey monkey' questionnaires that will be circulating over the Easter holidays. The first will be about our new website and the second will be about future 'Head's ups' and 'Parent Pit Stops' for the summer term. We do appreciate your feedback and hope you can spare a few moments to share your views.

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## SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO SCHOOL

During a recent training session I attended about 'Reconnection and Resilience' after the pandemic, it was reported that a recent survey showed that there are 5 main losses for children missing school. Without knowing these specific categories until this week I was pleased that we had already put in place support for the children in returning to school. I thought you would be interested to see what has been suggested as the '5 losses' and how, as a school, we are already addressing them:

Considered loss	What we are doing
Routines	Ensuring that all school routines are in place and followed, re-establishing the routines that the children are used to within school
Structure	Keeping the structure of the school day the same and the format of our teaching Our slides during 'Remote Learning' were the same as the children would have experienced in class
Friendship	Reminding the children how to play together, how to interact, what the impact of not being nice to each other can have Using the support of the Jigsaw programme, using the peg charts in class and our worry monsters
Opportunity	Ensuring we can offer the children as much as we can as the restrictions lift including Mrs Gunn delivering PE, focus week, resuming some clubs after Easter
Freedom	Using the outside spaces as much as possible even if it is raining, children out on the running track, scooters, outside gym and using the forest school

## PUPIL VOICE

We also conducted a recent return to school survey for our children. The results are detailed below and are a positive picture:

	QUESTION	YES	NO	NOT SURE
1.	I have enjoyed being at home during lockdown	65%	21%	15%
2.	I liked my learning at home	46%	36%	17%
3.	My learning at home was too easy / too hard / just right	<b>Too easy</b>	<b>Too hard</b>	<b>Just right</b>
		24%	23%	53%
4.	I enjoyed seeing my teacher and friends on the Zoom calls	86%	9%	5%
5.	I am happy to be back at school	80%	9%	11%
6.	I have friends at school who I like to play with	93%	5%	2%
7.	I feel safe at school	88%	7%	5%
8.	I know who to talk to at school if I feel worried	92%	2%	7%
9.	The adults in my class have helped me settle back in to school	91%	3%	6%
10.	My learning at school is too easy / too hard / just right	<b>Too easy</b>	<b>Too hard</b>	<b>Just right</b>
		24%	19%	58%

## READING AND READING BOOKS

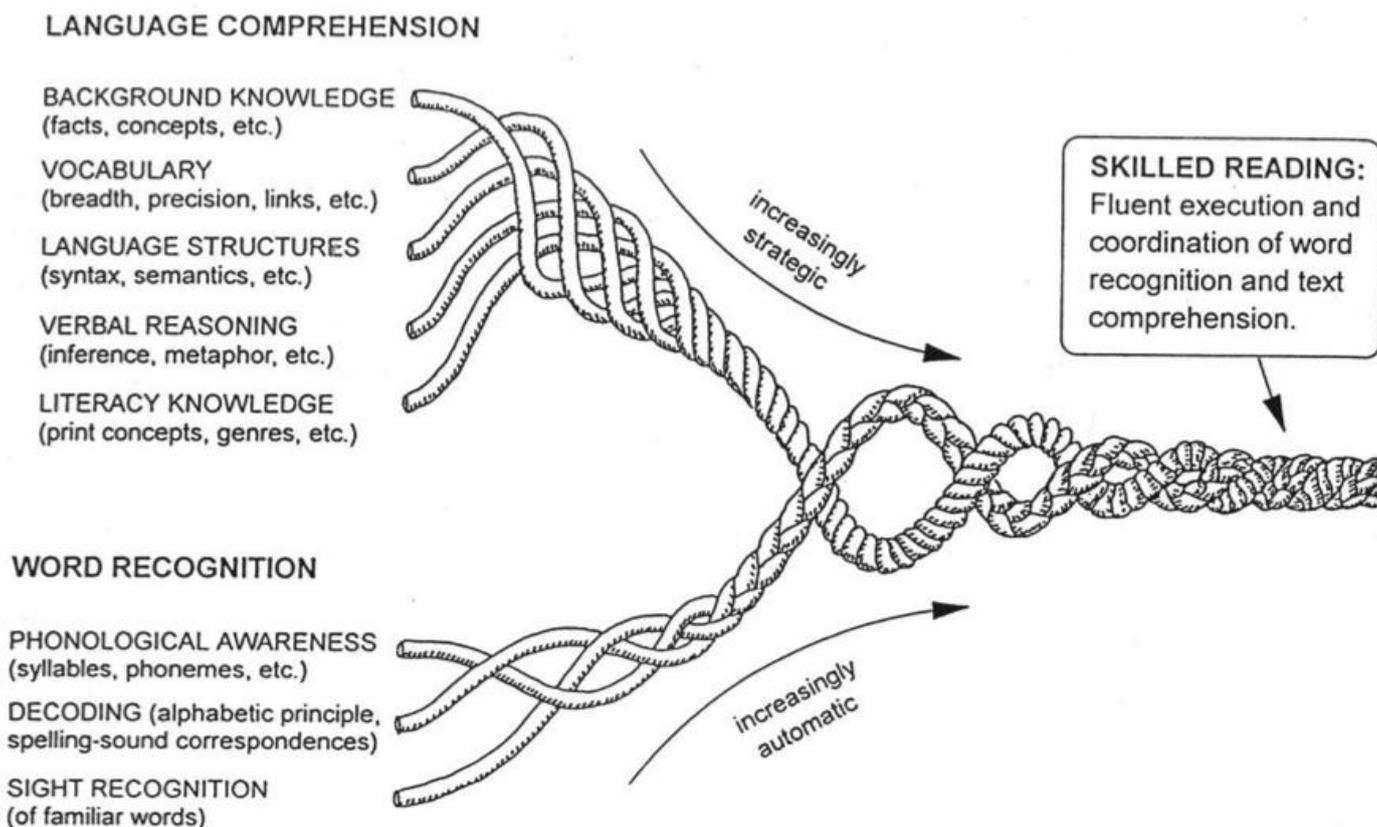
Our teachers are currently in the process of re-settling the children back into school; part of this process involves carrying out formative and summative assessments to gauge where they are in their learning and to identify any gaps.

Many children have been practising their phonics and reading regularly at home during lockdown and as a result have made good progress in this area. Over the next two weeks your child's teacher will listen to them read and will also carry out a simple phonics assessment, after which they may be given a different reading book level.

However, it is important to note: your child's home-reading book builds on the ideas and many of the words that they will have practised in their phonics lesson at school. This means that they should be able to **read most of the book without difficulty**; reading challenge is taught in school.

Being a good reader is about: **word recognition** (phonological awareness, decoding and sight recognition of familiar words) as well as language **comprehension** ability. Successful readers - ones who are able to read to learn - are those who are skilled in both word recognition and language comprehension.

Therefore, it is important that children are not pushed through the reading scheme just because they are able to decode and read words - in order to encourage and develop life-long readers we also need to teach the skills of reading comprehension through language development, verbal reasoning (see diagram below).



Attached are some useful reading guides - sent out earlier in the year, but very much worth reading again, please take a moment to re-familiarise yourself with their content.

Finally...all of the teaching staff at Cassiobury Infant & Nursery School are both passionate and determined that every child will learn to read - please trust their professional judgement and have faith in their ability to determine which reading level your child should be on in order to best support their reading development.

## SUMMER TERM CLUBS

As you are aware, many extra curricular club have been temporarily suspended due to Covid-19 safety measures.

However, if all goes to plan with the government's roadmap, we do hope to get a few year 1 and 2 clubs started again in summer term. Due to space limitations resulting from social distancing measures and in line with school Covid-19 safety measures these will be outdoor only and in year group bubbles. Any sports clubs will be run on PE days so that children are already dressed in clothing that is appropriate for sports. Please bear in mind that due to the fact that clubs are outdoors only they may be cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather, in such circumstances parents will need to be prepared to collect their children at their normal end of the school day time.

Please see the clubs page on our website <https://cassioburyinfants.herts.sch.uk/clubs/> for currently planned timetable of extra curricular clubs starting up in summer term and links to flyers for the clubs running with details of how to register.

We appreciate that, due to maintaining Covid-19 safety measures and availability of providers, extra-curricular clubs are a lot more limited than usual and need to be restricted to bubbles. We hope that this does not lead to too much disappointment but you'll appreciate that school priorities need to be reducing risk of spread of infection and keeping children in school, therefore all extra-curricular clubs must be in line with school policy and government advice and the set up we are implementing is the most effective way of doing this.

We apologise that we are unable to extend this out to Reception children in summer term. In current circumstances with clubs running in a rather out of the ordinary fashion, we felt that it would not be in children's best interests to introduce them to extra curricular clubs for the first time in such a way. Hopefully, next year things will be a bit more normal and they can start attending clubs when they move up to year 1.

Thank you for your continued support with the school's implementation of Covid-19 safety measures.

## COVID UPDATE

Please remember to let the school know if your child has tested positive for Covid by using the online form: [Covid Reporting](#)

Please remember that should a positive case of Covid be reported within the school the associated 'bubble' will still close to all children and staff including critical worker children. Please ensure you have a plan B in place to ensure your child is collected promptly from school. Isolation would be for 10 days.

I wish you all a safe and happy weekend.

*Charlotte Cooper*  
*Headteacher*



PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2020/21**  
These dates are the same as the junior school.

**SPRING 2021**

Thursday 25 March 2021	NURSERY Spring term ends ~ usual time
Friday 26 March 2021	Spring term ends 1:15pm

**SUMMER 2021**

Monday 12 April 2021	Summer term starts
Mon 31 May – 4 June 2021	Half term
Monday 19 July 2021	NURSERY Summer term ends ~ usual time
Tuesday 20 July 2021	Summer term ends 1:15pm
Wednesday 21 July 2021	INSET ~ School closed
Thursday 22 July 2021	INSET ~ School closed



PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2021/22**  
These dates are the same as the junior school.

**AUTUMN 2021**

Wednesday 1 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 2 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 3 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Monday 6 September	Autumn term starts
Mon 25 Oct – Fri 29 Oct	Half term
Monday 20 December	NURSERY Autumn term ends ~ usual time
Tuesday 21 December	Autumn term ends 1:15pm

### SPRING 2022

Wednesday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 6 January	Spring term starts
Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb	Half term
Thursday 31 March	NURSERY Spring term ends ~ usual time
Friday 1 April	Spring term ends 1:15pm

### SUMMER 2022

Tuesday 19 April	Summer term starts
Mon 30 May – 3 June	Half term
Friday 1 July	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Monday 4 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 21 July	NURSERY Summer term ends ~ usual time
Friday 22 July	Summer term ends 1:15pm