

OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents

It's been such a very busy week! Maths Week, Discos and the Christmas Fair all in 5 days! What a lot we have all done. Thank you to everyone who has helped us at these events and to all who came to work with their children during the maths activities. It was great to have so many parents and carers volunteer at the discos and to help us run stalls at the fair. We were also delighted with all the donations of gifts, sweets, prizes and cakes – thank you very much. It makes such a huge difference to us in school when we have your support and help. I know that the children enjoyed having you work alongside them if you were able to come to the Maths Week activity. It was wonderful to see so many of you there – thank you for coming along.

Stars of the Week!

Congratulations to this week's Stars – wonderful work and attitudes shown; what brilliant role models we have in our school.

6S - Tanisha Raviraj
6S - Liam Freeser
6E – Rohan Day
6E – Ashleigh Bunn
5S – Sam Sillett
5S – Anielia Bisby
5R – Gabriel Luakhati
5R – Dominik Kulikowski
4P – Anna Chettleburgh
4P – Charlie Fuller
4N – Tyler Allen
4N – Maisie Atkinson
3E - Elliott Curmi
3E - Amelia – Faie Weeks
3C – Amiee Buttery
3C – Catherine Baker



Attendance Cup

3C won the attendance cup for their attendance this week with 100% - Well done!

Golden Book!

The following children were put into the Golden Book for amazing work that has astonished, astounded and amazed their teachers. Huge congratulations to the following children:

Isaac Kiddell
Maisey Andrews
Izaak Turner
Lukas Stuknys
Aleta Catelino
Katie Williams
Kieran Vaughan Williams

Lexia Superstars!

Well done to the following pupils who have completed their levels in Lexia:

Catherine Baker – Level 9
Rufus Teeuw – Level 5
Rufus Teeuw – Level 6
Gabriel Henderson – Level 4

Christmas Quiz Night!

On Friday 1st December we are holding our Old Catton Quiz Night; this time with a Christmas theme. Letters have gone out advertising the event and we are now waiting for teams to organise themselves and book a table for the night. Please let us know how many members there are in your team. Last time we had a real giggle and raised some money for school. You can bring a bottle (or two) and relax without your children for this event – adults only allowed. Please do get involved and come along. It will be lots of fun!

Reminder of dates up to half term:

Friday 1st December—Christmas Quiz and Chips Night
Monday 4th December—Dress Rehearsal for Years 3 and 4 performance
Tuesday 5th December— Year 3/4 Christmas Show Performance starting at 6pm
Wednesday 6th Dec— Year 3/4 Christmas Show Performances starting at 6pm
Thursday 14th Dec— Carol Service at St Margaret's Church - Years 3/4 9:30am and Years 5/6 2:00pm
Friday 15th Dec—Christmas Jumper day
Monday 18th Dec—Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 19th Dec—Celebration Assembly 9:00am
Wednesday 20th Dec 2017- Wednesday 3rd Jan 2018— Christmas Holiday

Young Voices

Rehearsals are going well for the exciting Young Voices performance next February. As there are several songs to learn off by heart, we would like the children to practice singing them at home as often as they can.

Below is the Google Drive link to access the entire Young Voices song catalogue. You could play them in the car, listen through a laptop, tablet or your mobile phone, or play the songs through your stereo. Please help and support your children during the build-up of this special event! goo.gl/kMThNB
Miss K Richardson

Children in Need!

On Friday 17th November the children all donned their spotty outfits and helped raise **£262.00** for **Children in Need**. Thank you very much for joining in and raising some money for this great charity.

Old Catton's Maths Week

This week was Old Catton Junior School's first Maths Week! All the children took part in a wide range of activities, such as: Cocktail Making, Fibonacci Art, Timetabling, Shopping for Santa and using measure to make life-size models. Year 3, 4 and 5 completed maths trails and Year 6 took part in a week of Inspirational maths and have worked hard to create their own produce to sell at the Christmas Fayre. The children seemed to enjoy the week and were fully engaged in the activities. Thank you to parents who came along to complete the maths trails with their children, I hope you enjoyed it and I hope those who are able to the Christmas Fayre get a chance to see Year 6's final products and the maths that has been involved.



Lost property

Could I please ask that you if you need to check in the lost property box, that this is done after 3.15 when school finishes. I understand that items need to be found, however it is difficult for staff to keep the children safe during school time, if we have several parents still in reception after the whistle has gone. Thank you for your understanding.



Rachael and Daniel Lee



Homework

I would like to take this opportunity to make sure that everyone understands the homework that is set in school and the teacher's expectations in order for you to best support your child with their learning.

Every child from year 3-6 is expected to **read every night** (Monday-Friday) and collect 5 signatures, from their adults at home, in their reading records to show their teachers. Every child is also expected to **learn their spellings** for the week from the spelling booklet, appropriate for their year group. They will be given a maximum of 10 words to learn from the set they have been selected by their teacher. Every child then has **topic based homework that is set in the homework book.**

Every week this homework will cover a subject or a theme and give the children a task to complete over the whole week – including the weekend. This is designed to give families the flexibility to spend time on the homework when it suits them. We realise that everyone's week is different and the idea is that having the whole week means that you can find a time that best suits your child and your family.

We do not have a specific limit or set amount of work that any child should produce for the topic homework. We understand that some families want lots of homework and some families don't want any! We would like the children to complete what they can. It should not become the parents and carers homework. We do not want the children spending hours on the homework or for it to become a stressful activity for you at home. We simply want to engage the children in working independently or with some guidance on work out of school that they take responsibility for. We aim to gradually prepare them for High School and give them lots of scope for learning about different things that relate to what they have been doing at school.

Every child's work and ability will be different – we know what individual children can do and we accept that sometimes they may complete a small piece of homework if they have not found it interesting or found it hard but they may then complete a great piece of homework on a topic they really engage with and enjoy! This is fine. E.g. an hours work on the topic homework across the week is plenty.

Please understand that we set homework to build on learning, help the children become more independent and allow time for you to support your child's learning at home. I hope this better explains our intentions

TALK HOMEWORK & 'WOW' WORDS



Each week we send a Talk Homework activity and 'Wow' Words home and we would be very grateful for your support.

We are trying to help all our children develop excellent speaking and listening skills, which in turn will help them with their writing. "If a child can't say a sentence then they can't write it either!"

Please spend at least 10 minutes talking with your child about the questions below;

Please can you talk about our bible quote that accompanies our key values: Love, Hope and Joy. The quote is from Matthew 7:16 and says: "You will know them by what they do" What do you think this means? How can you apply this to our school and our everyday interactions with each other? Talk to your families at home and discuss this quote – bring ideas back to your classes



In Big Talk, we use '**WOW**' Words to improve our vocabulary and 'big up' our sentences to make them more interesting!

Our '**WOW**' Word this week is;



Actions

(deed, act, activity, move, gesture, undertaking, exploit)

- The 'Talk Homework' and 'WOW' words will be set every Monday in the newsletter; children will then share their 'Talk' with their class on a Friday afternoon.
- We will encourage the children to use the WOW word throughout the week.

Thank you for your support in helping your child.

I hope you all have a great week! Please come in and speak to me or your children's class teachers if you have any worries or concerns.

Mrs K Connelly.