Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy term and it is good to finally see the sunshine arriving. I would like to thank all parents for their continued support throughout the term and also thank all staff for their hard work. Pupil’s progress and attainment levels are continuing to improve. The support we are giving our SEND pupils has greatly improved which means they are also making good progress.

Finally, I would like to say Happy Easter to everyone and wish you a restful break. Staff will be back in school on Tuesday 18th April 2017 and all pupils are expected back on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

Staffing
As we come to the end of the term we often have to say goodbye to staff. Mr French who has worked in the school for some time now has gained a promotion at a school much nearer to his home. We thank him for his efforts at Holywell Primary School and wish him all the best for his new job.

I would also like to make you aware that Mrs Beale will be taking up a Headteacher role in September in another primary school. Even though there is still a term left of her time here I thought I will let you know as we will start recruiting for another Deputy Headteacher very soon. Mrs Beale will be greatly missed, I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on her new position.

Requests in writing
To ensure that we are improving on our efficiency and communication in school, I ask that all requests from parents be made in writing. For example, if your child is not able to take part in PE we must be informed formally in writing; a letter is to be handed to the Class Teacher. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Fun Run
Thank you to everyone who donated money for the Fun Run. The donations were very generous and we managed to raise £1040.44. This is to be put towards making the school field better for our sports events. We would like to say a special thank you to the following children for raising the largest amount for their key stages,

- Jay – Nursery PM – EYFS
- Katie – Year 2 Hawthorn – Key Stage 1
- Elena – Year 3 Pine – Key Stage 2

We would also like to thank parents for raising the following money, both very worthy causes.

Red Nose Day - £150.25   Autism Awareness - £195.16
**Festivals of Learning**

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Festivals of Learning this week. It was great to see so many parents attend the various sessions in the classrooms. The feedback we have collated is very positive and we use this to make sure that we continue to improve our sessions to parents.

**Spring Concert**

We had our first ever Spring Concert this week and it was a really impressive event to witness. Thank you to all the parents who attended to watch our Staff and Parents’ Choir as well as our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Choir. A huge congratulation should go to Miss Batliwala for organising the event and also to Miss Hampton, Miss Sammy and Miss Day who assisted her in the preparation and teaching the various choirs.

**Sainsbury’s vouchers**

Thank you to those that have already donated vouchers to us. We are still collecting vouchers in the box in the main reception area, outside the school office.

**Polling Day – Thursday 4th May 2017**

The school is to be used as a Polling Station on Thursday 4th May 2017. As in previous years, we will remain open, further details will follow nearer the time.

**Parent Governor**

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in this position and would like more information please contact Mr van Straaten or the Chair of Governors Mr Irvin Needle.

**Poetry Competition**

As a school, we celebrated World Poetry Day on Tuesday 21st March and ran a Poetry Competition. We had a fantastic response from pupils and the School Council enjoyed reading the variety of poems submitted. The School Council decided on winners for each year group. The winners were awarded certificates in assembly this morning. Congratulations to our winners:

- **Yenara** – Blue Base (Reception)
- **Krupa** – Sycamore (Year 1)
- **Maisie** – Hazel (Year 2)
- **Jaanav** – Aspen (Year 3)
- **Dante** – Rowan (Year 4)
- **Louiza, Banshiri and Ema** – Ash (Year 5)
- **Nabihah** – Elm (Year 6)
Poetry Competition

Poem 1: "War"
When someone pull a trigger.
The whole problem go bigger.
So many they will sorrow.
They will do us so much harm.
We need to look after each other.
Side by side is to love your brother.
Suddenly there is a loud explosion.
It rings in your ears monstrously.

By Nabihah Shah
4.6 A.M.

Poem 2: "Season"
This is a wonderful season
People are giving a reason
Now it is winter.
Whistling snow we have each fingers
Right now it is spring.
I wonder next will it bring?
Summer is getting to begin.
When we want to sleep with an ice-cream,
It is summer time.
That is it's time before summer.

By Khara, Grade 3 Class, Year 1.

Poem 3: "My Sister"
My sister's name Shena.
I call her "bena".
She said from her point.

She looks like a star.

By Hanan.
Congratulations to the children below who were presented with Spirit to Succeed medals in Assembly today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spirit To Succeed Medals!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursery AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurser PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak</td>
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<td>Hazel</td>
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<td>Willow</td>
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<td>Hawthorn</td>
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<td>Pine</td>
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<td>Aspen</td>
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<td>Beech</td>
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<td>Rowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulberry</td>
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<td>Cedar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assemblies:

Please see below the assembly schedule for spring term. All parents are invited to attend our Friday whole school assemblies so come along and support your child. Parents are also able to join us for a coffee afterwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic / Theme</th>
<th>Whole School Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George's Day</td>
<td>Elder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Rights of the Child - an introduction</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Week</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whoever we are, wherever we live, these rights belong to all children..’ Article 2</td>
<td>Beech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk to school Week</td>
<td>Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramadan</td>
<td>Ash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance
Whole school Attendance up to Friday last week for this academic year is 92%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Charter certificate</th>
<th>Star learner of the week award</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Charter certificate</th>
<th>Star learner of the week award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Base</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Fozia</td>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>Jaanav</td>
<td>Amy-Louise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Base</td>
<td>Azlan</td>
<td>Cherif</td>
<td>Pine</td>
<td>Kadeeja</td>
<td>Atiqua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Base</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Natalia</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Anuhas</td>
<td>Anton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>Luqmaan</td>
<td>Husnah</td>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Sanam</td>
<td>Miriam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>Armine</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>Connor</td>
<td>Aisha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak</td>
<td>Rayya</td>
<td>Ilaria</td>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Daria</td>
<td>Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Esa</td>
<td>Elder</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Sumayyah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel</td>
<td>Ada</td>
<td>Miguel</td>
<td>Birch</td>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Josh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Naweeshha</td>
<td>Aghness</td>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Sakina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beech</td>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Jermaine</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dates for your Diary

**APRIL 2017**
- Monday 3rd April 2017 to Monday 17th April – Easter Break
- Monday 17th April 2017 – Reception Class September 2017 – Allocation Day
- Tuesday 18th April 2017 INSET Day – school closed for pupils
- Wednesday 19th April 2017 - First day of Summer Term for all children
- Thursday 20th April 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Tuesday 25th April 2017 – Year 6 Staying Safe Workshop
- Tuesday 25th April 2017 – EYFS Challenge Cup at Chater School
- Thursday 27th April 2017 – Nursery Trip to Library and Cassiobury Park
- Thursday 27th April 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Thursday 27th April – Dental Service in to talk to Year 2 & Reception classes
- Friday 28th April 2017 – Reception Class- retest, health screening

**MAY 2017**
- Monday 1st May 2017 – Bank Holiday – school closed
- Tuesday 2nd May 2017 – Anthony Lishak – Author, visiting
- Wednesday 3rd May 2017 – Anthony Lishak – Author, visiting
- Thursday 4th May 2017 – Polling Day – School open
- Thursday 4th May 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Monday 8th May 2017 – Year 6 SATS
- Tuesday 9th May 2017 – Year 6 SATS
- Wednesday 10th May 2017 – Year 6 SATS
- Thursday 11th May 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Tuesday 16th May 2017 – Year 3 and Year 4 Tennis at Watford Girls School
- Thursday 18th May 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Monday 22nd May 2017 – Year 2 SATS and EYFS assessment all week
- Monday 22nd May 2017 to Friday 22nd May 2017 – Year 6 Isle of Wight
- Tuesday 23rd May 2017 - Year 6 – Natural History Museum
- Tuesday 23rd May 2017 –Year 5 & Year 6 Kwik Cricket at Watford Boys School
- Wednesday 24th May 2017 – Year 6 – Tate Modern and South Bank
- Thursday 25th May 2017 – Year 6 – Cassiobury Park
- Thursday 25th May 2017 – Year 3 Beech Swimming
- Friday 26th May 2017 – Last day of half term
- Monday 29th May 2017 to Friday 2nd June 2017 Half Term – School Closed
Project Update

March 2017

This is the seventh in a series of newsletters designed to keep parents, schools and the local community up to date with plans for the new school in Croxley Green. Please feel free to share it with anyone who might be interested. If you are not currently on our database but wish to be added to receive updates like this in the future, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Headteacher Appointed, Funding Agreement Signed, 120 Places Offered

As you may have seen in the press, we were delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Stephen Thompson as Headteacher just after our last Project Update was published. Mr Thompson has been involved in drawing up the plans for the school from the start and has served on the Senior Leadership Team of St Clement Danes for a number of years in a wide variety of roles. Writing about his appointment at the time, Dr Valentine, Executive Headteacher said: “The interview panel was unanimous in its decision to appoint him to the post and all of us were impressed with his knowledge, thoughtful reflections, insight and commitment to the school. I am sure that he will provide outstanding leadership for Croxley Danes School at this exciting stage in its development.” In February, we had our Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Education, meaning that we could make 120 firm offers of places on 1st March, National Offer Day. The Funding Agreement is the key milestone which, when met, allows the school to open. In his letter, Lord Nash, the minister responsible for new schools, wrote: “I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the great commitment and energy which you and your colleagues have shown in reaching this point.” In March, the process of offering the 120 places began. As we write, all but a couple of the 120 places have now been accepted. We have large numbers of parents who are anxiously waiting to see if their child will be lucky enough to gain a place through the Continuing Interest process. We have been thrilled by the excitement of those who have accepted places for their children and genuinely overwhelmed by the countless messages of support and praise for the school, even from those parents who have ultimately accepted places elsewhere.

Uniform Unveiled and Transport News Shared at Applicants’ Evening

At our Applicants’ Evening on 20th February, we were thrilled to be able to share the news that the Department for Education had agreed to fund, in its entirety, the cost of transport from Croxley Green to the temporary site at St Clement Danes for all students at the start and end of the school day during 2017-18. During 2018-19, when the school is housed in temporary accommodation at Baldwins Lane, it will also fund the transportation of half a year group on four days a week from the Croxley Danes site to St Clement Danes to access specialist facilities. This is a substantial commitment by the Department for Education and demonstrates their support for and trust in the school. The 500 strong audience were heartened by this news which came just days after the school had its Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State. Also revealed at the meeting was the new school uniform. Developed by Beat School Uniforms, it was described as ‘awesome’ and ‘gorgeous’ by Year 6 pupils who admired in particular the purple blazer and stylish PE kit. Details and more photos can be seen on the new Uniform page of our website.
Latest Update on Temporary and Permanent Sites

Work begins after Easter on transforming St Clement Danes’ former Maths block into the home for Croxley Danes during 2017-18. The block is being fully refurbished to provide classrooms for the four forms of Year 7 students and will be their base for Tutor periods and subjects such as English, maths, humanities and MFL which do not require specialist facilities. Planning for the permanent site continues, with Mr Thompson having agreed the number and size of classrooms needed to accommodate the curriculum plan and vision for the school. Potential contractors will now be selected by the Education Funding Agency and plans drawn up. An information meeting will be held before planning permission is sought. At this public meeting, parents and local residents will be able to view and comment upon the plans for the permanent buildings themselves. We will ensure that this meeting is widely publicised so that everybody has a chance to see what the school will eventually look like.

Staff and Prefect Appointments

We are delighted to be able to announce that a number of appointments have been made in preparation for the start of the school year in September. Firstly, Miss Aisling Ryan will be working alongside Mr Thompson as Assistant Headteacher from the Summer Term. Miss Ryan was formerly Head of English at St Clement Danes and has served on the Leadership Team, co-ordinating the school’s approach to Exceptional Performance. Eight Faculty Co-ordinators have also been appointed to lead respective subject areas in Croxley Danes. These are all existing and experienced members of the St Clement Danes staff team, ensuring that our vision of replicating our blueprint school’s ethos and excellence can be translated into reality. We are also delighted to announce the appointment of two Learning Support Assistants who will be working at the school from September. Our Learning Support Assistants will be key members of the team who will come to know the students very well, supporting them in their lessons and helping to keep an eye on them all as they make the transition from primary to secondary school life. Finally, last week, the Prefect Team for St Clement Danes School was announced. We are delighted that current Year 12s Victoria, Ollie, Lamees and Daniel will serve as Croxley Danes Tutor Group Prefects, whilst Katie and Dane will act as PE Prefects for the school.

Transition Arrangements for Croxley Danes Students

Next term, Mr Thompson will start the process of meeting all the new students in their Primary Schools once the KS2 SATs are out of the way. This is the first of a number of transition activities, with a Taster Day and Information Evening planned for later in the term. We are looking forward to building our new community and cannot wait to meet all our new students and their parents to get this process started!

Calling Year 5 Parents

We are now urging parents of children in Year 5 to join our database to enable them to get regular updates from the school. Such parents should visit the Contact Us page of the website and enter their details. We will be holding an Open Evening at St Clement Danes School on Tuesday 26th September at 7pm. In the meantime, any queries about the school can be directed to Ellie Thompson, our Communications Lead, who can be contacted via enquiries@croxleydanes.org.uk or by telephone on 01923 284483. Alternatively, we have two FAQs pages on our website – one in the Admissions section – which are updated regularly.

For further information, please visit:

Website:  www.croxleydanes.org.uk

Facebook:  www.facebook.com/CroxleyDanes

Twitter:  www.twitter.com/croxleydanes

www.twitter.com/SCDSchool (for a flavour of life at St Clement Danes)
HERTS INCLUSIVE THEATRE

A STAGE FOR EVERYONE

WATFORD CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Tuesday 4.45-6pm, Ages 5-12
The James Theatre, Watford Grammar School for Boys

WATFORD YOUTH THEATRE
Tuesday 6.15-7.45pm, Ages 12+
The James Theatre, Watford Grammar School for Boys

BOREHAMWOOD CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Wednesday 4.30-5.45pm, Ages 5-12
The Ark Theatre, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood

BOREHAMWOOD YOUTH THEATRE
Wednesday 6.00-7.30pm, Ages 12+
The Ark Theatre, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood

For more information or to secure your place, please visit our website or get in touch!

Website: www.hit-theatre.org.uk
Email: admin@hit-theatre.org.uk
HIT Landline: 01923 216951
HIT Mobile: 07857 986364

Charity Number 1136031
Chorleywood Bookshop's 2017 Children's Writing Competition

Chorleywood Bookshop are delighted to announce this year's writing competition theme, ANIMALS!

Here's what you must do...

**Key Stage 1** (Reception, Y1 & Y2) applicants must draw a picture of their favourite animal from a book and tell us why you like it.

**Key Stage 2** (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) applicants choose an animal or creature from a book that you would like to own. Please tell us why.

**Key Stage 3** (Y7, Y8 & Y9) applicants, in approx. 200 words write an animal fable. This can be a creation story such as 'How the.........got it's........' or a fable with a moral.

Once you have created these amazing drawings, favourite creature/animal descriptions or your creation story or fable, all entries and the completed [Children's Writing Comp 2017](#) application form, must be handed in to the Chorleywood Bookshop, by the end of school on Friday 9th June.

Then keep your fingers and toes crossed!

*Happy reading,*