



COLBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Colby School News Issue 4: Friday 27th September 2024



The Week Ahead

Monday 30 th September 2023	BREAKFAST CLUB from 8am. £5 Year 3 & 4 Multi-Skills PE Event at Colby School. Please can Emerald and Year 4 children in Ruby children come to school dressed in their PE kit today. This event will be led by our Sport Captains (Barnaby and Nina) and Sport Leaders. We will be joined by children from other local schools for this event. Please can <u>Sapphire</u> children also come in PE kit today. Their PE day has changed for this week only. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Tuesday 1 st October 2023	BREAKFAST CLUB from 8am. £5 After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Wednesday 2 nd October 2023	BREAKFAST CLUB from 8am. £5. KS1 parents invited to Phonics and Reading information morning at 9 – 10 am (please email the school office to book a place – we would like to know if you are coming). After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Thursday 3 rd October 2023	BREAKFAST CLUB from 8am. £5. Amber and Sapphire Class Buddy Lunchtime Picnic Event. Pizza and party picnic food for all Amber and Sapphire children and their teddy bears! After School club until 5pm. £5. Girls' Football Club with Hannah 3 - 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm). KS2 Boys' Football Club with Ben 3 - 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm). KS2 Netball Club with Mr B 3 - 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm).
Friday 4 th October 2023	BREAKFAST CLUB from 8am. £5. Friends of Colby School meeting in the school hall at 9am. All very welcome. We hope lots of new Reception parents will come along to meet the FOCS team and find out more about events planned for the year ahead. After School Club until 5pm. £5.





Monday 7th October 2024: Cross Country Event for all Key Stage 2 children (Emerald, Ruby and Amethyst) at Beeston Hall 1 – 4pm.

Wednesday 9th October 2024: Amber and Sapphire Harvest Festival Assembly at 9.15am. KS1 Families are very welcome to attend this event.

Monday 14th October 2024 – Wednesday 16th October 2024: Parent Interviews 3.15pm – 5.45pm.

Friday 25th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024 (break up Thursday 24th October 2024 and return to school on Monday 4th November 2024): School closed for Autumn Half Term.

Monday 4th November 2024: After School Club Special – Pumpkin and Bonfire Night themed. 3 – 4.45pm. £5 per child. Includes refreshments and craft activities.

Thursday 7th November 2024: Remembrance Service led by KS2 pupils at 9.15am. KS2 families welcome to attend.

Friday 6th December 2024: Friends of Colby School Christmas Fayre 3 – 4.30pm.

Amber and Sapphire Class Nativity Performances:

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 9.30am: Amber families only – 2 tickets available.

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 1.30pm: Sapphire families only – 2 tickets available.

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 9.30am: Sapphire families only – 2 tickets available.

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 1.30pm: Amber families only – 2 tickets available.

Monday 16th December 2024: Key Stage 2 Performance Rehearsal at The Atrium pm.

Tuesday 17th December 2024 and Wednesday 18th December 2024: Key Stage 2 Evening Performances at The Atrium. Time to be confirmed.

Thursday 19th December 2024: Christmas Party Food lunch.

Monday 23rd December 2024 – Monday 6th January 2025 (break up Friday 20th December 2024 and return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025): School closed for the Christmas holiday.



WhatsApp

School Quick Contact WhatsApp group

After lots of discussion with Governors and staff, we have decided not to relaunch the FOCS WhatsApp groups. We are grateful to the class admin parents who helped with this over the years but have decided it will be easier to manage messages from the school office. We will have a Colby School WhatsApp group for contacting you in case of emergency (such as snow days, power cuts etc) and general reminders (free dress days, cake sales, sport events etc).

If you would like to be included in this WhatsApp group, please email me on

head@colby.norfolk.sch.uk with your telephone number and child's name. Thank you.



Headteacher Awards

- Leo (Emerald)** for a great answer in English
Orin (Amber) for an incredible Sports Afternoon
Norah (Amber) for lovely manners
Hollie, Max, Ellie, Arthur C and Alfie B (Amber) and Mia and Amelie (Sapphire)
for great Phonics work
Herbie (Emerald) for excellent conjunctions!
Milo (Emerald) for great help with tidying up after a lesson
Edward (Emerald) for great Maths
Noah (Emerald) for a fantastic poster
Dylan (Ruby) for lovely manners
Hudson (Ruby) for excellent maths and great tidying up
Freddie and Oscar (Sapphire) for super-duper independent writing
Archie (Sapphire) for amazing partitioning maths
Libby (Sapphire) for brilliant counting to 100
All of Sapphire Class for wonderful manners and participation during our special Sports Afternoon
Orin and Alfie (Amber) for super tidying
All of Year 1 in Amber class for great news writing
All Reception children for great concentration in Phonics
Eddie, Rosie and Verity (Ruby) for passing the Finalist times-tables challenge
Barnaby and James (Ruby) for passing the Bronze times-tables challenge
Georgina (Ruby) for passing the Silver times-tables challenge
Harris (Ruby) for passing the Gold times-tables challenge
Reuben, Bertie and Dylan (Ruby) for passing the European times-tables challenge
Amber, Harris, Bertie, Jacob C, Harry and Reuben (Ruby) for writing larger numbers
Flint (Ruby) for being a fantastic leader
Eva and Hudson (Ruby) for super quiet work
James (Ruby) for being Star of the Week
Mia (Sapphire) for clever Phonics
Dylan (Amethyst) for brilliant litter picking
Barnaby (Amethyst) for helping with Breakfast Club
Erin (Amethyst) for excellent English
Ines (Amethyst) for clever observation
Erin, Matthew, Anna, Stanley, Adam, Bea, Amber and Raff (Amethyst) for great concentration
Stanley (Amethyst) for being brave
Anna (Amethyst) for great writing
Edward, Scarlett, JP, Leo, Milo, Rita and Daisy (Emerald) for awesome learning behaviour
All Sports Leaders for great Leadership
Nina and Barnaby (Amethyst)
for being excellent adverts for the school during the
KS1 Multi Skills Festival
Noah, Milo, JP, Herbie and Hugo (Emerald) for great leadership
Quinn (Emerald) for being brave
Daisy (Emerald) for an excellent maths answer
Orin (Amber) for making an amazing comic book



Colby School Homework Policy

At Colby School, we encourage children to develop a love of learning and to follow our ethos of “Everyone Learns, Everyone Leads and Everyone Matters.” We do this by providing children with stimulating and fun learning experiences at school, which we hope will inspire them to continue learning at home. We believe family life plays a vital part in a child’s education and that having fun with your family should be valued, appreciated and cherished.

We have **no formal homework** – we encourage children to want to learn outside school and provide them with lots of ideas for how they can do this. We have an expectation that children will read at home and provide children and families with guidance about this, as detailed below:

Why you should read with your child every day

We want to encourage and foster a love of reading in the children at our school. As parents, we know that you want the very best for your children and already appreciate that learning to read is key to accessing the curriculum at school and the wider world. However, with increasingly busy lives it may seem that hearing a child read at the end of a tiring day can feel like just another job to do. We hope we can remind everyone of the importance of reading with children, not just as a mechanical process but as an enjoyable activity for you to share. You reading to your child is equally as important as them listening to you.

Here are some reasons why you should read with your child every day:

1. Reading is fun! Sharing a story, or a non-fiction book, whether it is read by an adult or by a child can give you the opportunity to share funny moments, or wonder at the world and beyond.
2. The value of a bedtime story cannot be over-estimated. It can be a quiet, settling time and gives your child the opportunity to listen to story language and allow their imagination to paint pictures.
3. Children absorb language structure and extend their vocabulary.
4. Children are able to think more logically and express their own thoughts and ideas more clearly.
5. Attention and concentration span is improved, which has an impact on all learning.

It is really useful to spend a few moments discussing a book with your child. You can find out how much they have enjoyed it, how well they understood it and whether they have any questions about it.

Some useful questions to ask your child about the book they have shared - choose just one or two to discuss.

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. How do you think that character feels? Why? How would you feel in that situation?
4. Can you predict how the book will end?
5. Who is your favourite character? Why?
6. Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
7. Can you tell the story in your own words?
8. Do you like how it ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?

Remember that reading doesn't just have to be 'done' through books. Comics and magazines are equally good at encouraging children's interest. Point out signposts and information as you are out and about. Children like to be like you, so let them see you reading newspapers and magazines, as well as books.

We hold regular reading competitions and events to encourage children to find an author to suit them or to try something new. Children play a major role in choosing books for the school library.

Every class teacher provides children with ideas for optional homework:

Amber Class

In Amber Class, all children are encouraged to read at home on a daily basis. Please record in your child's reading record when you have read at home with them, whether that is a school book or if they have had a go at reading a book from home or the library. We have a reading incentive in Amber Class too, if they read their books from school on 3 separate occasions over the week, they are able to put their names on the Proud Cloud every Friday and get extra lunch time break as a treat.

Year 1 children have weekly spellings that they are expected to learn at home. The spellings are posted on Google Classroom every Friday and the children will have their spelling check the following Friday, giving them a week to learn and practise their spellings.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Sapphire Class

Children are encouraged to read their school reading book every day at home.

Weekly spellings for a test are posted on Google Classroom. Please play games on Spelling Shed online to support with your child's learning.

Occasionally homework will be set to support our learning. This will always be something fun like finding out what toys your grandparents used to play with, keeping a weather chart for a week or bringing in a favourite book to share.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Emerald Class

Children are expected to read lots. Families are expected to read at home with their children and sign their child's reading diary a minimum of three times each week. It is really important to listen to your child all the way through to High School to help fluency and comprehension.

The children have weekly spellings and a test on Monday mornings. They should be practising their spellings twice each week. The spellings can be found in their spelling book or on Spelling Shed.

Each week we will have a times tables test. Children are expected to practise their times tables twice per week for 10 minutes. They can use dice, write them out or use computer websites such as Sumdog or Hit the Button. We have regular class competitions they can opt in to as well.

The children will hopefully be interested in some of the subjects we are studying at school. I hope you can encourage them to continue that interest at home. Children can bring in projects or extra work they have done back to school. We have a homework chart in class and if they fill up a section they can earn prizes! Sometimes I might give them some optional homework like covering a parent in sticky notes to learn the bones of the body, making a Roman Shield or sketching a bird in the garden but these are only for fun.

Ruby Class

Children are expected to:

Read daily.

Practise spellings for a test each week.

Practise time tables and telling the time.

Children also have access to Spelling Shed, Sumdog and Google Classroom for optional homework.

Amethyst Class

It is recommended that Year 6 children use Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation books and Mathematics' books for revision throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to read as much as possible.

Practise spellings on Spelling Shed using the weekly word lists and games. Learn spellings for a test at the end of the half term.

Children may have IXL mathematics tasks set as required.



Volunteers

We are very grateful to parents / family members for help with transport for trips and sporting events. We wouldn't be able to do so much without your support. If you think you might be able to help with transport this school year, please contact the school office to arrange to come and complete a Disclosure and Barring Service Check. It is a simple and free check that will only take about 15 minutes to complete.



Pizza and Party Food Buddy Event on Thursday

We will be holding a Buddy Event on Thursday, where Buddies will have lunch together and enjoy a lovely chat and story. We'll be cooking enough pizza and party food for every child in Amber and Sapphire Class to have a hot lunch. If your child isn't keen on pizza, you are welcome to still send them with a packed lunch but there will be enough pizza for everyone, if they fancy trying some. Key Stage 2 children are welcome to book a hot lunch, as usual, if they would like some food too.



AUTUMN TERM PARENT INTERVIEWS

Monday 14th October, Tuesday 15th October and Wednesday 16th October 2024

We would like to invite you to Parent Interviews on Monday 14th October, Tuesday 15th October and Wednesday 16th October 2024. Class teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to let you know how your child has settled into school life so far this term – it has been a lovely start to the year.

We will be using Google Calendar for you to book appointments this year. Teachers will be setting this up on Monday after school, so please expect an email with a link to book your appointment from Tuesday onwards.

Please note that appointment times are allocated in ten minute slots. If you feel you need longer to discuss your child after your initial meeting please ask your child's teacher to arrange an additional time convenient to you both. This avoids keeping other parents waiting for their appointment. If you ever have any questions or concerns please let us know – don't wait for our termly Parent Interviews.



Emerald Class Year 3 Outdoor Learning Activities permission

We would like your permission for your Year 3 child to take part in outdoor learning activities which might take place outside the school grounds. This might involve a walk into Banningham village or a cross-country run on Bridge Road. Any activities will have a full risk assessment and appropriate staff levels. We will often inform you ahead of time anyway but by giving your blanket permission for your child to take part in such activities, we have the flexibility to take spur of the moment opportunities. If you are happy for your child to take part in occasional out of school outdoor learning activities, please email the school office on office@colby.norfolk.sch.uk. We already have permission from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 parents. Thank you.



History Day in the Town Hall, Aylsham this Saturday 10am – 3pm

Congratulations to **James (Ruby)** and **Harry (Ruby)** – they are prize winners for their fantastic building designs in a competition held by the Heritage Centre. Their designs, along with some others from Ruby Class, will be on display at the Town Hall tomorrow. James and Harry, you can pop in to collect your prizes – otherwise, they will be dropped off at school next week.



Colby Kitchen

Monday 30th September 2024	Chicken and sweetcorn pasta bake, served with garlic bread and peas. A choice of fruit or yoghurt.
Tuesday 1st October 2024	Chilli, topped with optional cheese, served with rice, broccoli and sweetcorn. A choice of fruit.
Wednesday 2nd October 2024	Chicken in gravy served with roast potatoes, cauliflower cheese and carrots. A choice of fruit.
Thursday 3rd October 2024	Amber and Sapphire Class Buddy Lunchtime Picnic Event. Children are welcome to bring in a teddy bear to join the feast. We will prepare enough food for all children to participate. Cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, sausage rolls, crisps and cheese and pineapple on sticks served with cucumber sticks, carrot sticks and pepper sticks. Fruit.
Friday 4th October 2024	Sausages served in a bread roll with cucumber, carrots, peppers and humus. Tomato sauce available.



Asda Cashpot for Schools

£40.40 so far! Thanks to the 40 people who have signed up!

If you have a spare moment to get the Asda Cashpot for Schools app and register to Colby School (NR11 7EA), we would really appreciate it! Colby School gets £1 for everyone who registers, even if you don't shop at Asda. It all adds up! Please share with your friends and family. Thank you for your help with this in advance.



Taking photographs in school

We look forward to welcoming Amber and Sapphire parents to the Harvest Festival Assembly on Wednesday 9th October at 9.15am. The Governing Board has agreed that families / visitors may take photographs, and film special events in school such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Plays, Performances and Dress Up Days.

Families are not permitted to take photographs on the playground / field on other days.

Families are asked to be respectful of the privacy of other children and to photograph / record sensitively, concentrating on your own child(ren).

We request that photographs or footage which includes children other than your own is not shared on social media under any circumstances.

Thank you for your support.



Free Dress Days - Information for new parents

From time to time, we enjoy having Free Dress Days / Mufti Days at Colby School when children are invited to wear something different to their school uniform. This includes Book Day costumes, topic themed costumes, pyjamas, onesies, party clothes, crazy hair day etc. Once a half term, we ask that children make a voluntary contribution when they have a Free Dress Day.

We have enjoyed this half term's Free Dress Day today. The £1 voluntary donations will go towards Eco projects (another bin for the playing field) and School Council projects (chess sets for a new Chess Club).

We limit the Free Dress Days when we ask for voluntary contributions / items to once a half term but sometimes dress up just for fun! Dressing up is always optional and please never feel you need to provide a professional costume or go to lots of trouble!



Amber Class Proud Cloud

Amber parents may have noticed a slight change to the information shared about the Amber Class Proud Cloud in the Homework Policy information above. Amber Class teachers and I had a chat about it and decided that children reading 3 x a week would be a more realistic expectation at the start of the school year. Of course, it would be lovely if you had time to do even more reading but we don't want to add pressure to your busy lives and know that children will be tired by the time they get home from school. The Amber Class Proud Cloud was a really successful incentive last year. It was introduced to support parents who had told us they were finding it tricky to motivate their children to read at home. Keen readers also enjoyed the chance to win some extra playtime. If you find it difficult to fit in reading at home, please let us know and we will find a way to support your child with extra reading in school. We want the Proud Cloud to be an attainable reward for the whole class and something all children enjoy being part of.



Thank you for lots of books!

A huge thank you to Brooke's Mum for buying lots and lots of new phonics' books for Sapphire Class to enjoy. Sapphire Class children are very grateful and are enjoying working their way through all the new stories. Thank you very much – we really appreciate it.

Have a lovely weekend!

Christine Mead