



CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks since our last newsletter and the weather seems to have got the memo that it is nearly summer. It is wonderful to see all of the children in their uniforms. They look so smart but they do tend to lose more uniform than normal as they shed their jumpers in the heat. Please make sure that your child's uniform is clearly marked with their name and class so that we can return it to them.

Attendance has been rapidly improving this term and we are making huge steps in the right direction. This, as you all know, is one of our most important priorities, moving forwards. The curriculum that we teach is based on sequences and previous learning and it is so important for our children to attend school every single day.

A huge thanks to Mrs Hayes and the team, and yourselves, for the brilliant book fair which has enabled us to access some more reading materials for the school. Also massive thanks to Mrs Bilson and the PTFA for their continued efforts to help the school. If you think that you could help, please contact the PTFA via the school office.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Rob Campbell

Headteacher

Attendance:

Our attendance target is 96 %

This year's attendance so far is 92.9%. The last 5 days was 94.2%



Dates for your diary:

11th – 14th May – Year 6 SATs

12th May – PTFA book and bake sale after school

19th May – Yr 4, 5 and 6 disco

21st May – Reception, Yr 1, 2 and 3 disco

22nd May – last day of Summer $\frac{1}{2}$ Term 1

1st June – Teacher Training Day

2nd June – First day back for the second $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Summer Term

2nd June – Year 4 Multiplication and Times Tables Check starts

8th June Year 1 Phonics Check starts

24th June – Sports Day at Carrington Primary School Field

Next year's diary dates

I have been looking at our school calendar for next year and planning in the teacher training days – of which there are five each year. I have, with the consent of our governors, decided to front load our staff and teacher training to the start of the academic year. This means that the children will return to school after the summer holidays on Monday 7th September 2026.

There will be one further training day in the academic year, which I have nominally put in for the end of the year. If this changes, I will ensure that I give you plenty of notice. Hopefully, this will give us a flying start to the year with the first day of school for the children being a Monday. As I have mentioned numerous times, school attendance and building a positive culture of attendance is extremely high on our agenda and this grouping of training days is an attempt to support those efforts.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. At Claremont, we are committed to keeping our children safe from harm. Mr Campbell, Mrs Cutler, Mrs Cundy, Mrs Khan, Mr Greaves & Mrs Eager have responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. If we have any concerns reported to us, we will always take action to protect a child and inform the relevant agencies where necessary..



What have we been learning this week?

Nursery have been building bridges like in the one in "The Three Billy Goats Gruff".

Reception enjoyed turning the dry sandpit into a wet sandpit with some messy play.

Year 1 made houses out of sticks, straw and bricks to huff and puff and see which one fell down.

Year 2 have been learning about how plants grow.



Year 3 have been creating shields and learning about life as a Roman soldier.

Year 4 have been testing the properties of electrical conductors and insulators in science.



Year 5 held court as they were visited by a local magistrate as part of their mini-police curriculum.

Year 6 have been working really hard to prepare for their SATs which start next week!! Good luck everyone!

Acorns enjoyed running around the gym in Pe, playing football and practising counting in 2s.



Recommended Reads

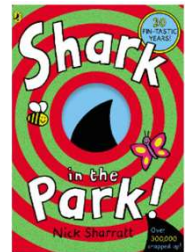


Amulet by Kazu Kibuishi
This graphic novel series seamlessly blends magic, puzzles and mystery.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
Roz the Robot wakes up on a remote island and needs to work out how to survive



Shark in the Park by Nick Sharratt
These rhyming stories have been favourites for over 20 years



Development of behaviour and relationships policy

We are now one term into our new behaviour and relationships protocol across the school. The children have told us that they really like the changes that have been made with regard to the reward cards in school. The scratch card rewards have been a particular success and are a way of celebrating good choices made by the children. Mrs Hurford-Allsopp and Mrs Hann have discussed and implemented changes to make the protocols more accessible for our youngest children and we are now taking time to embed these changes.

I would be really interested to seek your views on this matter and will be sharing a survey with you all in the near future.

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Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series



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What you need to know about...

AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

16 & UP ONLY

12-15

Know the Risks

18+

Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not allowing the age rating system is that children may view or read age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for your age players.

Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. 'Kudos' is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, small and indie developers are so much more reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

Spot the Signs

Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game with out realising their inappropriateness.

Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants to move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in a shared area where you can see the screen.

Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping a close eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been an unexplained purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

Safety Tips

Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

Review parental controls

Review your parent of controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble to replaying the game in the first place.

Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.