



Progress Update for Parents - September 2023

The Autumn Term is well underway and school development and progress has continued at pace. We have welcomed new staff, new parents and new pupils and it has been lovely getting to know new faces in school and at the school gate in the morning. If you are new to our school I so hope your first few weeks have been a really positive experience, that you have felt welcomed and are feeling settled.

We are now four weeks into term and it has been an absolute pleasure watching our children start their new classes and continuing their learning journey.

Cloverlea Festival

A strength of Cloverlea has always been the community feel, something that both current and past parents have spoken to me frequently about. Our **amazing PTA** continue to support us in fostering a real sense of community and their most recent event '**Cloverlea Festival**' was a terrific success! In a first for Cloverlea, we held a camping event on the school field and it was a great way to bring our families together for something a bit different. It was a wonderful example of how our PTA actively strive to engage our families with new and exciting ideas. Thank you to everyone involved in either organising or supporting the event and please can I continue to encourage everyone to show your support however you can.

New School Library

After many months of planning, dreaming and fundraising ... our new library is now open! This has been a real labour of love for those involved and a special thanks must go to all the staff who have worked tirelessly in providing this **wonderful, vibrant and enriching resource** for our children.

Fostering a reading culture where children (and adults) enjoy reading for information and reading for pleasure is so important and our new library environment is the start of an exciting journey for us. We also know that it is imperative that we provide our children with access to books that are rich, relevant and adventurous, written by current authors who are writing engaging books for our 21st century readers. A HUGE thanks to everyone who supported the PTA Ball earlier in the year as the money raised that evening has enabled us to fund a wealth of new books for our children to dive into and enjoy.

The delivery of new books to school has already inspired many of our staff to borrow, read and enjoy! It's so important that as adults we are **reading role models** for our children so we can talk with and enthuse our children about books read, and recommend books for them to try. As a staff team we are committed to reading and reviewing the new books we have invested in so that we can engage in book chat with the pupils. Several staff have already read a number of our new books, have genuinely loved the experience and are excited to share with the children.

It was wonderful to welcome parents into the new library space on Tuesday, thank you so much for visiting and supporting our opening event this week! It was even more exciting to welcome the children into the library on Wednesday, when Mrs Brogan spent time with each class in turn, explaining the new library system and encouraging the children to browse and find a book they were interested to read.

The Library opening is just the start, as, over the course of the year, we further develop the opportunities for the children to access the library. We can't wait to see children spending time in the library space whether they

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be completely lost in a book, spellbound as a teacher reads a class novel or using the space to support curriculum research and I can't wait to share our progress in my future updates.

New School Website

I am delighted to inform you that we are launching our **new school website** on Monday 2nd October! Whilst we are very excited about the launch, after several months of development, we also recognise that this is just the start. The website will continually evolve and develop over time and we strive to use this platform to provide key information for parents about our curriculum provision and offer as well as showcasing all that we do and achieve.

We very much hope that the website will complement our more immediate methods of communication: Class Dojo, School Ping and Twitter (X).

Governing Body

We are also delighted to inform you that we have recently appointed a **new Chair of our Governing body**. Mrs Carole Partington comes with a wealth of experience and expertise, she is a recently retired Headteacher and a previous Chair of Governors at another school. We welcome her to Cloverlea and we are extremely confident that this is a positive step in our drive for continuous improvement.

Progress is tangible ...

Week on week, progress is tangible as we continue to work closely with external advisors on our school development priorities.

Our current focus:

- We are currently **focusing on the effective implementation** of our curriculum throughout school and have a big focus on reading as a key foundation to stretch and enhance learning.
- We continue to adapt and tailor our Cloverlea approach to **whole school, consistent, quality, teaching and learning** and, most recently, we have revisited retrieval practice as a key facet to **learn more and to remember more**.
- We continue to develop leadership at all levels through the school whether it be Governance, Senior leadership, phase leadership or subject leadership.

As a school we are on a journey and, whilst I know we have a way to go, everyone involved in our school improvement journey is committed and working hard and I am very grateful for the hard work of the staff and governors and the support of our external advisors – progress IS tangible.

As always thank you for your continued support for our school and your investment in our school community and I look forward to sending my next 'Progress Update' before the end of this half term.

Take care,

C McConnell

Headteacher

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