



'Everyone Successful Everyday'

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25th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful half term. The children have settled into their new classes well and produced some wonderful pieces of work. A huge well done to all the children and staff.

Harvest Festival

We would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who donated items for our Harvest Festival. Children in the School Council decided that donations will be taken to the South and East Leeds Foodbank where they will support families who do not have enough to eat.

We also know that some of our families might be in this position. Please see the following website which has useful information:

[Leeds South & East Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

If you are in financial crisis, please call our free national helpline, Help through Hardship, on **0808 2082138** for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, closed on public holidays) to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They can help address your crises and provide support to maximise your income, help you navigate the benefits system, and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. If needed, they'll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.



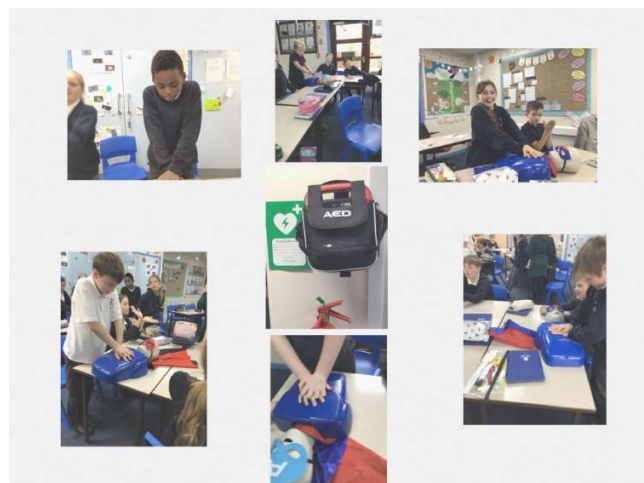
Curriculum for Life - Restart your Heart

As I am sure you will know, Colton's Curriculum for Life aims to develop the children's knowledge and skills beyond the academic to help them prepare for life in modern Britain.

Aspects of our personal development curriculum cover looking after the environment, being digitally literate and having empathy and understanding for others.

As part of this wider curriculum, we are really grateful that Mrs Welsh came into school to run first aid workshops for all the children. The focus was 'restart your heart' and the children learnt where we keep our defibrillator and what to do in a real emergency.

The children really enjoyed the sessions and feel much more confident knowing what to do. Of course, we all hope these are not skills that the children will need to use, but you never know!



Autumn 2 Curriculum Themes / Topics

Every class studies maths, reading and writing, usually in the mornings. The main themes for our 'foundation' subjects this half term will be geography and history. Children will continue to learn art, science, music, Design Technology, PE, computing. Please see the school website for full details: <https://colton.org.uk>

Nursery: It's Cold Outside (Weather and Changing Seasons)

Reception: Let's Celebrate (Celebrations around the world, recognising the UK on a map)

Year 1: Weather Presenters (Look at weather types and patterns)

Year 2: London's Burning: (The Great Fire of London – events beyond living memory)

Year 3: Krispy Kreme, for or against (Should the Thorpe Park development have been built – land use and sustainability)

Year 4: Faking it (Evidence of Romans in Leeds making counterfeit coins – why?)

Year 5: The wrath of the Norsemen. (Did the Vikings settle, raid or trade?)

Year 6: A Leeds Revolution. (What part did Leeds play in the industrial revolution?)

Teachers will post regular updates about what the class have been learning on Tapestry. If you have continued to learn at home, we love hearing from you as well - feel free to upload pictures or send us a message.

School Attendance and Absences

Class	Attendance this half-term
Year 3	100%
Year Reception	100%
Year 4	96.8%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	93.3%
Year 5	93.1%
Year 6	82.8%

Attendance at Colton is really high with most children meeting our target of 97% or above attendance in school. Well done Year 3 and Reception – both classes have 100% attendance since September.

Each day that a pupil misses school has an enormous impact on their learning. Children have between 4 and 6 lessons each day. Each lesson builds upon the previous one and so the longer a pupil is absent, the larger the gaps in their knowledge and understanding when they return to school. A week off school would mean on average children have missed the following lessons: 5 Maths, 5 English (including reading or phonics), 2

sciences, 4 History/Geography, 2 PE, 1 Art, 1 PSHE, 1 Music, 1 Computing and 1 RE. They will also miss reading the class novel each day.

When we looked into our absence rates, we found that most of the children who are persistently absent, with attendance below 90%, have been on family holidays in term time. We do understand the huge difference in cost to take a break in the school holidays but ask that you do not take your child out of school. We kindly request that you consider taking a holiday when we have a training day attached to a school holiday. For example, at Easter next year, we have a training day on Thursday 28th March 2024, meaning there is the opportunity to book something more cheaply from Wednesday evening or Thursday, before other schools break up.

Bonfire Night Safety

PC Rothery came to talk to the children about the Firework Code and safety at this time of year. The children talked about bonfire, sparkler and firework safety. For more information about how to keep your family and pets safe, please visit: [Firework safety - RoSPA](#)



Have an awesome and safe Bonfire Night weekend everyone!

Remember The Firework Code

- Only buy fireworks with British Standard Kitemarks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Don't drink alcohol before setting off fireworks
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light all fireworks at arms length using a taper
- Stand well back
- **Never go back to a lit firework it still might explode**
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks
- Keep pets indoors
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are new laws to follow

Take special care with sparklers

- Sparklers are not for the under 5s
- Ensure you have a big bucket of water for spent sparklers
- Teach children in advance to hold the sparkler at arms length, but not near anyone else
- **Always supervise children with sparklers**
- Dump each sparkler in the water as soon as they go out

great
aunt.co.uk

We wish everyone a very happy half-term. See you on Monday 6th November.

Kind regards,

Mrs Caroline Johnson
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Friday 27 th October:	School breaks up for half term at the end of the day
Monday 6 th November:	School re-opens
Friday 10 th November:	Year 2 Curriculum Celebration
Monday 13 th – 17 th November:	Hindu Festival of Diwali – dance and drumming workshops
Thursday 16 th November:	Mindmate visit to Year 1
Friday 17 th November:	Parent Panel - Reviewing the relationships and sex education curriculum and Personal Social and Health Education – 9am Year 1 Curriculum Celebration
Mon 20 th & Tues 21 st November:	Reception parents evening
Wed 22 nd & Thurs 23 rd November:	Parents and Carers Target Setting Meetings
Friday 24 th November:	Reception Stay and play session – 9am Y4 Murton park Visit – TBC
Wednesday 6 th December:	PTA Christmas Pop Up Shop
Wednesday 13 th December:	EYFS Christmas Concert 9:30am Y4/5/6 Christmas Production 1:05pm Y1/2/3 Christmas Production 2:15pm
Thursday 14 th December:	Y1/2/3 Christmas Production 9:15am Y4/5/6 Christmas Production 10:15
Tuesday 19 th December:	‘Elf Run’ in aid of Simon On the Streets
Wednesday 20 th December:	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 21 st December:	Christmas Carols at Whitkirk Church (10am TBC)
Friday 22 nd December:	PTA pop up shop on the playground at the end of the day

