



CLAIRE'S COURT
JUNIORS

Weekly Bulletin

30 January 2026 - Spring Term - Week 4

Principal's Blog

Please read Mr Wilding's latest blog: [**"Play is Not a Luxury - It's a Higher Form of Learning"**](#)

CLASS BULLETINS

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

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[Year 6](#)



Awards

Responsibility: Grace (4HT)

Respect: Eva (6J)

Loyalty: Jenson (6C)

Integrity: Keira (3P)

Children's Mental Health Week

We will be celebrating this important event from **Monday 9 to Friday 13 February** by linking the week up to our curriculum and holding some extra special events. The theme for this year is **This is my place**. This week has always been a success and shines a light on the importance of mental health and talking about it, and we have included some top tips for families here. There will be no homework this week, and while homework clubs will still be running, there will be different activities on the schedule. Pupils are also invited to **Dress to Express** on **Friday 13 February** where children may choose to dress in a certain colour that matches their mood for example. We look forward to sharing

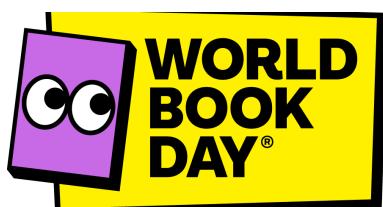
this event with your children.

Francesca Oakes, SENCo/Deputy Head Pastoral

Supporting Spelling at Home

We would like to invite you to attend a short parent workshop entitled "Supporting Spelling at Home", taking place in the Mezz on **Friday 6 February** from 8.30 - 9.15am. Over the next few weeks, children from Y1-6 will begin bringing home Spelling Tins, which will contain flashcards for their weekly spellings. This workshop will explain how these tins will be used in school and, most importantly, how you can support your child with developing their spelling skills at home. We will demonstrate practical ways to use the flashcards and share simple strategies to help children practise effectively and confidently. Please confirm your attendance by completing the form attached [here](#), the deadline for completing the form is Wednesday 4 February. We hope you will be able to join us.

Jade Dockerill, Head of English



Claires Court Juniors Book Day is being held on **Friday 13 March** and we would really like to take this opportunity to promote sustainability and teach the children some thriftiness, with a Character costume swap!

If your child has a Book Character Costume they would like to donate please could they bring this in by **Monday 9 February**. Costumes should be handed to Miss Murphy in the Library and in return children can choose a new costume from those donated on Friday 13 February. Please find more information [here](#).

Upcoming local booky events

Please see details [here](#) of some upcoming author events being organised by Four Bears Books, a local independent bookshop in Caversham.

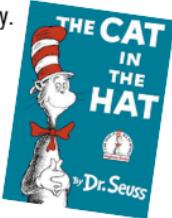
Books of the Week

This week, we have recommendations from Miss Gerrish, our School Secretary...



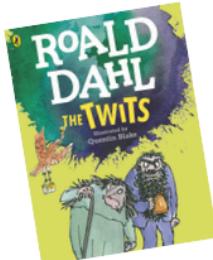
Our Books of the Week

A dull, rainy day for two bored children, who are visited by a mischievous tall, striped Cat bringing chaos and fun with his tricks and helpers, Thing One and Thing Two, creating a wild mess before their mother returns, teaching lessons in responsibility along the way.



Why I Loved This Book

I loved this book as a child and even now! I also love watching the film as it's fun with bright colours, quirky tales and tongue twisting rhymes. It teaches children that you must always have fun, but having too much fun can cause chaos and has consequences.



Mr and Mrs Twit loathe one another and amuse themselves by playing cruel pranks on each other, such as hiding worms in spaghetti. The Twits are so focused on causing trouble and making each other miserable that they don't realise the harm they are doing. Muggle-Wump the monkey and his family are planning to trick the terrible Twits and put a stop to the frightful pair once and for all!

Why I Loved This Book

As a child, I found this book really unique and interesting. I was also lucky enough to watch the stage show and I remember how fascinating it was! It teaches children that their actions have consequences.

German Word of the Week

During this Spring Term our focus language in MFL is German. To tie in with this, each week, there will be a German word in the bulletin, designed to expand vocabulary and spark curiosity! Some of the direct translations are surprisingly imaginative and offer a fun glimpse into how the language works, and how Germans see the world.

German word of the week...!



Word of the Week:

alter Hase
lit.: old hare

Describes a person with lots of experience in their own field of expertise.

© Colourbox

Calling all singers

Do you want to find your voice, have fun and build confidence? Mr Orme has space for more singing pupils and would love to hear from you! Whether you want to work towards singing grades or just de-stress from your academics, singing lessons can benefit you, and stimulate other areas of learning and creativity. Discover your potential and give it a try! Register your interest with the google form for next steps. Mr Orme would especially welcome any boys who would like to give singing a go.

PTA Nearly New Uniform Sale

All Nearly New Sales are on a **Friday morning from 8.15am to 8.45am** and take place in the PTA Nearly New Uniform shop in the Stable block, Upper Juniors playground. Payment is by card only and **NOT** cash. Please see below the next two sale dates at Juniors:

- **Friday 6 February**
- **Friday 13 March**

FROM THE OFFICE

PTA Summer Party - 27 June 2026

The PTA Summer Party date has now been confirmed as Saturday 27 June in the grounds of the Junior School. Please **SAVE THE DATE** further details will follow in due course.

Cashless Catering: Please ensure your child's cashless catering account is topped up and any outstanding balances are cleared

Breakfast Club

Please ensure your child is not dropped off before 7:30 am, as they are not permitted in the building until this time. We kindly ask that you do not ring the doorbell prior to 7:30 am to allow staff time to prepare. When dropping off your child, please remember to confirm with a teacher that they have been officially marked on the register before you leave.

Gate opening and closing times

To avoid missing the gate, please ensure children are on the playground by around 8.40am, when the whistle goes for lining up. If the gate is locked, please drop your child at the front of the school. The gate is open from 8.15am to 8.45am prompt, though it may be locked a minute or two early to allow staff to get to class on time. It is essential for safety that staff are in the classrooms promptly with the children.

At the end of the day, the gate opens at 3.30pm, closes at 4.00pm, and reopens at 5.00pm until approximately 5.10pm. On Fridays, pick-up arrangements are slightly different due to Click & Collect, but the usual arrangements for collection from After School Care remain the same.

Hot Drinks

Please ensure that any hot drinks brought for children are fully consumed before entering the school site in the mornings.

End of Day Collections

If you are collecting your child from the front office, please knock on the office door and ask the School Administrator, Mrs Gill, or the School Secretary, Miss Gerrish, to radio the class teacher to bring your child to the office. For safeguarding reasons, parents are not permitted to enter classrooms.

School Closure Policy

A reminder that if school is closed due to weather conditions or any other reason, an announcement will be posted on our website, so please check there as your main source of information. Depending on the circumstances for the closure we will also communicate via text message or email and separate communications will be sent directly from Vectare regarding coach operation.

Tub-To-Pub 2026

Mr Wragg will once again be collecting plastic Celebrations / Heroes / Roses / Cracker tubs to be recycled and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Further information can be found at [TUB2PUB](#). Last year the school collected 127 tubs which was fantastic, 52 more than the previous year and potentially 127 less tubs going to landfill. Overall the campaign collected 240,000 tubs raising £10,916 for Macmillan. Tub should be handed into Form Tutors or the staff room with the final collection being 6 February 2026. **It's an environmental win-win!**

Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS)

Claires Court is a founding partner school for the Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS). AFIS is the only membership organisation that brings together families who choose and value independent education in the U.K. and British international schooling. Their work supports their member families, and the wider sector, by championing choice, fair representation, and greater access to independent education. You can join AFIS [here](#).

AFIS Members can save money from day one with heavily discounted prices from local businesses, and well-known brands such as Waterstones, Clarks, [Booking.com](#). Also, AFIS has commissioned the University of Chichester to conduct research investigating "what are the demographic profiles of independent school families and why do they choose independent education for their families?" With AFIS, Claires Court wishes to make sure as many families as possible are allowed to contribute their views, as part of the mission to give independent school parents a voice in the national education conversation and provide evidence.