



CLAIRE'S COURT
JUNIORS

Weekly Bulletin

22 November 2024 (Autumn Term Week 9)

Principal's Blog

Read Mr Wilding's Blog for this week: ["When dark clouds gather, be the silver lining and shine"](#)

IMPORTANT - COACHES PASSING ON THE DRIVE

Coaches are unable (and not permitted) to drive onto the grass verge at Juniors; the weight of the coach would cause significant damage to the grass and could also pose a risk to those on the coach due to the instability of the ground.

If you see a coach approaching in the left hand bus lane, and you are travelling towards the school, you need to move to the right hand lane by the hedge. Whilst it may seem like an inconvenience, this is necessary to protect both the grass and the safety of those on the coach. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this. Please pass this message to anyone who may collect or drop your child from school on your behalf.

A reminder that the speed limit is 10 mph on the driveway and 5mph in the school car park so please do not exceed this.

VISITING THE SCHOOL DURING THE DAY & DROP OFF

For the safety and security of everyone, it is essential that we know who is onsite at all times. If you are visiting the school, you must check in at the School Office in the main house when you arrive and before you leave, even if your child is ready and waiting.

We kindly remind all visitors that during the school day, access to the school should only be through the front entrance. Please drive to the front of the school and avoid walking across the playground. This procedure applies at all times, except for fixtures. For fixtures, please use the sports hall car park and proceed directly to the sports hall, field, or playground as appropriate. If you are attending a fixture, please stay in the relevant permitted areas.

For Junior drop-offs, staff supervision begins at **8.15am**. Children **must not** be left unsupervised before this time, please wait until staff are on duty. Thank you for your understanding.

Coach transport available for home to school travel

We have capacity on some of our routes for travel from January 2025 to the end of the summer term. If you would like to enquire about costs or availability, please contact [Vectare our transport partner](#). If you have any questions please contact Vectare directly via clairescourt@vectare.co.uk.

PTA FAIR

Thanks to our wonderful PTA and all those who supported the Christmas Fair last night, we will announce how much we raised soon!

BUY A CHRISTMAS TREE FROM US AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE BOAT CLUB

- **How to Order:** Visit our [PTA website](#) and order by **Tuesday 26 November**
- **Pick-up:** Saturday 7 December 10am-12pm from Senior Boys school

Christmas Hampers

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Maidenhead Salvation Army up until **Monday 9 December** and would like to suggest the following year groups provide:

Year R	Rice/Pasta/Pasta Sauce/Gravy/Stuffing
Year 1	NUT FREE: Mince Pies/Christmas Cake/Christmas Pudding/Dried Fruit
Year 2	Pickles/Jam/Jelly/Sweets/Chocolates
Year 3	Cereal/Porridge/Savoury Crackers/Sweet Biscuits
Year 4	Crisps/Popcorn/Rice Cakes/Pretzels/Snack Bars
Year 5	Tinned: Fruit/Vegetables/Soup/Beans/Fish/Meat
Year 6	Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate

There will be two collection 'hampers': one located in the Lower Juniors area of the school and the other outside the dining hall. **Please remember due to the number of pupils with life-threatening reactions to all types of nuts, these are not allowed in School.**

Chess lessons with Mr Tuck

A slot has become available for private chess tuition with Mr Tuck on Fridays. If your son or daughter is keen on chess and is interested in receiving tuition from our outstanding Sussex and England coach please let me know by email rih@clairescourt.net, and I can give you further details. I will assign this on a first-come, first-served basis.



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 [here](#) for next steps.

Rabbit Award

Awarded for kindness, helpfulness and compassion doing the right thing without being asked, it is what makes our school a wonderful environment. This week our rabbit has been awarded to Chester S and Maryam Ag.



Dates for the diary

Non-Fiction November Competition - deadline Monday

Create an advert to advertise your hobby or interest. It could be a poster, leaflet or letter and the focus must be on 'Why don't you?' in other words encouraging others to give it a try. All entries must include:

- Why your hobby is so enjoyable
- What equipment (if any) is needed
- Why someone else might enjoy trying it themselves

Your entry must be with Miss Murphy, our School Librarian, by Monday 25th November. Winners will receive a bundle of books from Magic Cat Publishing.

Virtual Scholarship Q&A - 28 November, 7pm to 8pm

We are delighted to invite you to join us on Thursday 28 November at 7pm to discuss our Claires Court Scholarship Programme. There will be a brief talk from each subject Head of Department and of course, the opportunity to ask any questions relating to expectations and assessments. If you would like to join us for the **virtual session**

which we aim to keep to 30-40 minutes maximum, please add your name to the google form here: [Scholarship Virtual Q & A](#)

We thought we would share the programme and application form again for those of you still considering the participation of your son or daughter.

[Scholarship Programme](#) and [Application Form](#)

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Please read what is happening during the last few weeks of term:

"We would like to thank pupils, parents and staff once again for your generosity in our requests to help with the various charitable organisations at this time of year".

Christmas Jumper Swap

Promote sustainability this Christmas with our jumper swap!

- **Donate a Jumper:** Send in clean, good-quality Christmas jumpers by **Thursday 28 November**. Your child will receive a token to exchange for a 'new' jumper.
- **Larger Sizes Needed:** Please consider donating older sibling or adult-sized jumpers to ensure everyone can participate.
- **Extra Donations:** While children can bring in more than one jumper, they can only take one home. Leftovers will be donated to charity.

If no suitable jumper is available, we'll offer a small Christmas treat as a thank you.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch will be served on **Friday 6 December**. The assumption is that all children will have a Christmas Lunch and you will automatically be charged £5 **UNLESS YOU OPT OUT BY 1 DECEMBER** by completing this form: [Christmas Lunch 2024 Juniors](#). The cost includes the Christmas meal, a dessert, drink and cracker. Please also complete this form to provide any dietary requirements that your child has. Please note that there will be no other food served at lunchtime on this day, so if your child is opting out they will need to bring their own lunch.

All children can wear a festive jumper on Christmas Lunch Day instead of the school jumper, for a **£2 donation** for [Save The Children](#) but please note it is **NOT** a non uniform day and to wear normal school uniform other than a jumper.

[St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival 6 - 8 December](#)

Please pop along to view all the trees on display and look out for the Claires Court trees decorated by our pupils - vote for your favourite tree and help raise money for their chosen charity [Thames Valley Heartbeat](#).

Juniors Carol Service - Tuesday 10 December

All parents are invited to attend the Carol Service at All Saints Church, Maidenhead, SL6 4HE. The church doors will be open from 2pm. Please note this is a popular event and gets very busy due to the restricted seating.

We would appreciate an indication of how your son/daughter will be travelling home after the service, so that we can book the right transport. Parents are welcome to pick up from the church, or pupils can travel back to school.

Please complete the form [here](#) by **Wednesday 4 December**.

End of Term Arrangements w/c Monday 9 December - Thursday 12 December

Study/Guided Play will be available between 4-5 pm and After School Care Between 5-6pm Monday-Wednesday. There is no after-school provision at all on Thursday 14 December. ***Early buses only* from 9 December, leaving Juniors at 4pm.**

Last Day of Term - Thursday 12 December

This is a **normal full day of lessons ending at 4pm**. EOT letters will be emailed home with the usual reminders to parents about bills/school office closure etc over the Christmas period.

FROM THE OFFICE

PARKING

We now have a much better surface for our overflow car park; thank you so much for your patience. From now on, priority is given to parents to park in the main car park; staff will fill the new matting area first thing in the morning. Please feel free to park on this surface at any time. It can house approximately 40 extra cars.

VISITING THE SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

If you are visiting the school outside of drop-off and collection times (except for fixtures), please enter through the School Office in the main house rather than the sports hall or playground. We are required to know who is onsite at all times.

“CLICK AND COLLECT”

This will continue to operate on a Friday afternoon. Whilst nothing has changed for Reception and Year 1 families, we have seen an impact on learning time for Years 2 and above on a Friday afternoon due to classes finishing early to avoid traffic queue build-ups. Therefore, unless you are a parent or guardian of a child in Reception or Year 1, we will not be allowing cars into the car park until **3.45pm** when the children will be ready to be collected. This will limit the build-up of cars in a queue, not able to move and avoid the School causing traffic issues on Cannon Lane. If you are collecting children from Years 2 - 6 or siblings, please DO NOT arrive on site until 3.45pm.

HAIR & EARRINGS

As per our Rules and Expectations, hair of any pupil that is touching the shoulder must be tied back. All hair should be out of all pupils' faces. For sports or Science Experiments, it might be appropriate for children with shorter hair to still tie or push it back. Only pupils in Years 5 & 6 should wear stud earrings. Pupils are not permitted to wear earrings for sport.

JUNIORS DRIVE

We have a process for when the coach is coming onto or off of the drive to the school. If you are entering the school drive off the mini roundabout by the Thicket Car Park and the coach is exiting the school site, please drive into the National Trust car park to allow the coach to leave.

The 'Bus Lane' which is identified on the main drive is for coaches to use when they are entering or exiting the school only. Please move across to the other side if you are using this lane at the time of a coach using it. It can be used as a normal road lane for all other times.

We will have members of staff out helping cars with this from now on.

DROP OFF

For Junior drop-offs, please note that staff supervision begins at 8.15 AM. You must not leave your child unsupervised before this time; please wait until staff are on duty.

CHANGES TO DROP OFF/PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

For changes to your child's drop-off or pick-up schedule, please email the office at juniors@clairescourt.net. For last-minute changes after 12pm, contact the office directly at 01628 327400, as emails to class teachers or the office after this time may be missed.

VECTARE BUS BOOKINGS AND AMENDMENTS

Please can we remind you that ALL bookings for buses including link buses between sites need to be made via [Vectare](#) or by downloading the Vectare app (please search for "VecTive Passenger App" on Android and Apple). Please note it is your responsibility to make sure your child's booking is up to date. We print the Vectare daily registers at 3pm, therefore if your child is not on this list, we will assume they are not travelling on the bus and vice versa, if they are on the register we will put them on the bus.

We understand that there are last-minute changes to school pick ups so please call the school office on 01628 327400 if this applies to you. If you need to amend your booking please follow these [manage my booking instructions](#) and if you need to make a bulk change please contact Vectare at contact@vectare.co.uk.

SICKNESS ABSENCE

Please report all absences to the school office daily before 9.30am by calling 01628 327400, emailing juniors@clairescourt.net, or via the Report Portal on the Parents page of our website.

TERM TIME ABSENCE

Refer to our Attendance and Holidays in Term Time Policy. Holidays during term time are discouraged and will not normally be authorised during the first or last week of term. If you would like the headteacher to review a request, please complete the [Online Holiday Request Form](#).

MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Please notify the school office at least 24 hours in advance (when possible) via email to juniors@clairescourt.net.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please don't forget to check our [online school calendar](#) to see what is happening throughout the term.

TERM DATES 2024 - 2026

Please see the [Claire's Court Term Dates 2024 - 2026](#), this can also be accessed via our website.

SPORTS FIXTURES/SPORTS NEWS

All details of fixtures can be found on our [website](#).

LOCKER ROOMS

Please can we kindly remind parents to not enter the locker rooms with their children.

CLASS BULLETINS

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)