

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College

No. 156



Newsletter December 2021



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Dear Parents/ Carers

As we come to the end of the Autumn term and our school community looks forward to a well-deserved rest, we can reflect on what a wonderful, busy term this has been.

Christmas has always been an exciting and magical time for our school and the festivities this year have been as fantastic as ever, whilst we have remained mindful of ensuring the safety of all. Our Panto at the start of the week was a great showcase for our talented student actors and was well received by the rest of the school. Sadly, this is the final performance Assistant Headteacher Miss MacLean will put on for us, as she retires this term after an incredible 28 years at Clare Mount. She will be greatly missed by all and we wish her well in her retirement.

Christmas lunch has always been a hugely enjoyable event in our calendar with pupils and staff coming together to eat, sing and have fun and this year we had some amazing table decorations created by students, with just a little input from staff! We have also come together to celebrate our students' successes during our Celebration Assemblies this week and our whole school was able to venture out to the Panto or cinema last week.

Whilst we have worked hard and had fun, this term has also been about the spirit of thinking of others: we were moved by the Humanities Department's poignant Remembrance



Day Assemblies when students, staff and parents shared their memories of those fighting in conflicts; our students kindly supported the Poppy Appeal; Harvest Festival saw students donating a vast amount of foodstuff in support of various local charities.

This term we have also had an amazing first— the foundation of First Clare Mount Guides! The group of five girls are having great fun as you will see later on.

We of course had a visit from Ofsted inspectors this term and it was a pleasure for them to meet our amazing students, staff and Governors. We should be able to share the outcome of their inspection with parents/ carers very soon. I am sure that pupils, parents and carers would like to join with me in thanking all Clare Mount staff and Governors for their tremendous hard work and continued commitment to our school. Likewise, we would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support, in particular for not sending children into school when they are unwell or need to self-isolate. Finally, we thank our pupils – you are indeed some of the best pupils we have ever had the pleasure of working with.

It only remains for me to wish all our families a restful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming children back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Mrs K Webster, Headteacher,

December 2021





Snow White



Clare Mount students enjoyed a fantastic pantomime, 'Snow White and some people' performed by 27 students from across the school. The talented pupils told the story of King Boris and his daughter, 'Snow White' and their entanglement with the wicked witch and many of the usual characters. The story was told through comedy, music, dancing, narration and song.

The performance was led by some of our 6th Form students, who worked hard to make the show entertaining and fun. There were some outstanding personal performances but the overriding success of the event was due to the team work and dedication shown by the pupils and staff who helped to make the whole thing come together. Huge thanks to everyone who helped out by providing set, costumes, music and lights. Special thanks to one of our new TAs, Miss Williams, who not only supported the pupils through rehearsal, but also ended up on the stage playing the part of the Magic Mirror.

As usual the Clare mount School Community came together and I am extremely proud of everyone who took part.

Miss MacLean

WELLBEING DAY

YEAR 7

Y7 had lots of fun Well-being day this term, taking part in football, dodgeball, Dance and Yoga.



7M

7M have been very busy painting and building their Christmas table centrepiece - they couldn't wait to show off our finished piece at our Christmas Dinner on Thursday!

Well done 7M for a fantastic first term at Clare Mount!



"Bah! Humbug!"

During this festive season, some of our upper school students in Y10 and Y11 have been studying Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*.

As well as exploring life during the Victorian period, students recently took part in a multi-sensory learning experience to learn about the symbolism of Marley's chains and to help them understand what this means to Scrooge. Oh, and they had a bit of fun while they were at it too!

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one!"

"Merry Christmas" from The English Department



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Sixth form have also enjoyed all of the challenges in the workshop this term, from building new skills to creating from their own ideas and supporting their community projects. This has really kept them occupied and the lessons have been a hub of learning and practical development.

This term, the team have been hard at it on the recycling front as they have built planters from wooden pallets. They had to disassemble the pallets and mark out the pieces to be cut, then join them together and then they planted hyacinth bulbs. They have started growing and will be donated to the Soul Café in Wallasey Village to support their charity of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Mrs McBurney



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



We have had a very busy time in the workshop this term. The pupils have enjoyed completing a range of different activities designed to develop their creativity and practical skills. These include Year 7 designing and testing for strength and durability of packaging. They also enjoyed the structures challenge to build a tower to hold various weights. We then completed the unit by making a Christmas tree and decorating it.



Year 8 had a taste of the workshop and learnt how to use a range of hand and power tools to build their wooden robots. They then used their skills to cut and build a Christmas tree out of pallets creating their own unique tree.



Year 9 have worked really hard building on their skills from last term. They have learnt how to cut and mark out wood joints using hand tools and power tools. They then manufactured their own candle holder using a slotted wood joint.



Mrs McBurney

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



Year 10 and Year 11 have been working hard learning how to design using techsoft and printing their ideas using the laser cutter. Year 10 have been studying container shipping homes and designed their own ideas and cut them out to scale on the laser.



Year 11 have been studying their own design concepts, developing card models and then using the laser to further develop their ideas. I have been so impressed with the progress these young people have made in a short period of time, they should be proud of all their achievements.

Mrs McBurney





On Thursday 11th November pupils took part in a remembrance assembly, organised by the Humanities Department. Thanks to Mr Basey for organising this and to the pupils for talking so movingly about family and friends involved in military conflicts.

Mrs McBurney, along with DT students, created a 1st World War Soldier Silhouette and Poppy Memorial, which was put on display in the school grounds.



Poppy Appeal

Clare Mount

Specialist Sports College

raised a fantastic £110.90

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER



NATIONAL



SANTA DASH

On a chilly Friday morning we took part in the National Santa Dash organised by our wonderful School Games Team, marking the start of our Clare Mount festivities. Each year group walked, jogged, or ran the course raising money for their respective year group charities. We had so much fun and even had a visit from our very own Father Christmas.

Well Done to all the students and staff that took part.

Mrs Grayson





Today we were able to hand over to Katie an award from Chance to Shine. Katie has been a fantastic ambassador for the Cricket Club and wider school community. Katie has inspired many to enjoy playing cricket. Katie wins a signed England Bat. Well done from all at Clare Mount.

Another Fantastic Firework Week.

The week after half term saw Science lessons at Clare Mount being taken over by gunpowder, treason and plot (as well as a few chemicals) as we ran our annual Fireworks Week.

Pupils investigated what makes the different colours in fireworks and how sparklers are made.

The week was made extra special as this was the start of some students transitioning to the Science labs. We are pleased to report that for the vast majority of our students they are now comfortably accessing science lessons in the labs. Well done to all concerned.

The photos below show pupils finding out the colours different chemicals give, as well as making sparklers.

Mrs Nokes





1st Clare Mount Guides

We were very excited to hold our first enrollment of 5 of our Guides on Monday 29th November in the school hall. Girlguiding Wirral County Commissioner,

Greer Macdonald, came along to join us and present the girls with a Wirral Standard badge. Mrs Webster and members of the school leadership team watched the proceedings along with parents/carers and siblings of the girls. Mrs Nokes who is our District Commissioner also attended.

As all the girls have just joined, we have focused on learning about Girlguiding, the Promise – which all members make when they get enrolled, and the Guide Laws. We have done this using fun activities – making key rings, fortune tellers and a salute model. We have also been learning about the wider world of Girlguiding and where Guides fit in. The girls have been enjoying learning to sing “Taps” which is the traditional way of ending Guide meetings. We are learning actions to use along with the song. We have also learnt and enjoyed playing some guide games such as ring on the string and balloon football. We have packed a lot into our meetings!

Since enrolment we have made mini Christmas cakes (photos opposite). Thanks to Ms Badzire for the use of the Food Studies room.

After Christmas we will begin to follow the Guide Program which is a multi activity program covers, both indoors and outdoor activities. We're all looking forward to this next stage.

Many thanks to all those who have supported the setting up and development of the Guide Unit. We will have spaces after Christmas if any girls in years 7,8 or 9 would like to come along. If you are interested, please let the school office have your details and we will get in touch.

Mrs Delamere
Guide Leader

1st Clare Mount Guides



Autumn Term Science Update

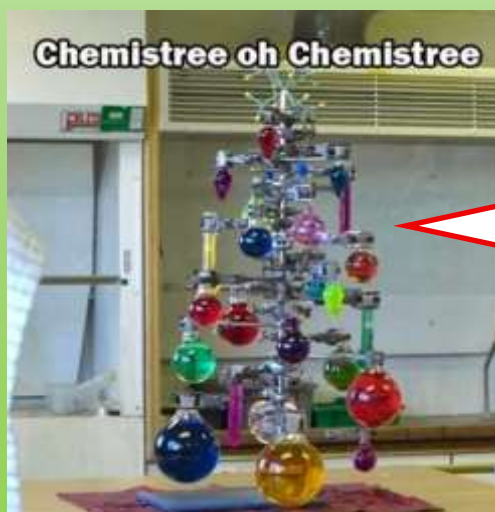


Christmas came to Science Club this half term! We have been making magic milk ready to trick Father Christmas and also sparkly slime bouncy balls. It's been very messy but lots of fun!

We have also been practising using the microscopes and exploring some of our more interesting prepared slides. Some of the favourite slides included an eye and a human tooth.

In the new year we will be looking at bubbles and how they work.

Mrs Fogarty



Bad joke alert...!

**How to scientists decorate
their labs at Christmas?**

They put up a 'chemistree'



Clare Mount Climate Week 2021

To coincide with the COP26 meeting in Glasgow in early November, Clare Mount's Science department held its very first Climate Change Week.

Students across the school took part in activities highlighting the problems caused by climate change and how we can help reduce it.

We looked at our carbon footprints and also how the climate has changed over the years. Our Year 10 students took part in some rather lively discussions about who is responsible for leading the way when it comes to reducing the impact of climate change... ultimately it came back to the fact that we all can play our part.

8GO made, and played, some fabulous games focusing on climate change whilst 7E created a wonderful poster to show how we can all do our bit to help the planet.

The good work, however, doesn't just end with our Climate Change Week...over the next few months we will be linking some of the work in Science back to climate change and its ongoing effects.

Thank you to all the students and staff who took part in our Climate Change week!

Mrs. Fogarty



Next Steps Event 2021



What a fantastic afternoon and evening we had! 12 different providers and over 150 pupils, parent and carer visitors attended our event, and we had lots of excellent feedback:

"Very informative and welcoming, Paddy and I feel more secure about the future"



"This has been a great event, well attended and fantastic opportunities"

"Thanks for having us, it was a great event to be part of"



A wide variety of North West colleges, training providers, travel trainers and support services attended, and pupils and their families had the opportunity to explore all the different options available to them for life after school.



We would like to thank all the parents, carers and pupils for supporting the event and we would like to thank all the providers who took the time out to show our pupils what they can offer.

I would also like to thank Tommy Year 11, Tom Year 10 & our Sixth Form team for their fantastic support before and during the event.

Miss K Magnall

Career Adviser & WRL Coordinator

Dyslexia Friendly Clare Mount

We are delighted to finally get confirmation from the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) that they recognise Clare Mount as a dyslexia-friendly school.

- All our staff make sure that our students' literacy difficulties do not stop them showing their true ability in each subject.
- Our staff are passionate about helping students improve their reading and spelling
- We know that our students with dyslexia have added strengths (such as seeing the 'big picture' better than others).
- Our students understand that everyone has strengths and weaknesses and we respect everyone's differences
- Our parents & carers encourage our children to read all the time

Well done all the staff, parents / carers and students in our school community

Ms Evans



9SF have looked at Christmas traditions from around the world

Christmas Traditions



USA - Michael



Another Christmas tradition is making gingerbread houses with your family.



They like to do carol singing on people's doorsteps to get people in the festive mood.

America – Lennon

They like to decorate the outsides of their houses with lights and sometimes statues of Santa Claus, snowmen and reindeer. Some cookies and a glass of milk are often left out as a snack for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Mexico – Archie and Corey

In Mexico, children perform the 'Posada' processions. Posada is Spanish for Inn. They act out the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for somewhere to stay in Bethlehem.




Children are given candles and painted clay figures of Mary and Joseph, to parade around the streets. They call at the houses of friends and neighbours and sing a song at each home.

One game that is often played at Posada parties is piñata. A piñata is a papier-mâché jar filled with sweets and hung from the ceiling or a tree.



Children are blindfolded and take it in turns to hit the piñata with a stick until it splits open and the sweets pour out.


Australia - Alican

Australian families often celebrate Christmas on the beach with a picnic. Santa Claus often arrives on a surfboard! Outdoor carol singing is very popular as the weather is warm.





Japan- Jodie and Charlie

In Japan, Christmas eve is often celebrated more than Christmas day. Christmas eve is thought of as a romantic day, in which couples spend time together and exchange presents.




Another Christmas tradition is the Christmas illuminations.

People head to KFC for their Christmas celebrations. This began in 1974 when KFC went on a marketing campaign to encourage people to go to KFC for Christmas.



Japanese-style strawberry shortcakes topped with whipped cream are enjoyed at Christmas.



Sweden- Charlie

In Sweden, the Yule Goat is the main symbol of Christmas. It is a giant straw goat which is erected every year and can be up to 17 metres tall. The making of one goat requires 3-4 tonnes of straw.



Germany- Maddie

Christmas Stollen is considered one of the best pastries in the world.



The traditional Christmas meal features duck, goose or rabbit. This main dish is accompanied by apple and sausage stuffing, red cabbage and potato dumplings.



The Christmas tree in the living room is put up usually only on the morning of Christmas Eve. Germans also mainly use real fir or pine trees.



Canada - Bobbie

The Toronto Santa Claus Parade is one of the oldest Santa parades in the world. Today it's grown into a big event with over 25 animated floats and over 2000 participants.



The Christmas meal is often roast turkey with vegetables and mashed potatoes.



They have their own Christmas bauble.

Christmas in Zimbabwe – Rhuben and Jared



For most people in Zimbabwe, Christmas day starts with a church service.



After the church service, everyone has a party in their homes.

People go from house to house, visiting all of their family and friends.

The special food eaten at Christmas is chicken with rice.



They get their stereo speakers out and put them outside the front of the house and play their favourite music very loudly!

Merry
Christmas
everyone

Music

Year 7 have been busy learning about pulse and rhythm and creating their own rhythm compositions. They have also been performing some festive music on the boomwhackers! Year 8 have been learning about music used in computer games and have been creating some amazing music for computer game characters.

Mr Gore





Students have been learning about improvisation this term and have been busy creating plays with different characters. They then have to stay in character and be confident when performing in front of others. We have some amazing talent here at Clare Mount!

Mr Gore

Year 11's nominated charity...



On 22nd October, the Clare mount Community took part in an 'own-clothes' day with a difference!

Year 11 have chosen as their charity for the year 'Fans Supporting Foodbanks.' The whole school community were asked to engage and they most definitely did by donating food items!



When the charity's van turned up to collect the generous donation they were blown away by our wonderful students; yet again!

Mrs Neill

FORM



Sixth form welcomed Heather an ex pupil of Clare Mount to our Sixth form Centre recently to kick off our World of Work topic this half term. Heather told us all about her experiences and memories of school and how she moved through college to a variety of different jobs. She was so inspiring and easy to talk to! She answered lots of questions and was a joy to have. It's fair to say we have started this half term on a high! Each Monday we have a Give an Hour volunteer visiting Sixth Form from different areas of employment.

Sixth Form took part in our school wellbeing day this term.. Activities were arranged for all of our students. Here are some of the 6th form highlights!



FORM

Our very own 007 has continued his training! To add to indoor skydiving, high ropes and climbing up The Big One roller coaster, Ben progressed to something you may have seen on television! This is Ben tackling the Ninja Warrior course! He completed the entire course including the smaller warped wall. However, Ben showed wonderful resilience and continued to try the larger warped wall. He stormed up it on his third attempt! We are really proud of you Ben.

Miss Vicars



As students Prepare for Adulthood at 6th form we thought you may like proof that they can iron!



FORM

Well done to Ethan and George who received excellent feedback from their work experience placements, Wirral Tennis Centre and Lingham's Bookshop.



Sixth form making Christmas decorations for the Christmas Shop last week. Glitter stations, sticker stations and glue stations all working hard, all powered by festive tunes and hot chocolate!

FORM

To continue our World of Work topic this half term, Gavin Shone came in and gave Sixth form a presentation about his Career choices and various jobs he has had since leaving school. Every student had thought of questions to ask Gavin - from his favourite job to what he does at the weekend! We had a very interesting morning so thank you Gavin.

Mrs Cooper-Shone



FORM



Hi-intensity work—6th form worked hard on their skills and fitness at Venture Boxing and they're getting stronger, quicker and more skilful every week!

What a wonderful afternoon! 6th form using their hospitality, speech and language skills and completing work experience! They invited 7M for afternoon tea and everyone had a great time.





Celebrating our students



Students who attend Card Craft Club showing some of the amazing Christmas Cards they have been making and selling to raise funds.

Nelson & Malala

Nelson & Malala



Nelson and Malala enjoyed a lovely day out to a local farm. They met some beautiful animals and had a fantastic walk in the woods.



The boys in the Nelson group have been exploring our local museums this term. They went to all of the museums in Liverpool, but their favourite was the World Museum.



Pupils made cards and took them and mince pies to the residents of a local care home. In response Woodheath Care Home tweeted the following:

We would like to extend a big thanks to our lovely Walter's Granddaughter the lovely Laura Mault and all the amazing pupils from Clare Mount School in Moreton for giving our lovely Residents Delicious mince pies and All the beautiful Christmas cards that all pupils have made. Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated. Look at all our Lovely Residents faces, smiles all around.

Mrs Mault

New Age Kurling

10 Year 9 students were selected to represent the school at the New Age Kurling Tournament on Monday 6th December 2021 at Greenbank Sports Centre. The teams played in mini leagues with at least two matches against other schools.

Team A was Erin, Alican and Rhiannon. Team B Lucas, Stephen, Bobby and Kayden. Team C was Corey, Michael and Daryl.

Players had previously experienced success in the Boccia Tournament but this proved to be a sterner challenge. The pupils did their best but unfortunately did not make the play offs this time. All enjoyed the experience and said that they would like to have another go some time in the future.

Thanks to Mrs Swop for supporting the teams throughout the day.

Mr Stanley





11P - Rowing

As a form, we have been giving the amazing opportunity of attending Liverpool Victoria rowing on Friday afternoons. During these sessions we have learned many new skills including how to set up, clean and put away the rowing equipment. Over the weeks we have developed our rowing skills both in the gym and on the water and are now able to head out onto the river Mersey as a team!

We can successfully row by ourselves and are entrusted with choosing someone to lead the boat (known as a cox). Rowing hasn't just helped us learn practical techniques such as pace, rhythm and coordination but has also helped develop social skills as well. Rowing has helped many of us improve our self-image and develop strong bonds with each other. It involves a lot of teamwork and for everyone in the boat to be in sync. We have also been able to develop our confidence in the water by completing the capsizing training, which was a little scary! The coaches are amazing and have supported us through learning these skills and have assisted us in every way they can.

The best thing about the rowing is being able to work together as a team to row on the open water of the river Mersey!

Miss Perry



Congratulations to the girls who took part in and won, the recent Merseyside Schools Girls Football 6-a-side tournament at Greenbank.



Liverpool Football Club Foundation Multi Sports Day



Students from Year 10 and Year 8 attended a multi sports day at Anfield Community Sports Centre on Wednesday 8th December 2021. The pupils took part in a range of activities including kinball, boccia, end ball and dodgeball. There was also a chance to design a football kit and take part in a LFC quiz - much to the annoyance of all the blue side of Merseyside! The most popular activity was the kinball and everyone had a great day. Many thanks to the LFC Foundation for their continued support in providing opportunities for Clare Mount students.

Mr Stanley

LIMITED PLACES

FREE HYPE PARK EXPLORERS EVENTS THIS CHRISTMAS!

HYPE Park Explorers is back this Christmas!! In partnership with Edsential join us for an exciting and fun course learning all about your local park and environment which includes an amazing end of course trip to Chester Zoo!

Places are limited so be quick to register!

BOYS & GIRLS AGED 7-14

WHERE... Birkenhead Park

WHEN... 20 to 23 December 2021

TIME... 10:00am - 2:00pm

WHAT TO WEAR... Dress for winter weather: raincoat; towel; boots or wellies, hat, scarf and gloves

FOOD... Lunch is provided



HOW DO I BOOK...

HYPE-MERSEYSIDE.CO.UK



Wirral Hospice St John's

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

LEAVE THE EFFORT OF RECYCLING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE TO US!

We welcome donations in return for collecting
your real Christmas tree

Postcodes we cover:

CH41 | CH42 | CH43 | CH44 | CH45 | CH46 | CH47
CH48 | CH49 | CH60 | CH61 | CH62 | CH63 | CH64

Our volunteers will be out from
Fri 14 Jan 2022
until all the trees are collected in

Trees registration will close at
23:59 on Sun 9 Jan 2022

wirralhospice.org/treecollection



Wirral Hospice
St John's

wirralhospice.org

Registered Charity No. 510643



RUNNING HEAD
 FIRST CIC PRESENTS
**THE HAF WINTER
 FUNDED CHRISTMAS
 FOOTBALL
 CAMP**

20TH - 23RD DECEMBER 2021
10:00AM - 02:00PM
 THE MOSSLANDS SCHOOL MOSSLANDS
 DRIVE, WALLASEY, WIRRAL, CH45 8PJ

FREE*

LUNCH - WARM MEAL
 PROVIDED, (CHILDREN
 CAN BRING THEIR OWN
 PACKED LUNCHES)

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS WARM CLOTHES, WATERPROOFS & A WATER BOTTLE

*THIS HOLIDAY PROVISION IS FOR CHILDREN
 AGED BETWEEN 7 -16 YEARS OLD WHO RECEIVE
 BENEFITS-RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

For a registration form please contact:
capacitybuilderscommunity@gmail.com





e-Consent...it's so easy!

Working in partnership with Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, we're delighted to introduce a new way for our parents and carers to consent to their school aged children's vaccinations.

[You can now provide e-Consent for all your child's vaccinations with the click of a button, using your mobile phone, computer, laptop or tablet.](#)

The new e-Consent process is:

- safe and secure
- easy to use
- convenient and saves time
- friendly to the environment - saves paper

How it works:

- you'll receive an email or text from ourselves with a link to the e-Consent form
- the form is simple and easy to complete
- once you've completed the e-Consent form, click 'submit'
- you'll receive an email to confirm the form has been received securely
- the Trust's Immunisation Team will receive your child's form via a secure portal
- if you've consented, your child will have their vaccine here in school

Remember, the new e-Consent process is easy, secure and convenient!

For information of ALL school age vaccinations please visit wchc.nhs.uk/econsent/

Each school has a unique code to access the consent, please see your child's school code below.

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College CODE: : WC105129

If you have any queries about the new e-Consent process, please call the Immunisation Team on 0151 514 2510.

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn 1	Wednesday 1 st September – Friday 22 nd October 2021
School closed to pupils	Wednesday 1 st September 2021
School open for Year 7	Thursday 2 nd September 2021
School open to all	Friday 3 rd September 2021
½ Term	25 th – 29 th October 2021
Autumn 2	Monday 1 st November-Friday 17 th December
School closed to pupils*	Friday 26 th November 2021
Christmas	Monday 20 th December -Monday 3 rd January
Spring 1	Tuesday 4 th January - Friday 18 th February 2022
School closed to pupils*	Tuesday 4 th January
½ Term	21 st – 25 th February 2022
Spring 2	Monday 28 th February – Friday 8 th April 2022
School closed to pupils*	Monday 28 th February 2022
Spring Break	Monday 11 th April – Friday 22 nd April 2022
Summer 1	Monday 25 th April – Friday 27 th May (Monday 2 nd May is a Bank Holiday)
½ term	30 th May – 3 rd June 2022
Summer 2	Monday 6 th June-Thursday 21 st July 2022
School closed to pupils*	*Monday 6 th June 2022 & Monday 27 th June 2022
School closes	Thursday 21 st July 2022

*Please note the additional inset day Monday 6th June 2022 to
celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

