

# Chenies School Newsletter

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Spring Term – Week 1

### Headteacher's News

As the new Headteacher at Chenies I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I am grateful for the warm welcome that I have already received from the whole school community and am looking forward to sharing in the many exciting events that have already been planned for the forthcoming year. At the bottom of this letter are some dates that are already in the diary and I will add to them in future newsletters as more are confirmed.



At my interview I was very impressed with the thoughtful questions that I was asked by the School Council. One of the questions was “can you tell us a joke?” My mind of course went blank, but I did say how important it is to make learning fun. I very much hope that the new joke book a friend has bought me will be appreciated, but more than that, I hope that together we can all enjoy the experience of learning more about the world. There is plenty for me to learn at the moment and I hope that you will forgive me when I need to ask the same question for a second time. What matters for each of us is that we support one another in asking and in exploring the answers. Of course, the answer may then lead to more questions and our task of exploration goes on.

At our assemblies this week I have been discussing with the children the importance of asking questions and so I hope that you may find your child asking more questions at home. I suspect if you ask your child the question ‘What did you do in school today?’ many of you may get that frequently used answer ‘nothing’. My question to you therefore is can they answer the following:

What was the most surprising thing you learnt today?  
When were you happiest today?  
How did you help someone today?



I very much look forward to finding out the answer to that question and in time being able to answer more of your questions as I get to know the school in the coming weeks. All of the children have impressed me this week and I look forward to sharing with you the Proudly Purple and Star of the Week news in next week’s newsletter.

### Parent Volunteers

Would you like to listen to children reading? If you are able to come into school on a regular basis to listen to children read we would value your help. Teachers would be particularly grateful for your help during the afternoons but if you send an email to Mrs Hulme in the office, with details of when you are available, we will organise a rota. You will be asked to hear children read from across the school rather than the class your own child is in.

### Class News

Each week the Friday newsletter will have items of class news. This will include information about what the children will be learning the following week in English, mathematics, topic work and reminders about particular events or requests for help. We hope that you will find this helpful in enabling you to support your child’s learning at home.

### **Note from Mrs Dinwiddy – Bursar**

Each term all schools have to complete a census from which information is taken from our school Database. It is important this information is correct, as our funding is based upon the data collected. I would therefore be grateful if you could read the following carefully and, if your child comes under any of the categories and you think we may not be aware, kindly contact us immediately.

### **Free School Meals:**

Regardless of which year your child is in, if you are in receipt of the benefits mentioned in the Free School Meal attachments please notify us by completing the form attached by **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January** and we can check for eligibility. Any child who comes under the category of free school meals creates extra funding for school and may be entitled to half price trips and clubs.



### **School Meals:**

The number of free school meals taken on census day (**January 17th**) is recorded and affects our funding. If your child is in Sprites or Phoenix or if your child is entitled to free school meals, we would appreciate it if you could order a meal for your child on **January 17th**.

### **Post Looked after Arrangements:**

School receives additional funding if a child was looked after immediately before adoption and that child may also be entitled to free school clubs etc. We would ask for documentary evidence of this.

With kind regards

Suzanne Powell  
Headteacher

### **News from the PTA**

Our next film club will be on **Saturday 19th January**, we are showing 'Incredibles 2'. Film Club is open to all children at Chenies - friends and family are welcome. Children in Sprites and Year One and any non-Chenies children must be accompanied by an adult.

**We want to say a big thank you to Melanie Jemmett** who has decided to step down as co-chair of the PTA due to increased work commitments. Thank you for all your hard work! Mel will be missed enormously by the committee but will continue to help with events where she can.

Don't forget to bring in any **Christmas jumpers** and clothing - all ages and sizes - we will hold a PTA Christmas sale in November.



Save the date - **18th May** 2pm-5pm we are holding a **Duck Race** at Restore Hope in Latimer in partnership with *Perfect Parties* who are very kindly sponsoring the event for us. There will be lots to do and will be a very fun afternoon for our families and friends to please keep an eye out for info coming soon.

## Important Dates

Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Pegasus Swimming starts
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Griffin to Dr Challoner's High School for Dodgeball Event
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	PTA Film Club 2pm-4pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Griffin Swimming Gala Wycombe Abbey School 12.30pm-3.30pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 & 6 Gymnastics at Dr Challoner's High School
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Sprites to Pizza Express
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Phoenix to Dr Challoner's High School for Dodgeball Event 1pm-3pm
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Thursday March 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 & 4 Mixed Hockey at Dr Challoner's High School
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Bikeability Level 1 - Pegasus
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Bikeability Level 1 - Pegasus
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents Evening 5.00pm – 8.00pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school visit to St Alban's Cathedral
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Swimming for Pegasus (as missed lesson on March 26 <sup>th</sup> )
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Football Match at Ley Hill School 3.45pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Griffin at Music Festival Cluster Rehearsal
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Griffin at Music Festival at Kings Church – 3.45pm
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Term Ends at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>INSET Day – School closed to children</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Griffin Swimming Gala – Chesham Leisure Centre 9am DCHS
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Duck Race Restore Hope Latimer
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5/6 Residential Trip PGL
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	DCHS Swimming Gala
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>INSET Day – School closed to children</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Cyber Talk
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Author Workshop – Whole School
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Griffin / Pegasus – Prime VR Workshop
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 & 6 Athletics at Dr Challoner's High School
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Phoenix Gymnastics at Dr Challoner's High School
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Griffin Games at Dr Challoner's High School
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	School reports will be sent home to parents
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Term Ends at 1.30pm</b>

## Class News

### Sprites

**Phonics:** Next week the children will continue to work through Phase 2 and Phase 3 sounds focusing on segmenting and blending to read/write new words across all areas of learning.

**Literacy:** The children will be writing about their favourite Christmas present. The children will be encouraged to use sound mats to identify sounds and write key words or sentences using their phonic knowledge.

**Maths:** We will be recapping the names and properties of 2D shapes, going on a shape hunt around the school and creating our own shape patterns. We will also introduce some 3D shapes (sphere, cylinder, cube and cone).

**Topic:** Our topic over the next few weeks is transport and we will be applying our knowledge and understanding of 2D/3D shapes and using different construction materials to create models.

#### REMINDERS: Show & tell dates:

RED HOUSE	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
BLUE HOUSE	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
YELLOW HOUSE	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
GREEN HOUSE	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	

**Stay and Read:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 9.15 – 10.45

**Reading Books:** We are working on the children being independent and would appreciate if you could encourage them to put their reading folders in the tray on the table every Tuesday/Friday so books can be changed.

**Home Learning Task:** Should be completed and returned by the Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Upcoming Events:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we have trip to Amersham Pizza Express, details to follow.

### Phoenix

In Phoenix class next week during Literacy we will focus on making banks of words – nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs and look at how to change root words by adding different suffixes – e.g. ing, est, and ed.

In Maths we will be continuing to work on *Number/Addition and subtraction*, building on previously learned skills.

Our area of learning next week in topic is WINTER, the changes we might observe at this time of year and how we respond to them (ie the clothes we might wear and the activities we might take part in).

## **Pegasus**

This term in Pegasus we will be finishing off the last bit of our Roman history and move on to our new topic, The Tudors. Over the term we will be looking at who they were, why they were important as well as looking at the lives of people during those times. In science we will be moving on to our next topic of sounds, learning about what sounds are exactly and how it all works. In English we are going to focus on different forms of writing, both fiction and non-fiction, and in maths we will be finishing off our work on calculations and moving on to things like fractions, decimals, percentages etc.

Next week in English we will start reading our new focus book "Ottoline and the Yellow Cat" by Chris Riddell. The children will be able to discuss what they read and make predictions about what they think will happen, based on evidence from the text. We will also look at identifying main and subordinate clauses and conjunctions that link them.

In maths we are going to finish looking at division. By the end of the week, the children should have both mental and written strategies for dividing, and be able to divide numbers beyond the times tables, with integer remainders.

Pegasus will start their new topic by looking briefly at the Tudors, discussing what they may already know and what they would like to learn about them, and they will learn the timeline of the Tudor dynasty. In science we are going to learn about how all sounds are caused by vibrations, and they will explore the different ways that they can make sounds with different objects.

## **Griffin**

In maths next week we will be focussing on our division skills and ensuring that we are able to use both chunking and the 'bus stop' method for short and long division in order to solve division questions. We will be learning about remainders and how these can be simplified as fractions. As always, it is important that your child knows their times table facts as these are crucial to speed up the time it takes children to divide numbers. Keep practising these at home.

In English we will be using the text Ultimate Explorers for the next few weeks. This links with the work we will be doing in science about animals and habitats over the next term as well as our geography and history work in topic. In this unit, the children explore the Big Question: What makes someone a great explorer? The children will read the interactive eBook, and use other sources, to research challenges faced by explorers. They will aim to understand and explain different viewpoints and will look for evidence about what qualities successful explorers would need.

On Thursday and Friday this week we have just completed a geography project about volcanoes and earthquakes. Our new topic this term is 'Frozen Kingdom' and we will be making a start to this unit next week by sharing our ideas and putting forward our own questions for what we would like to learn about. To tie in with our topic work, in science we will be starting our new unit of work on animals and their habitats.

Our PE lessons are on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please ensure all kit is named and in school.