

Chenies School Newsletter

Friday 18th December 2020

Headteacher's News

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the autumn term. It has of course had its challenges but I continue to be proud of all our children and the tremendous effort they have put into their learning this term. We talk a lot about the Habit of Mind of persistence in school and not giving up. The children really have excelled themselves in this regard throughout the term, remaining focused and making significant progress with their learning while adapting to so many new routines and expectations. They have worked incredibly hard this term and I know they are all ready for a well-deserved opportunity to relax during the holiday.

Thank you

On behalf of all the staff I would like to express our gratitude to you for the Christmas cards and gifts that you have sent us. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and kind words are really appreciated by us all and we wish you a happy (and possibly excitable) Christmas time with your young families.

Christmas Performance

The children's Christmas performances are now available for you to watch on our website. To view them you will need to log in to the website in the same way as you do to make parent's evening appointments. Once logged in please select your child's class and you will find the video on the homepage. **Please can I remind you these videos are for your personal use only and for the safety of all our children you must not share them on social media.**

Track and Trace

There is an expectation from the government that we will continue to assist with the track and trace system until Christmas Eve. If between now and 24th December one of your children tests positive for Covid 19 please inform the school by emailing office@chenies.bucks.sch.uk and head@chenies.bucks.sch.uk to enable us to contact the relevant people.

The Department for Education have announced that there will be mass testing of staff and students in schools after the Christmas break. This will be initially for secondary schools with the plan for primary schools to deliver this from February. I will keep you fully informed about this as it develops and as such will provide further information when the government has released full guidance and we are clear as to the delivery of this project.

Radio Amersham

I hope that many of you enjoyed listening to our Year 6 children at 1.00pm on Radio Christmas yesterday. They certainly thoroughly enjoyed recording it. In case you missed it I am pleased to say that it is still available to listen to [here](#).



Happy Birthday
Samuel - 25th December
Shrenik – 4th January
Amelia – 4th January



Winter Mini Challenge 2020

Please encourage your child to participate in the Reading Agency's [Mini Winter Challenge 2020](#). It would also be lovely to see some more book reviews on our [school library site](#) so if your child utters those words "I'm bored" perhaps you could suggest they log onto the site and write a review of one of the books that they borrowed from the library this term. Their username and password is the same and in their reading record book.

Poetry Websites

Many of you have been asked by Mr Purvis this week if you know the poem The Raven by Edgar-Allan-Poe, sparked by the fact that a rather large crow has been faithfully tapping on the school hall door each morning. For those of you that are not familiar with the poem you can listen to it [here](#), where you will also find a link to The Children's Poetry Archive. Children enjoy the rhythm of poetry and it is a good way for them to explore language and learn new vocabulary. I would encourage you all to spend some time listening to the poetry on this site, purely for pleasure and not to dissect for an English examination! – Maybe you will discover an old favourite or something new to evoke personal memories. A Christmas favourite of mine is [The Christmas Life by Wendy Cope](#).

PTA Presents

I would like to thank the PTA for buying all of the children a Christmas present to take home today. The children enjoyed our pantomime fun this morning and are grateful for the gifts. I am sure that they will now bring enjoyment to others by spending time playing with them with someone else in the family.

Buckinghamshire Music Trust

Buckinghamshire music trust are hosting an online Winter Celebration with some seasonal music from all the children and young people involved in their music centres in High Wycombe, Amersham and Aylesbury. This will premiere on our Youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/learnplayrepeat> at 6pm on Monday 21st December. You are very welcome to watch.

Sir Linkalot

We have just invested in an app called Sir Linkalot that is transforming how spelling is taught, especially for those tricky common exception words, all the way from *was*, *two* and *they* up to *manoeuvre*, *fulfil* and even *onomatopoeia*! The app is achieving incredible results, particularly for those children who find spelling an issue.

To find out what it's all about, please click on the following clip (you'll be hooked when the boy says 'I was terrible at it')...[The Future of Spelling](#)

It is not solely for spelling and covers the whole of the technical requirements of literacy, i.e vocabulary, homophones, punctuation, grammar, rules and patterns. You will see in the above clip that Countdown's Susie Dent is on the app as the resident word detective 'Lady Lexicographer' who will talk about the origin of words on the app that have an interesting story to tell.

Here are three examples of a "Susie Story" plus Sir Linkalot's spelling trick:

[Biscuit - Etymology](#) [Biscuit - Spelling](#) [Ocean - Origin](#) [Ocean - Spelling](#) [Manoeuvre - Origin](#) [Manoeuvre - Spelling](#)

Included in the price is free access at home. Once you have downloaded it from any online store, click on 'log in' (top right) and 'Have an access code?' It can also be accessed via a laptop or PC. Type in the browser itself (not a search engine) 'app.sirlinkalot.org', tap on the log icon (for 'log in'), using the same username and code. The username and access code were included in the email that this letter is attached to. The children have used the site in school and I hope that you will encourage them to explore it at home.

With good wishes for a joyful and peace filled Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 5th January.

Suzanne Powell

TERM DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020 / 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September
Inset Day	Wednesday 2 nd September
Terms Starts	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	26 th – 30 th October
Inset Day	Monday 2 nd November
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December @ 1.30pm

Spring Term 2021

Inset Day	Monday 4 th January
Term Starts	Tuesday 5 th January
Half Term	15 th – 19 th February
Term Ends	Thursday 1 st April @ 1.30pm

Summer Term 2021

Inset Day	Monday 19 th April
Term Starts	Tuesday 20 th April
Half Term	31 st May – 4 th June
Term Ends	Wednesday 21 st July @ 1.30pm