

Chenies School Newsletter

Friday 25 September 2020

Headteacher's News

School Council and Eco Warriors

I wish to congratulate the following children on their election to the role of School Councillor or Eco Warrior.

	School Council	Eco Warrior
Reception	Ottillie Flanagan	Alice Shepherd
Year 1	Teddy Vose	James Powell
Year 2	Olivia Moore	Eve Shepherd
Year 3	Jackson Nicols	Daniel Vanstone
Year 4	Jessica Teruggi	Charlie Dalkin
Year 5	Samyukta Shetty	Rosie Wakeman
Year 6	Emily Coleman	Olivia Tyler

I am also very proud of those children who stood for election and accepted defeat graciously. There will be further opportunities to put themselves forward for things; including termly Eco Warrior elections and I hope they will employ the Habit of Mind of Persisting to have another go when an opportunity presents itself.

Staffing

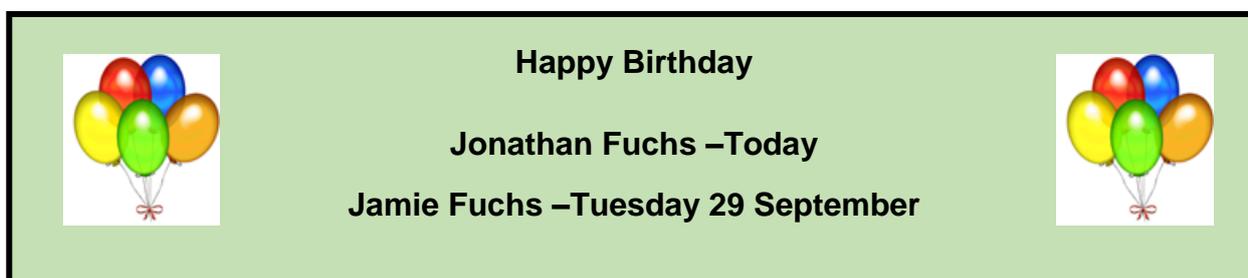
We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Teresa Mulkern to our learning support assistant team on Monday. She will be in school every morning and working with the children in Monet Class.

Cold Weather

Now the weather is getting colder, please ensure that your child has a coat and a warm jumper and that it is labelled with their name on it so that it can be returned if lost. The children do need to be dressed in warm layers because to reduce the spread of Covid 19, we are ensuring doors and windows remain open to allow for the circulation of air. The school is therefore not as warm as it would usually be!

Seatbelts

Thank you for your continued cooperation with the drop-off and collection arrangements. I believe that the system is running as smoothly as possible now and we seem to have managed to reduce the traffic jam situation to just a 5 minute slot. I have noticed however some parents driving off before their children are securely in their seatbelts. **Please do not compromise your child's safety in your attempts to speed things up. I am sure you will all agree that a few more minutes waiting in a queue of traffic is a price worth paying for the safety of all of our children.**



Bumped Heads

We have always notified parents when children bump their heads, in case they begin to suffer adverse effects later on. We are aware however that now children are not bringing their book bags to school and parents are not in the playground at the end of the day our usual system is not always working and there have been occasions when the information has not been received. We are therefore making a change to our procedures. In future if your child is given first aid treatment for a head bump but they do not appear to be adversely affected by it at the time we will send you a text so that you can continue to monitor their wellbeing when they come home. In the event of a head bump that we are significantly concerned about, we will continue as we have always done to contact you with a telephone call. If you would like additional information about the cause of the injury then please do contact the school office.

School Library System

As you may have read in a previous newsletter, the PTA very kindly helped us to pay to upgrade our library system.

One of the new features is that the library system is now cloud based. This means that the children will have their own log-ins to be able to access the library system from home.

This is an exciting new feature for us at Chenies School as it now means that the children will be able to access the website www.tinyurl.com/chenieslibrary and:

- Search library resources
- View the latest and most popular books
- Write book reviews
- Check their library account
- View recommended reads using 'Who Next'
- Request books for the school to purchase

As parents this will also benefit you, as you should be able to:

- Monitor your child's library account
- Help with book selections using 'Who Next'
- Check whether a book is available in the school library before purchasing

Mrs Wilson has now set up log-in access for all the children in Chenies School. Their username and password are both the same 4 digit code underneath the barcode which has been stuck into their reading record book. Do explore the site and see if your child can submit a book review for a book they have finished reading!

Once again, a huge thank you to the PTA for funding this for us.

Chesham Rugby Club

Please find attached to this mailing a flyer for the Chesham Rugby Club. If you would like further information please contact Mr Dalkin who is a parent of children in Year 4 and 6

I hope that you all have an enjoyable weekend.
Suzanne Powell

A Message from Mrs Dinwiddy: Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Please see the attached information on applying for Pupil Premium and Free School Meals which results in additional funding for the school.

All children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are already eligible for free school meals. However, if parents receive a qualifying benefit (e.g. Universal Credit) we could receive additional funding for the school as a Pupil Premium grant.

Free school meals and Pupil Premium funding is also available for pupils in Year 3 and above if parents receive one of the qualifying benefits.

Please read the attached information, and return any application forms to the office. If you already qualify for Pupil Premium then you do not need to complete a new application form for this academic year.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS NEWS

Van Gogh Class News

The children have had a good week and just taken being at school full time in their stride. It has been great to see them working co-operatively and support one another in their learning.

Phonics: This week we started our phonics and the key focus has been, **Rhyming and Oral Segmenting and Blending**. We have noticed that these are two areas that require consolidation and will be sending home activities to help you support your child's learning.

The phonemes (sounds) we have learnt are 's - a - t - p'

Mind Up: This week the children learnt about how the different parts of the brain help us in our everyday life. The key vocabulary they have been using is... prefrontal cortex, hippocampus, and amygdala.

Topic: This week the children have started to closely at similarities and differences within them and their friends. We have ended the week by painting portraits.

REMINDER - EYFS Workshop:

Thank you to the parents who attended the workshop on Thursday, I hope it was useful. I looked forward to seeing the parents who have signed up for Thursday 1st October 2020. Please note that it is a long morning, we will be starting at 9 o'clock and finishing at 12 o'clock with a mid-morning break.

Walks:

Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies (to be left in school) and a coat, as we do often go for walks and spend a lot of our day outside.

SHOW & TELL DATES: Yellow House – Friday 2nd October 2020

I know with the current situation things are different, but please if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Sahotay 😊

Monet

Monet Class have settled into the new term very well and are showing real enthusiasm for their learning. Thank you to all those children who brought in painting shirts for Art.

English

In English next week we will be continuing with retelling stories and making predictions. We will also begin to think about how to write our own versions of familiar fairy tales. We will be continuing to use correct punctuation consistently in our written work. This includes capital letters for the beginning of a sentence and names, finger spaces and full stops.

Maths

In Maths we will be looking at the value of coins to 10p/£1, adding coins and finding change. We will also be telling the time to the hour and half hour so please practise this at home.

Topic

In topic we will be adding to our Monet inspired artwork to create a whole class piece and we will use our Monet timelines to begin a fact file of his life. We will be finding out and describing the basic needs of animals and humans, looking at special objects in Christianity and thinking about what causes arguments and how to resolve them.

Hockney

Next week in Maths the children of Hockney will continue working on their place value knowledge. They will look at counting on and back in steps of 2, 5, 10, 100 and 1000.

In English, they will continue reading the Ottoline and the Yellow Cat book. Using this book for inspiration, they will begin planning and writing their mystery story.

In computing children will learn how to log in and use Google Classroom. In this next session, the children will get to practise the different tools that they have access to via the Google Classroom, to help them carry on with schoolwork at home if necessary.

In science the children will look at Mary Anning and her importance to Science and our understanding of fossils.

In history they will look at the life of stone age people, and at the change from the hunter gatherer lifestyle to that of farming and agriculture.

Please note with regards to swimming, we have taken the decision to not resume lesson this term. In addition to the extra risk of travelling on a coach, swimming also increases pressure on staffing and in the current climate it is difficult to guarantee our ability to cover it. We will review the situation later in the term and make a decision about resuming lessons in the spring term. Additionally, on Thursday the 1st of October, the Hockney children will be taking part in a basketball sports event, so please ensure that they are wearing P.E. clothing on this day as well as Wednesday and Friday.

Hepworth

The weeks seem to be going by so quickly here in Hepworth class and we continue to feel very proud of the children for coming in each day so positively and ready to learn. There may be lots going on in the world at the moment, but the children are focussed, happy and working hard in class which we love to see.

English

Next week we are spending more time using the text 'Mission: Save Pompeii'. The children have worked well on the lessons they have done so far and we will be continuing this with work on planning and writing a non-chronological report to give all the important information to the people of Pompeii including sections on warning signs, what might happen, how to survive, etc It might be helpful to share information books at home this week in order to give your child as many ideas for layout and structure as possible. Our grammar lesson will focus on fronted adverbials and our spelling rule next week will be the suffix 'ly'

Maths

In the first half of the week we will be working on rounding numbers to the nearest multiple of 10. Year 6 will also extend this further and begin to round numbers to the nearest decimal place. Towards the end of the week we will look at prime numbers, square numbers and square roots. As ever it is really important that your child practices their times tables as much as possible in order to help them with their key maths skills. There are hundreds of games and apps available to help practice these!

Other subjects

In Science we will be taking our learning further and planning and carrying out shadow investigations to support the idea that the Earth moves on its axis. Fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Our topic lesson next week will focus on using maps and grid references to locate places in Greece. We will then compare human and physical features of the areas.

In RE we will look at what we can learn from the Buddha's life story after finding out more about Siddhartha Gautama this week.

PE lessons will continue with Mr Malik on Wednesdays and Mrs Wilson on Fridays. The children are aiming to improve their fitness with a circuits-based session each Friday - do encourage them to practice some of the skills at home too.

Our PSHE lessons will be covering strategies to respond to pressure from friends including online, and to learn how to assess the risk of different online 'challenges' and 'dares'.

Google Classroom and Homework

All children will have homework set on Google Classroom today that they need to submit by Wednesday. This is to be submitted online, not returned to school. We have used the system in school and everyone was able to access it independently.

The children have maths and English homework set for them, which they should spend no more than half an hour completing.

We also expect every child to read **at least** five times each week. Most of this can be independently, however we would encourage you to listen to your child read at least once a week and to ask them questions about what they have read to aid their comprehension skills. Example questions: ask what has happened, why, what they think could happen next, why somebody behaved in a certain way, etc
Spellings are being incorporated into the children's English homework, however it is important that they also work on words that they should also know. We would like all children to work on ensuring they can read and spell all the year 3 and 4 spelling words as an additional, ongoing piece of home learning. We will be testing the children on these at different times and must encourage every child to learn as many as possible by the end of term - these are available on Google Classroom. Little and often really is the best method here.

There is a section on your child's Google classroom that has important documents, specific to Years 5 and 6. Please ask them to show this section to you as it will be where we add documents that are for continuous work eg Year 5 and 6 reading list, spelling lists to learn by the end of year 6.

We hope that you have an enjoyable weekend.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via the school office email address if you have any worries or concerns. We are always here to listen.

Mrs Tillyer and Mrs Wilson

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

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