



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

I have had the pleasure of spending time in a number of lessons this week and have been impressed by the high standards of behaviour and attitude to learning from all of the pupils. The



children talked enthusiastically about what they were learning, and enjoyed the challenges set before them! The children in Hedgehog Class had a special visit from the RNLi, during which the children learnt all about the charity and how it helps keep people safe. The children saw videos of lifeboats launching, heard the pagers that alert the RNLi volunteers,

talked about the equipment they use and, most importantly, what they can do to keep themselves safe on the beaches or in the water. The RNLi will come back later in the school year to talk to the children in Key Stages 1 and 2.

As we head towards the midpoint of the school year I would like to update you on our latest attendance figures. Ofsted judges the school on how we compare to national statistics. For this academic year we currently have an absence figure of 3.8%; this is made up of authorised absences of 2.7%, unauthorised absences of 1.1% and compares to a national absence figure of 5.7%. Our aim this year is to have an average attendance figure at the end of July above 97%; currently this stands at 96.2%. Ofsted also measures us on

the percentage of children arriving to school late and for us this is any child not in their classroom by 8.50am. We have seen a rise in children arriving after this time, which can be unsettling for the children and the class, so please ensure you are here before 8.50am each day. Evidence supports that only a small drop in a child's attendance can have a significant impact on their learning; with this in mind please can I ask all parents to help us to continue to improve attendance. It is the school's policy to refuse

SPRING TERM
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Our Christian Value for
this term is

PERSEVERANCE

Our British Value for
this term is

DEMOCRACY



any term time holiday and the local authority may issue penalty notices for unauthorised attendance.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our example phonics lesson last week and the Year 1 phonics evening this week; we hope you found the sessions useful. My thanks go to Miss Hennessy for leading these.

Our next round of parents evenings will be held in March - more details will follow after half-term.

This half term we having been thinking about the Christian value of 'Perseverance', attached is a sheet you may wish to use at home to follow up on the theme.

This is our last newsletter before half-term so I would like to wish everyone a restful break. School resumes on Tuesday 20th February. Please note that Monday 19th February is an Inset Day and the school will be closed to all pupils.

Please find attached a parent information poster about keeping children safe when using music-streaming websites. Next Tuesday is Internet Safety Day, which we will focus on in school.

RED NOSE DAY - 15th MARCH

We will be raising money for Comic Relief on Friday 18th March. Children are invited to wear their home clothes on this day, with a theme of red if they wish.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY TIME

At Chew Stoke Church School we have a real love of reading and we want to instill this passion into our children throughout their years with us. One way in which we hope to do this is by having a daily story time.

Why story time matters:

1. Promotes brain development

Story time plays a crucial role in your child's brain development. When children listen to stories, their brains are hard at work trying to create images and make connections from the text. These mental processes help children develop their cognitive and language skills and improve their memory, focus, and attention span.

2. Builds vocabulary

Talking and reading to children helps build their vocabulary and language skills. Exposing children to a wide range of words during story time and using different texts, tones and expressions can expand their language abilities and improve their communication skills.

3. Nurtures a love for reading

Story time can also help foster a love for reading in children. When children are read to regularly, it creates a connection between books and pleasure, encouraging them to look for books on their own. By helping them develop a love for reading at an early age, it could lead them to be lifelong learners and readers.

4. Sparks imagination

Story time can fire up a child's imagination. When a child listens to a story, they are transported to a different world, where they create their own images and engage their

creativity. This activity can teach children how to be strategic thinkers and encourage them to come up with creative solutions to problems.

5. Develops emotional intelligence

Lastly, story time can help develop a child's emotional intelligence. Listening to stories that explore different themes, characters, and emotions can help children understand their own feelings, as well as develop empathy and awareness of other people's emotions.

How parents can help at Home:

In Hedgehog and Owl Classes children will be bringing home books for pleasure as well as their phonic books. Children in KS1 and 2 also have access to the school library where they can select books to take home. We are also aware that children usually have books they can share with parents and carers at home.

Top Tips for Story Time at Home:

- 1. Choose age-appropriate books:** You can select picture books or stories appropriate for your child's age. The books you select should not be too complicated for them to understand, nor should they be too simple.
- 2. Create a cosy reading environment:** You can choose a cosy corner or a comfortable spot for story time. Try to remove any distractions that could steal your child's attention. You can also create a calm atmosphere by dimming the lights or playing soft music.
- 3. Make it interactive:** While reading the stories, try to be interactive by using different tones, voices or expressions for different characters. You can ask your child to participate by encouraging them to answer questions or making predictions about what will happen in the story.
- 4. Discuss the book:** After story time, you can discuss the book with your child. Try to ask them questions about the story, what they liked and what they didn't. This creates an opportunity to develop their recall and language skills.
- 5. Use story time to develop life skills:** Story time is a great opportunity to teach children about values and life experiences. You can use the stories you read to encourage values such as honesty, respect, or sharing. You can also use the story to teach children about diversity, inclusion, and kindness.
- 6. Make it a regular activity:** Consistency is key. Make story time a regular activity in your child's routine. You can set aside a specific time for reading together, like before bed, or make it a special activity to be enjoyed together whenever you have a free moment.

Story time offers many benefits for children. It will foster a love for reading in your child, while helping them develop crucial life skills at the same time. We hope these tips are helpful and we are very grateful for the time you spend with your child to read at home.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

We have received a request to host two students at our school this June from a teacher training college in Switzerland and are looking for one or two lovely families who would be willing to offer them accommodation during their visit. The students will be arriving on 23rd June and leaving on 6th July and will make their own way to their host families, so they do not need picking up from airports. The students will be working in school as classroom assistants in literacy, numeracy, sport and foreign language lessons. Their native language is German and they speak very good English and French. The college can send male or female students depending on the host families' preferences.

Host families are paid £300 to cover their accommodation, breakfast, packed lunch and dinner (breakfast, lunch and dinner at the weekend). Having a student to stay is great fun and

mutually rewarding! If you are interested in hosting a student please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

THE BIRTHDAY BUS INITIATIVE

The 'Birthday Bus' initiative. This initiative allows you to apply for free bus travel across the West of England, if you live within the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority area or in North Somerset. It's valid for the whole calendar month of your birthday and available to all ages, so staff and students can take advantage of the scheme. The link for further information is:

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/bus/birthdaybus/>

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

The sports clubs run by Bristol Sport Foundation are now available for you to book online. The clubs are - Tuesdays Years 1 & 2 Dance Club / Years 3 - 6 Jailbreak and Thursdays Years 3 - 6 Nerf. More information and booking details can be found here:-

https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Chew_Stoke_ASC_Poster_-_Term_4.pdf

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY DRAMA CLUB

Chew Magna Baptist Church, Bristol, BS40 8SP

Tuesday 13th February 2024, 10am-4pm

£24 (plus booking fee)

Spaces available to school year groups 2 - 4 and 5 - 8

www.valleyartscentre.co.uk/Events/holiday-youth-drama/

"Everyone has the potential to be an amazing storyteller; some just don't know it yet."



Join us for a day of self-expression and imagination at our upcoming Acting and Devising Workshop! Enjoy playful group games, thrilling storytelling adventures, and the chance to hone essential acting skills. Take to the stage for a performance, receive supportive feedback and direction from industry professionals, and, above all, experience an abundance of joy. Book now for a workshop that promises creativity and fun! www.ticketsource.co.uk/valley-arts

ATTACHMENT LINKS

Further items of interest can be found by clicking the following links:-

Half Term activities at Wells Cathedral:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/202402_FHA_Saints_and_Songbirds_A4.pdf

Perseverance:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Perseverance.pdf>

What Parents Need to Know about Music Streaming:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/what-parents-need-to-know-about-music-streaming-apps-sites.pdf>

SEND Youth Participation Group:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/YP_participation_invite_6.2.24.jpg