



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to the spring term. I hope you and your families had a happy and restful festive holiday. The last few days of the autumn term were certainly jam packed with events and it was lovely to see so many parents and families joining us for our end of term service. Congratulations to Woodpecker Class for an outstanding performance and thanks to Miss Tyson and her team for all their hard work rehearsing and staging the nativity.

Although this term is relatively short, we still have a lot to fit in. Fox Class will be off on their residential trip to Mill on the Brue just before half term and we will be holding an information meeting for Fox parents on Thursday 29th January at 3.30pm. After half term we will be holding our Spring parent conferencing sessions; dates will follow shortly.

READING FLUENCY AT CHEW STOKE SCHOOL

At Chew Stoke we have a love of reading and we aim for our children to develop a love of reading too. In school we use a Phonics programme called Unlocking Letters and Sounds. One strategy this scheme uses to support children's reading fluency is the reading and re-reading of texts.

Reading fluency is what we are promoting through the use of our selected systematic synthetic phonics programme. Reading fluency is the ability to read with accuracy and automaticity, using the appropriate intonation and expression to bring meaning to the words within a text, and subsequently enable the text to make complete sense.

Children must develop fluency to decode, blend and spell to the degree that these are somewhat automatic in nature, freeing up working memory when words or background knowledge of a text is unfamiliar.

Fluency is best achieved through the re-reading of texts and can be most effectively understood through the acquisition of accuracy, automaticity and prosody:

- **Accuracy** - includes decoding and word recognition resulting in reading the words correctly. (This is the first read when you receive a new phonics book)
- **Automaticity** - requires accuracy and is effortless reading at an appropriate speed. (This is the second read of a phonics book)

SPRING TERM 2025/26

09/01/2026

Chew Stoke Church
School

School Lane

Chew Stoke

Bristol BS40 8UY

Tel: 01275 332354

www.chewstokeacademy.org

Headteacher: Ben
Hewett

Our Christian Value for
this term is

WISDOM

Our British Value for
this term is

DEMOCRACY



- **Prosody** - requires accuracy and leads to variation in volume, smoothness, pace, phrasing and expression. (The third read of a phonics book)



Unlocking Letters and Sounds has used research to develop a progressive phonics programme and, from this research, promotes repeatedly reading a text so that pupils are confident to decode and blend accordingly and can instead focus on the intonation and expression used. The cognitive demands placed upon pupils' working memory that underlie the development of reading fluency means that being familiar with the text itself enables

pupils to allocate their working memory resource from decoding to instead practising reading fluency.

All the books we send home are based on your child's recent phonics assessment and our expectation is children read for approximately 10 to 15 minutes per evening. Reading every day, without gaps between reading is the best way to build fluency. If your child after the first and second read is reading with some fluency, please start to model reading and rehearsing together the reading of sentences using prosody (expression) and asking questions to predict, recall key events/ open ended questions which will demonstrate their understanding of what has been read. If your child is finding the books tricky, as they will increase in difficulty throughout the year, please speak to your child's class teacher who will reassess where your child is placed.

We are incredibly grateful for all the reading you are doing at home and we hope this explanation about re-reading texts demonstrates the importance of re-reading to support your child's reading fluency. If you have any questions about our phonics programme or how you can further support your child at home please do get in touch with Miss Hennessy and she would be happy to help as much as she can.

PTA NEWS

Thank you so much to everyone for supporting the PTA Christmas Fundraising efforts. Whether you came to the Christmas Fair, visited Santa at our Salt & Malt Grotto, bought a tea towel or donated your time we are so grateful - every bit really does make a difference and together we raised £2,733 for the school. This money will go towards lots of things the school needs help with funding this year including a full new set of iPads for use in the classrooms.

We are in the process of confirming a date for a February 'Wear What you Love' Disco Party and an evening event just for grown ups in March. Please keep an eye on class what's app groups and our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1ANZth2Y72/?mibextid=K35XfP> for more info!

Need extra uniform for the New Year? Don't forget that we have lots of second hand uniform for sale at brilliant prices - all proceeds go to the PTA to support the school. Visit <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/chew-stoke-church-school>.

Thanks! Your PTA

SPECIAL MENU THIS THURSDAY!

This Thursday, 15th January, we are offering a special menu in place of that published on our website. The menu is-



BASKETBALL CLUB NOW OPEN TO YEAR 3s!

Basketball club runs on Fridays from 3.20pm to 4.30pm. It is now open to all pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Further details and bookings can be made on Get Sported's website: https://getsported.org/PaymentGroup/Registration.aspx?group_id=455054

VALLEY ARTS HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

Looking for something creative and fun this February? We've got two exciting holiday clubs lined up:

- **Holiday Dance Club with RISE** Tuesday 17th February, 10am-3.30pm, Chew Magna Baptist Church

- For ages 6-10 (Years 2-5). A full day of dance and crafts with friendly instructors—perfect for building confidence, staying active, and making new friends.
- **Holiday Drama Workshop with Harry Gould Tuesday 17th February, 10am - 4pm, Chew Magna Baptist Church** For ages 10-14 (Years 5-9). Explore English folktales through improvisation, devising, and performance skills in this one-day workshop led by a professional theatre director.

No experience needed, all materials provided—just wear comfy clothes and bring lunch, snacks, and a drink.

👉 Book now at ticketsource.co.uk/valley-arts

ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

B&NES Library Events w/c 12th January 2026:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/weekly12.01.pdf>

Parenting Programme March 2026:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Parenting_Programme_Poster_Mar_26-Keynsham.docx

Valley Arts Half Term Holiday Clubs:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/February_Half_Term_Holiday_Club.pdf

Special Menu 15th January:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/15.01.26 - Kids Choice Census - Burgers.pdf>