



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

The Festive season is moving closer and we are just a few weeks away from the start of our Christmas celebrations in school. Our Christingle service at St Andrew's Church will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. You will shortly be receiving a candle and collection envelope together with instructions for making your Christingle (spares are available from the School Office). Please do try to join us for this magical and very special

start to Christmas.

This year's donations will be split between the Children's Society and our partner school in Uganda.

Our partner school are currently raising money to build several new classrooms and we would like to support them with this project - more details to follow.

You should have received information before half term regarding our annual theatre trips. As a school we feel it benefits the children hugely to be able to see live performances. Children in Key Stage 2 will be

seeing a production called 'Wendy - A Peter Pan Adventure' at the Egg Theatre in Bath and children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will see 'Four Seasons' at the Bristol Old Vic. Both of

these trips do require parental consent; please provide this via Parent Pay.

**AUTUMN TERM  
2023/24**

**VOLUME 5 -  
10/11/2023**

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Our Christian Value for  
this term is

**COURAGE**

Our British Value for  
this term is

**THE RULE OF  
LAW**



### Dates for your diary!

#### Term Dates

- Term 1: 01/09/2023 - 20/10/2023
- Term 2: 30/10/2023 - 15/12/2023
- Term 3: 02/01/2024 - 09/02/2024
- Term 4: 19/02/2024 - 28/03/2024
- Term 5: 15/04/2024 - 24/05/2024
- Term 6: 03/06/2024 - 23/07/2024

#### November 2023

- 13/11/23 - Odd Socks Walk to School Day
- 15/11/23 - Hedgehog Class Trip to Wells Cathedral
- 17/11/23 - Owl Class Assembly
- 17/11/23 - Children in Need
- 24/11/23 - Badger Class Assembly
- 30/11/23 - Christmas Craft Day

#### December 2023

- 02/12/23 - PTA Wreath Making
- 05/12/23 - Fox Class Christmas Play 2pm  
Fox Class Christmas Play 6.30pm  
- Christmas Story Time EYFS/Y1 5pm
- 06/12/23 - Christingle Service 6.30pm
- 07/12/23 - Key stage 1 Theatre Trip
- 08/12/23 - Hedgehog Class Christmas Play 9.30am  
PTA Christmas Fair 5pm
- 11/12/23 - Owl Class Christmas Concert 2.30pm
- 13/12/23 - Key Stage 2 Theatre Trip
- 14/12/23 - Christmas Church Service led by Woodpecker Class 9.30am  
- Christmas Lunch
- 15/12/23 - End of term

Our annual Christmas Craft Day takes place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November; this is also a super day in school and certainly gets us all in the Christmas spirit. The children may wear non-school uniform; in exchange for wearing 'home clothes' we are asking children to bring in a bottle or box of chocolates, which we will donate to the PTA for their Bottle Stall at the Christmas Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are warmly invited to join us on Craft Day. It may be necessary to limit the number of parents in a classroom at any one time, so please only sign up for **either** a morning session or an afternoon session and we do require parents to leave the site during our lunch break. If necessary we will split the morning session into two parts. **Please sign up by 9am on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.** If you would like to help out on the day please sign up using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/BCSz3wuSbS>



Next Friday (17<sup>th</sup> November), we will be raising money for Children in Need - this will be a non-school uniform day. There is a theme of spotty clothes but children can choose just to wear non-school uniform if they prefer. Donations for Children in Need can be made using our online donation page - click this link:-

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=12399>

You can find all of our Term 2 events on the calendar section of the school website. Please do look as it is a very busy term:

<https://www.chewstokeacademy.org/calendar>



Today the children in Kingfisher Class led a beautiful Remembrance Service for their parents and the school. We were so proud of how well they all spoke, sang and the respect that they showed. Thank you to our Badger Class children who have been selling poppies this week; we will let you know shortly how much we raised.

A few weeks ago we were visited by Ken Biggs from Chelwood Bridge Rotary Club. The Rotary Club kindly donated dictionaries to all of our Year 3 children. Later in the academic year we will be supporting the Rotary Club by raising money for their emergency water box appeal.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a scheme that the school has been working very closely with since 2018. We are very proud that Chew Stoke Church School has been working with Modeshift Stars, a scheme that aims to promote safe, active and sustainable travel. Through this scheme we have aimed to improve the number of children cycling, scooting and park and striding to school as well as educating children about how to do this safely,



the health benefits of travelling in these ways and the positive impact this has on our environment. Miss Hennessy and the PE Council have been busy working towards their accreditations. We can proudly announce we continue to be a Platinum school, who have won both the local and regional school of the year awards for the third year in a row. We will be attending the England final in London in March. We think these accolades demonstrate the

school's commitment to promoting safe and active sustainable travel to and from school. We are incredibly grateful to our parents who continue to encourage our children to travel to school in a sustainable way and consider our Car-Free zone if they need to use the car, so they can park and stride.

E-safety remains a key part of the curriculum that we teach at Chew Stoke Church School. Each newsletter we provide parents with a handy guide to cover an aspect of this ever-developing area. Please find below a link to a handy guide to smartphone online safety tips.

### **SICKNESS AND ABSENCE REPORTING**

You will have heard in the news recently about the Government's initiative to drive up school attendance. We are now having regular contact with the local authority's attendance officers and one of the areas they look at is the reason for a child's absence. Could we therefore ask parents to let us know why your child is absent - the attendance officers will not accept 'poorly' as a reason, so could we please have a little more detail? Thank you.

### **GET YOUR BIKE READY FOR WINTER WITH A FREE DR BIKE CHECK**

We are delighted to offer parents the chance to have their children's bikes checked by a qualified cycle mechanic from B&NES Bikeability. The mechanic can check up to 10 bikes a day over 3 days so spaces will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Please note that Dr Bike is not a comprehensive bike service but an opportunity to get a free bike safety check, have minor repairs carried out on the spot, and receive a prescription that identifies areas which require further work. If done during winter, parents know their child's bike is roadworthy for Spring, Summer, and Autumn.

Dr Bike will be visiting us on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December during school hours. Bikes should be brought to school at drop-off time and collected at the end of school. Please be aware that the school cannot be held liable for the loss of or damage to your child's bicycle whilst on school premises.

To sign up, please complete the form found using this link by **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**:-  
<https://forms.office.com/e/8YzmzxxqgC>

### **CHRISTMAS STORYTIME - TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 5PM TO 5.45PM**

On the evening of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December Miss Hennessy will be hosting a Christmas-themed Storytime for all children in Hedgehog and Owl classes (siblings are also welcome). Children will be invited back in their pyjamas for a Christmas story with their parents, and a hot chocolate to truly get into the Christmas spirit! We hope activities like this will encourage a lifelong love of reading and will support parents in the types of questions that can be asked when reading with your child at home.

### **PACKED LUNCHES**

Here at Chew Stoke we pride ourselves on being a Healthy School. Our staff work incredibly hard to ensure that children are taught how to keep themselves healthy in mind, body and spirit - and this includes what they eat. Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of pupils, especially in Key Stage 2, bringing in packed lunches containing chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks. May we remind parents that these items are not permitted to be brought in to school.

Ideas to help with putting together healthy lunchboxes can be found here:-  
<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

## **ODD SOCKS WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November we are inviting children to walk to school wearing odd socks. Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. We want to take time to celebrate what makes us all unique and spread kindness, as well as travelling to school in an active and sustainable way!

## **VALLEY ARTS FRINGE FESTIVAL**

The Valley Arts Fringe Festival runs up until Sunday 19th November and there is still plenty to see for families including **Star Seekers** on 11th November [The Star Seekers - 11 Nov 23 - Valley Arts Centre](#). There are also lots of free workshops including circus skills, beatboxing and improv skills, plus a full day workshop on Shakespeare with Harry Potter actor **Rohan Gotobed** [What's Up with Shakespeare? - 12 Nov 23 - Valley Arts Centre](#)

Head to our [website](#) now for more info and to book tickets.

## **ATTACHMENT LINKS**

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

National Sleep Helpline - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/SC-078Flyer\\_Parents.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/SC-078Flyer_Parents.pdf)

Cook-It Cookery Sessions - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/HCRG\\_COOK\\_IT\\_Dates\\_Q3.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/HCRG_COOK_IT_Dates_Q3.pdf)

12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips - <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/12-smartphone-online-safety-tips.pdf>