



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

A very warm welcome to the start of this new school year. I hope you and your family have had a good summer. It has been a pleasure to see all of our children returning after the summer break so excited for the new academic year and their learning. This year we have twenty nine children starting in Hedgehog Class; I am sure you will join me in welcoming these new families into our school community.

I do place great importance on parents and school working together to ensure pupils are happiest and therefore make the most progress. It goes without saying that excellent attendance is vital. A gentle reminder that the government has recently changed the rules around unauthorised absences. Where unauthorised absence reaches 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) across any 100-day period, the local authority will, in the majority of cases, issue a penalty notice. As a school, we are keen to have open communication with parents and I would ask that if there are any questions, please do get in touch.

Thank you to everyone for being so punctual at the start of the day this week; a reminder that the gates will be open between 8.40am and 8.50am (please note that being late after 9am does count as an unauthorised absence). At the end of each school day, children in Years 3 to 6 will be walked around to the large playground to meet parents. If you have a child in these year groups, you are very welcome to wait on the large playground once the gates have been opened. This is a good time to catch up with teachers if you have a question or to book an appointment with them for another time.

Over the next few weeks, you will receive a curriculum overview sheet from your child's class teacher detailing the learning for the term up until Christmas. As per last year homework will focus on regular reading, spelling consolidation and times tables practice, with occasional curriculum development activities. This consistent approach across the school will help reinforce these essential skills and ensure our pupils are well-prepared for their academic journey. Your child's class teacher will provide more specific details about how homework structure will be implemented in their classroom.

AUTUMN TERM 2026/27

11/09/2026

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Our Christian Value for
this term is

COURAGE

Our British Value for
this term is

**THE RULE OF
LAW**



What a brilliant Village Harvest Home we had last weekend! It was wonderful to see so many families and members of our community enjoying this much-loved annual event. Our pupils were incredibly well represented, with over 350 pieces of their fantastic work on display in the show. A huge thank you to Mrs



Lewis, Mrs Priday and Mrs Yells for doing such a wonderful



job of carefully laying out all of the children's work and making it look so impressive. Congratulations also to Lola, who was delighted to win the award for Best School Piece - a fantastic achievement! Our PTA also deserve a very special thank you for their tremendous efforts in running the bars, organising the auction and helping with the after-show events. Their hard work has raised in the region of £3,000 for the school, which is an amazing contribution. We are very proud to be such an important part of this wonderful village tradition.

This year we will be continuing to focus on a different Christian value each term. This will be our focus for Worship and will also permeate into many other aspects of school life. This term's Christian value is 'Courage'. Shortly your child will be bringing home a sheet of ideas that can be worked on at home linked to the theme. We will also focus on a different British value each term, with the first one being 'The Rule of Law'.

School Clubs, which have not already started, will be begin from next week and more details of the clubs we are hosting can be found below. The clubs are:

Club	Day/time	Ages	How to book
Korean Club	Mondays 12.45-1.15pm	Key Stage 2	Pupils can sign up in school
Tennis Club	Tuesdays 3.20-4.20pm	Years 1 to 4	Link sent out to parents
Choir	Mondays 3.20-4.30pm	Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Fox and Badger	Contact the School Office
Multi Sports	Mondays 3.20-4.30pm	Years 1 to 5	Ignite Sports – See link below**
Yoga	Details to follow	Key Stage 2	See future newsletter for further details
Yoga	Details to follow	Key Stage 1	See future newsletter for further details
Sketching, Craft & Cookery	Thursdays 3.20pm-5pm	Fox & Badger (max 6 spaces)	See details in this newsletter for further information
Football	Thursdays 3.20pm-4.30pm	Years 4 to 6	Link sent out to parents. See link below ***
Basketball	Fridays 3.20-4.20pm	Years 5 & 6	Sign up on ParentPay

Please can we ask parents to let us know if their child won't be attending their booked activity for whatever reason, to save us having to chase up non-attendees.

PAGETICKER READING APP

On Wednesday a letter was sent out to all families about recording reading at home using our new reading app, Pageticker. Please make sure you read the letter and leaflet brought home by your child on Friday 11th September 2026, as these contain the key information, individual login details and instructions for setting up your account. Over the weekend, please download the app and use these details to set up your parental account.

Pageticker will allow you to record your child's reading, including books read, pages, tricky words and comments about their fluency, expression and comprehension. Please continue to listen to your child read regularly and talk about what they have read to improve their fluency, expression and comprehension.

If you have any problems setting up your account, Miss Hennessey and Miss Tyson will be available for drop-in support on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th, from 3.20-4.00pm in Woodpecker Class.

MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES



A reminder to all parents that, in line with new government guidance, mobile phones and smart watches are not permitted in school. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and needs to bring a mobile phone because they walk home independently, this must be agreed in advance with Mr Hewett and is at the discretion of the school. Please collect a permission form from the school office if this applies to your child. Where permission is granted, the phone must be handed to the class teacher at the start of the school day and collected at the end of the day. Simple fitness trackers may be worn, provided they do not have GPS or Wi-Fi connectivity. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school routines safe, simple and focused on learning.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our annual Macmillan Coffee event is being held on Friday 25th September in the School Hall from 9am to 11.30am. This popular occasion transforms the school into a place where you can meet and talk together, a great chance for new parents to meet each other and catch up on school news while enjoying a coffee and cake! The funds raised all go to the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. Parent help is very welcome for this event.



As usual, we will welcome your yummy cakes (which are always so fantastic). Please bring your cakes in on the afternoon before or Friday morning. This year we are also having a Non-Uniform day. Last year we had some fantastic raffle prizes; please could you spare a prize or two again this year? If your child wishes to buy a cake at morning break time and participate in the non-school uniform day please send in a donation to support the Macmillan charity.

SCHOOL CHOIR RE-STARTS FOLLOWING REVEREND IAN'S DEPARTURE

As you will be aware, we have had two very successful choirs running here for the last five years, led by Reverend Ian Mills. The choirs have been well supported and we would like to continue to offer this opportunity to our pupils. To this end, we have enlisted the services of Rachel Williams, who currently teaches keyboard, piano and singing to some of our pupils.

Rachel comes to us from WEMA (West of England Music Alliance), who supply all our peripatetic music teachers. In the past, our choirs have taken part in music events at many different locations in the area and we are intending that this will continue, including plans to take part in the Mid Somerset Festival in Bath next March.



Our choir will run on Mondays after school, from 3.20pm until 4.30pm and there will be 10 sessions, on Monday 21st September to 19th October and then Monday 9th November to Monday 7th December. Due to Rachel's availability, we will be amalgamating our two former choirs, Mini Melodies and Jubilee, into one choir which will be open to pupils in Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Fox and Badger classes. There will be a termly charge of £40 for 10 sessions.

Please contact the School Office to book a place for your child.

MODESHIFT STARS MONTH

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a scheme which 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 which aims to promote safe, active and sustainable travel. Through this scheme we have aimed to improve the number of children walking, cycling, scooting and park and striding to school as well as educating children about how to do this safely, the health benefits of traveling 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 have been an Outstanding school for 6 years, who have won both the local and regional school of the year awards 3 years in a row and last year we were awarded Local School of the Year and nominated for Modeshift Month School of the Year. In 2024/ 25 we were thrilled to win the National School of the Year Award for our work with Modeshift Stars. 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 are needing to use the car, so they can park and stride.

This September is Modeshift Month. Please keep an eye on your email and the school Facebook Page for activities taking place to promote Modeshift Stars and the activities taking place this will enable your child/ren to take part. We hope this themed month will encourage children to walk, cycle and scoot to school more frequently. Thank you for in advance for your support with our continued work with Modeshift Stars.

SKETCHING, CRAFT & COOKERY CLUB - THURSDAYS

Mrs Whitmarsh has kindly offered to run a sketching, craft and cookery club on Thursdays for pupils in Fox and Badger classes. The theme of the club is Seasons and will include cooking seasonal dishes (i.e. fruit crumble, apple cake) and making seasonal items using natural materials. There will be a small charge for the club of £5 per week to cover the cost of materials.

- Start Date: Thursday 17th September. Final session 12th November.
- Times: 3.20pm to 5pm
- Open to: Pupils in Fox and Badger classes.
- How to join: Sign up on ParentPay. **Limit of 6 places** - first come, first served
- Cost: £40.00 (8 weeks @ £5 per week), payable on sign-up

PTA NEWS 🌿

- We're kicking off the new school year with our PTA & Helpers Kick-Off Meeting on Wednesday 16 September, 6.30-7.30pm at Chew Valley Rugby Club. The bar will be open!
- Whether you can give 30 minutes a year or 20 hours, or simply want to come along and listen, everyone is welcome — and new faces are always encouraged. Come along, meet other parents and hear what's planned for the year ahead. No experience or commitment needed!
- And to keep the fun going, join us for our Skittles Night social at The Pelican Inn, Chew Magna, on Friday 2 October at 7pm. A great chance to get to know fellow parents and enjoy a relaxed evening together. £5 pp entry - message Nicola 07780 468304 if you'd like to come along. We'd love to see you there — bring a friend if you fancy!

ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

Family Support & Inclusion Day:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/5198.Family_Support_Day_Poster.pdf

***Football Club Term 1 (click on the words 'Football Club' to access booking page):-
https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Chew_Stoke_T1_Clubs_Poster.pdf

** Ignite Sports Club Term 1:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Club_Flyers_-_Term_1_2026-8.png

Discovery Days at WEMA Music Centres:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Discovery_Days_Flyer_Jan_2026.png

DJ Skills and Music Production:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/DJ_skills_and_music_production.png

Music Centre Instrument Lessons:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Music_Centre_Instrument_Lessons_\(002\).png](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Music_Centre_Instrument_Lessons_(002).png)

Pageticker Parent Information:-  [PT Letter PRT \(1\).pdf](#)