



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

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 Mrs Simmonds and her team for all their hard work rehearsing and staging the nativity.

Speaking of hard work, I must also congratulate our school choirs who not only performed a beautiful rendition of Silent Night at the end of term service but then went on to perform again that evening in Winford. Our thanks to Reverend Ian and Reverend Fran for their leadership and expertise and to Mrs Hope and Mrs Dagger for looking after our choristers during rehearsals and performances.

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 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm. After half term we will be holding our Spring parent conferencing sessions on the 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March - details of how to book your appointments will follow in the coming weeks.

I will close with news of two happy events in school. Firstly, we are delighted to welcome Sophie Yates back to Fox Class following her maternity leave after the arrival of Isobel. Miss Yates will be sharing Fox Class with Mrs Claire Mathieson, who has so ably taught the children during Miss Yates' absence and is staying on with us in a part time role.

Secondly, we have a new member of our Chew Stoke staff family as Mr Elliott Jones and his partner Amy welcomed their daughter Dulcie just before Christmas. Mother and baby are both doing well.

SPRING TERM  
2023/24

VOLUME 8 -  
12/1/2024

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Headteacher: Ben  
Hewett

Our Christian Value for  
this term is

**PERSEVERANCE**

Our British Value for  
this term is

**DEMOCRACY**



## READING FLUENCY AT CHEW STOKE SCHOOL

### 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

#### January 2024

- 02.01.24 - INSET DAY
- 03.01.24 - Start of Term 3

At Chew Stoke we have a love of reading and we aim for our children to develop a love of reading too. Last year we invested in 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. We have noticed that, although in reading records children have read books, they are not showing the fluency and understanding of the text they have read; e.g. they cannot recall characters or plot and they are still heavily relying on segmenting and blending. It is

so important children read and re-read texts, reading them a minimum of three times ideally on three consecutive days. If your child needs to keep a book longer, please do write this in their reading record. Some children may need more than three reads to become fluent with a text.

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)
- **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. 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.

### PHONICS INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 5pm - 5:30pm Example Phonics Meeting for Hedgehog Class parents in Hedgehog Class. Come and experience a phonics lesson with Miss Hennessy to get a flavour of how phonics is taught in reception. Please book your space via the school office on [office@chewstokeacademy.org](mailto:office@chewstokeacademy.org)

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, 5pm - 5:30pm Phonics Screening Check Meeting for Year 1 parents in Owl Class. Come and meet with Miss Hennessy to understand the Phonics Screening Check that will take place for all Year 1 children in June this year. Please book your space via the school office on [office@chewstokeacademy.org](mailto:office@chewstokeacademy.org)

### ARE YOU ENTITLED TO BENEFIT-RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

If you receive any of the benefits listed below, and your child attends a Bath and North East Somerset academy or maintained school, please register for benefit related free school meals.

Registration could attract Pupil Premium funding for your child's school, £1455 per Primary pupil and £1035 per Secondary pupil.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit **Run-on** which is **only paid for 4 weeks** after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



Apply online at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Email the team at [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)

Or call 01225 394317 - please leave a message if you reach our answerphone and we will return your call.

### SPECIAL MENU ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Parents of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should have received an email from Mrs Connell regarding our forthcoming Spring Census, which takes place tomorrow. The menu we are serving tomorrow can be found here [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Kids\\_Choice\\_-\\_Burgers\\_-\\_Menu\\_Jan\\_24.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Kids_Choice_-_Burgers_-_Menu_Jan_24.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/](http://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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/valley-arts)

### ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

Chorister for a Day at Bristol Cathedral - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2024\\_CFTD\\_flyer\\_sheet\\_sm.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2024_CFTD_flyer_sheet_sm.pdf)

Skills for Work - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Skills\\_for\\_Work\\_-\\_Volunteering\\_final.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Skills_for_Work_-_Volunteering_final.pdf)

Starter Strings Group at Hayesfield School, Bath - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Starter\\_Strings\\_-\\_Hayesfield.png](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Starter_Strings_-_Hayesfield.png)