



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 30th January at 3.30pm. After half term we will be holding our Spring parent conferencing sessions on the 18th - 20th March; details of how to book your appointments will follow in the coming weeks.

As the new term begins, we kindly remind all parents of our school uniform guidelines. Consistent adherence to the uniform guidelines helps create a sense of community and ensures a professional and focused learning environment for all our pupils. Our uniform guidelines, including detailed specifications and examples, can be found on the [school website](#). We appreciate your continued support in ensuring our children are appropriately dressed for school.

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.

**SPRING TERM
2024/25**

17/01/2025

Chew Stoke Church
School

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Headteacher: Ben
Hewett

Our Christian Value for
this term is

RESPONSIBILITY

Our British Value for
this term is

DEMOCRACY



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.

Dates for your diary!

Term Dates

Term 1: 02/09/2024 - 25/10/2024
Term 2: 04/11/2024 - 20/12/2024
Term 3: 06/01/2025 - 14/02/2025
Term 4: 24/02/2025 - 04/04/2025
Term 5: 22/04/2025 - 23/05/2025
Term 6: 02/06/2025 - 22/07/2025

PHONICS INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

30th January 2025, 5pm - 5:30pm Phonics Screening Check Meeting for Year 1 parents in Owl Class. Come and meet with Miss Hennessy & Miss Evans 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

CRICKET SURVEY

Chance to Shine is carrying out a pilot research project to understand how young people transition from school cricket to playing in clubs and the community and identify links between schools, and community and national cricket programmes. Please see the information sheet attached (link address below) about the research.

To help with this, they would like to invite parents of pupils who have participated in Chance to Shine cricket sessions at your school since September 2023 to complete a short online survey.

Please see the link to survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PathwaySomerset>.

The survey is anonymous and does not collect any names or identifying information and it takes 7 minutes to complete.

To show our appreciation for your support, schools with over 25 completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw where two schools per county will win one day of free cricket coaching. Also, parents completing the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five £15 Amazon vouchers! Thank you very much for your support with this.

If you have any questions about the research, please get in touch with Melda.Kahraman@chancetoshine.org

VOICE OF THE VALLEY - VALLEY ARTS SURVEY

This year, Valley Arts proudly celebrates its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of creativity, community and entertainment in the Chew Valley. From humble beginnings with just 10 performances in our first year, we have grown to a thriving local hub, welcoming over 6,000 audience members in 2024 alone.

Valley Arts is planning the next decade of creativity, innovation and community impact—and we need your opinion to make it extraordinary!

By taking just a few minutes to complete our quick questionnaire, you'll help us shape our programming to better serve you and our vibrant community. As a thank you for your time, you'll be entered into a competition for a chance to win one of FOUR amazing prizes including:

- A family ticket to any Valley Arts event
- 2 x Season Tickets to Yeo Valley Organic Gardens
- A voucher for The Community Farm
- A Hand Wash Refillable Discovery Kit from Neat

Your input will directly influence the type of events, workshops and exhibitions we create and ensure we build a brighter, more inclusive future for Valley Arts.

Click on the link to make your voice heard: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Y8CV62>

Thank you for being part of the Valley Arts community.

Laura Davies

Youth Theatre & Schools Coordinator, Valley Arts

laura.davies@valleyartscentre.co.uk [Valley Arts Youth Theatre](#) t. 07989 428794

ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

B&NES Health & Wellbeing FREE family courses:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Q4_25_Summary_course_poster_V4_with_DATES.pdf

Events for families at Wells Cathedral:

- Luxmuralis Space:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2025.01.28-02.01_Luxmuralis_Space.pdf
- Puxton Park Petting Farm:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2025.01.28-02.01_Luxmuralis_Space.pdf