



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Week three already and we are now really settled back into school life and of course some fantastic learning! On Wednesday the final group of our 26 reception children started school. Well done to the children and to the EYFS team for settling down so well - it's like the children have always been here.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our Harvest Service at St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke, starting at 9.30am. Parents are most welcome to attend. We are inviting children to bring donations of tinned and dry food (in date please) which will afterwards be sent to the Bristol Food Bank for distribution. Food donations should be brought into school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September.



A huge thank you to everyone who walked, cycled or scooted to school today for our **Team Modeshift** TravelWise Week Walk to School Day. It was

great to see so many smiley faces on the route this morning. Thank you also to our PE Council who came in early to help line the route.

A reminder that pupils are invited to wear items of clothing in traffic light colours tomorrow (Friday).



Yesterday was National Fitness Day. National Fitness Day encourages the nation to celebrate the fun of fitness and physical activity across the UK. Classes including teachers throughout the school took part in an online dance fitness session with Darcey Bussell! A lot of fun was had by everyone.

**AUTUMN TERM  
2023/24**

**VOLUME 2 -  
21/09/2023**

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Our Christian Value for  
this term is

**COURAGE**

Our British Value for  
this term is

**THE RULE OF  
LAW**



With each of our newsletters this year we will be issuing you with an online safety guide; this can be a confusing area for parents. This week's guide is all about setting boundaries for gaming - please do take a look at the guide.

### **REMINDER - BREAKTIME SNACKS**

May we please remind parents that children should only be bringing in fruit and vegetables for their snacks at morning break time. This is in line with Healthy Eating guidelines and also in support of our status as a nut-free and allergy-aware school.

### **IMPORTANT - FLOODING AT THE FORD - PLEASE READ**

After many weeks of fine weather it certainly feels like autumn has now arrived. I would like to set out the school's current position regarding flooding at the ford on Pilgrims Way and along School Lane.

### **MORNING DROP-OFF**

#### **ACTIONS BY THE SCHOOL**

Parents will be alerted by text if the Environment Agency have indicated a risk of flooding. If an alert has been sent out, then a further update will be provided by staff when they reach the school - typically about 8.15am.

Please note however that the river level can change dramatically in a short space of time.

If the river is high we will ask pupils in Badger Class and Fox Class to enter the school grounds via the vehicle entrance.

#### **ACTIONS BY PARENTS**

Until children reach the school gate, parents have responsibility for their safety.

If there is a risk of flooding, please ensure that:

- a) Your child is appropriately dressed
- b) That he or she is accompanied to the school gate
- c) That you follow the guidance from the EA regarding flood water (see below).

If in doubt - do not attempt to get to school and under no circumstances walk through water. An absence from school due to flooding will not be counted as an unauthorised absence.

### **DURING THE DAY AND EVENING PICK-UP**

#### **ACTIONS BY THE SCHOOL**

If access along School Lane and at the junction with Pilgrims Way has become difficult, children will not be allowed to leave the school unless accompanied by an adult.

There is no record of the school ever being flooded - the school was not flooded during the 1968 flooding - and therefore children should be safe at school.

The Breakfast Club and the Out of School Club will normally follow the school's decision on whether to open or not and will contact parents accordingly.

If the river is high we will ask pupils in Badger Class and Fox Class to exit the school grounds via the vehicle entrance.

## **ACTIONS BY PARENTS**

Do not take any risks in coming to collect your child. Your child will be looked after at school for as long as is necessary.

**Please ensure the school has your most up to date mobile number.**

## Environment Agency Guidelines

### **Stay out of floodwater**

- avoid walking or driving through flood water
- be aware that flooding can cause manhole covers to come off
- keep children and vulnerable people out of floodwater
- don't walk on sea defences or riverbanks.
- take care or avoid crossing bridges when water levels are high.
- take care crossing culverts as they are dangerous when flooded.
- look out for other hazards such as fallen power lines and trees.
- wash your hands thoroughly if you touch floodwater as it may be contaminated.

If you have any questions concerning any of the above, please contact Mr Hewett.

## **MEETINGS FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS IN HEDGEHOG CLASS**

Miss Hennessy will be leading two parent meetings this term to explain how we teach phonics, what a day would look like in Hedgehog Class and also to explain how you can be supporting your child at home.

On **Wednesday 27th September** at 5pm she will be leading a Phonics Information Session in the school hall. This will explain what Phonics is, how we teach it in school, some of the language and techniques we will be using with your children in our phonics lessons. We will also explain reading books and some resources which you can use at home to support your children's learning at home.

On **Thursday 12th October** at 5:30pm she will be hosting a 'Day in the life of a Hedgehog' in our classroom. This should hopefully explain our day in a bit more detail as we know some of the children will probably say we haven't been up to much! We will also talk a little about Maths in class.

It would be great to see you there. If you are unable to make the meetings we will be putting our Phonics slides onto the school website.

## **WELLBEING MEETINGS FOR PARENTS**

Following the success of our initial meetings last year, we will be continuing to hold meetings this year. These will be held on the penultimate Friday of every term, from 9am to 9.30am, starting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October our photographer will be visiting school to take individual photographs of the children and sibling groups, so please ensure your child has a clean jumper with them. Where there are pre-school aged siblings the photographers are happy to take family group photos; to avoid toddlers becoming fractious by being kept waiting these photos will be taken

in the school hall at 8.30am. Access for this will be via the gate to the large playground at the top of the driveway by School House.

A proof of your child's photo will be sent home shortly afterwards with details of how to place orders. Please note that you are under no obligation to buy if you do not wish to.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our annual Macmillan Coffee event is being held next Friday (29th September) in the School Hall/Large Playground from 9am to 11.00am. 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, so please do come and join us! 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 (please remember that we are a nut free school, so do check ingredients). Please bring your cakes in on the afternoon before or Friday morning. All children will be offered a cake at morning break time, so some individual cakes/fairy cakes etc. will be especially welcome! At the last coffee morning, we had some fantastic raffle prizes; please could you spare a prize or two again this year?

This year we are also having a Non-Uniform day - the children will be invited to wear non-school uniform in return for a donation to the charity. Details of how you can make a donation to the charity will be sent out next week.

#### 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

##### September 2023

- 28/09/23 - Harvest Service
- 29/09/23 - Macmillan Coffee Morning

##### October 2023

- 02/10/23 - School photographs
- 05/10/23 - Woodpecker trip to The Newt
- 20/10/23 - End of Term 1
- 30/10/23 - Inset Day

### BADGER CLASS VISIT TO LIFESKILLS

Lifeskills have created a fantastic realistic village which enabled our pupils to learn how to deal with difficult and potentially dangerous situations, in a safe and supportive environment. Badger Class learnt about road and railway safety, how deal with hazardous scenes set up in kitchens, living rooms and at a substation. They learnt some basic first aid and practiced making emergency phone calls.

Each year Lifeskills welcome over 10,000 children to the centre. Lifeskills is based in South Bristol, in the Create Centre and they are currently looking for volunteers to help take children on tours. Volunteering at Lifeskills is really flexible, fun and a great way to learn new skills. If you'd like to visit the centre and learn more about volunteering, call; 0117 922 45 11,

email; [volunteer@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk) or see the information attachment (details below).

### SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT FOR CHILDREN THIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON!

Bring your teddy bear for an adventure of their lifetime.

Bungee jumping for teddies off of the tower at Winford Church.

This Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 1pm to 4pm, pop along at any time: £2 per bear, per bungee jump.

Plus, teddy bear hunt inside the church - How many can you find?

Tea and cakes available and a fun raffle.

Go on treat your teddy to a fun day out!

### VILLAGE HALL PROMOTER AND FUNDRAISER!

Book your place for a delicious two course Sunday lunch by Bumblebee Foods at Chew Stoke Village Hall and (optional!) work up an appetite with choice of three different local, guided walks beforehand. One of the walks will be especially for families.

Adult £12

Child £6

OR

Book a table of 8 (adults or adults and children) and get tickets for £10 & £5.

Sunday 8th October

Meet at the hall at 10:30am and lunch will be 12pm-2pm.

Email [Chewstokecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Chewstokecommunity@gmail.com) to place your ticket order.

### UNICORNFEST FAREWELL



[Unicornfest](#) are hosting a Farewell Festival at Propyard on Saturday and Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September. See all the unicorns from the magical Unicornfest 2023 celebrations in one place! All 60 mystical unicorns painted by local artists and the 40+ foals painted by local schools around Bristol will be on display for the last time before they go to their stables. Spend time with all the amazing unicorns you missed on the trail, get pictures with your favourite unicorns, and see up-close the amazing details that have gone into creating these magical beasts. It's a great day out for the whole family!

There will be a DJ supplying the tunes, and there will be bar and food options available.

## **ATTACHMENT LINKS**

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

Teddy Bungee Jump - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Teddy\\_Bungee\\_Jump\\_Poster\\_2023.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Teddy_Bungee_Jump_Poster_2023.pdf)

Setting Boundaries around Gaming - <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/setting-boundaries-around-gaming.pdf>

Volunteering at Lifeskills - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Make\\_a\\_difference-.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Make_a_difference-.pdf)

Parent/Carer Café - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/soap\\_bar\\_Parent\\_Carer\\_Cafe-.jpg](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/soap_bar_Parent_Carer_Cafe-.jpg)

Courses for Parents/Carers of ASD Children - [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Overview\\_parents\\_terms\\_1-2.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Overview_parents_terms_1-2.pdf)