



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We have been very fortunate this academic year not to be impacted by the incredibly wet weather we have had. Safety will always come first when we have to deal with a flood situation. Should there be the need for the school to be closed due to flooding or snow we now have updated learning packs available on our website for each class. These can be found via the '[learning tab](#)'.

Back in September our PE Council and Miss Hennessy planned and led activities to support the Team Modeshift TravelWise Week. We are thrilled to announce that last week we received an email informing us that Chew Stoke Church School has been nominated for 2026 Modeshift TravelWise Week Awards in the category of Best Modeshift TravelWise Week Campaign-School. We will hear the results of this award at a ceremony in London later this term. A huge well done to the whole school for their continued commitment and enthusiasm with Modeshift Stars. Good luck Chew Stoke!



Last Wednesday, as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic, Hedgehog Class welcomed our local PCSOs into class. They explained the work they and the police carry out, how they complete this work and discussed the equipment they use to help others. The children asked lots of interesting and thoughtful questions during the session. The children's favourite part was being able to experience the lights and sirens up close. We lost track of how many times they screamed "AGAIN, AGAIN!"

A group of pupils from Badger Class and Fox Class were delighted to attend a talk and creative writing workshop earlier this week led by local author Jacob North. During the session, the children gained a fascinating insight into Jacob's journey as a writer and learned how he develops ideas and plots for his popular Ice Apprentice series.



**SPRING TERM  
2025/26**

**23/01/2026**

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Hewett

Our Christian Value for  
this term is

**WISDOM**

Our British Value for  
this term is

**DEMOCRACY**



Jacob shared how his characters and settings are created, and explained the importance of imagination, planning and perseverance when writing a story. Pupils were highly engaged throughout the workshop and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and try out some of their own writing ideas. It was an inspiring experience that encouraged creativity and a love of reading and writing.

Please note that pupils are not permitted to wear smart watches to school. This includes any watch or wearable device that can connect to the internet, send or receive messages, take photos, or record audio. These devices can be distracting during lessons and are not suitable for use in the school environment. To help children stay focused, safe, and engaged in learning, we kindly ask families to ensure that smart watches are left at home. Simple, non-internet watches are welcome if your child needs one to help tell the time. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us maintain a positive and secure learning environment for all pupils.

As we head towards the midpoint of the school year, I would like to update you on our latest attendance figures. Ofsted judges the school on how we compare to national statistics. For this academic year we currently have an absence figure of 3.6%; this is made up of authorised absences of 2.3%, unauthorised absences of 1.3% and compares to a national absence figure of 5.4%. Our aim this year is to have an average attendance figure at the end of July above 97%; currently this stands at 96.4%. Ofsted also measures us on the percentage of children arriving to school late and for us this is any child not in their classroom by 8.50am. We have seen a rise in children arriving after this time, which can be unsettling for the children and the class, so please ensure you are here before 8.50am each day. Evidence supports that only a small drop in a child's attendance can have a significant impact on their learning; with this in mind please can I ask all parents to help us to continue to improve attendance. It is the school's policy to refuse any term time holiday and the local authority may issue penalty notices for unauthorised attendance.

Our next round of parents' evenings will be held in March - more details will follow after half-term.

### **THE BIG SCHOOL BIRDWATCH**

Today children from Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Fox and Badger classes have been taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend by joining in with the Big School Birdwatch. In our Worship this morning Mrs Hope told us about the work of the RSPB. She introduced the project and explained how everyone can get involved over this weekend, by counting the number of birds in our gardens and submitting the results on the RSPB's website. Further details can be found here:- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> Thanks to Mrs Gauthier for organising our Birdwatch.

### **WOODPECKER CLASS CAKE SALE**

Our next PTA Cake Sale will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, with cakes provided by Woodpecker Class families. The cake stall will be held at the top of the driveway by the large playground, or under the covered area between Woodpecker Class and the kitchen if it is wet. The cake stall will be open at the end of afternoon school, so come along and buy some treats to start off your weekend!



## INFORMATION MEETING FOR FOX CLASS PARENTS

Fox Class will soon be heading off on their residential visit to Mill on the Brue in Bruton. There will be an information meeting for Fox parents on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm.

## PHONICS INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 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](mailto:office@chewstokeacademy.org)

## PARKING IN SCHOOL LANE

We have noticed that an increasing number of parents are driving and parking in School Lane at morning-drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. This poses a serious threat to the safety of our children. It also causes problems for our staff, as many of them need easy access to their vehicles during their working day and therefore have to park in School Lane.

All parents are informed of the arrangements for car parking during the induction meeting and we would please ask everyone to abide by these arrangements and keep School Lane clear of traffic during drop-off and pick-up times. Whilst School Lane is a public highway and we cannot close it to traffic, we can all do our best to keep it safe for our children.

## PTA NEWS

Booking is now open for our next 2 exciting events - the Pub Quiz and the 'Wear What You Love' Disco. Details of both events along with booking information can be found here:-

Pub Quiz:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Pub\\_Quiz.docx](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Pub_Quiz.docx)

'Wear What You Love' Disco:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/PTA\\_Disco.docx](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/PTA_Disco.docx)

## VALLEY ARTS HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

Looking for something creative and fun this February? We've got two exciting holiday clubs lined up:

- **Holiday Dance Club with RISE** Tuesday 17th February, 10am-3.30pm, Chew Magna Baptist Church  
For ages 6-10 (Years 2-5). A full day of dance and crafts with friendly instructors—perfect for building confidence, staying active, and making new friends.
- **Holiday Drama Workshop with Harry Gould** Tuesday 17th February, 10am - 4pm, Chew Magna Baptist Church For ages 10-14 (Years 5-9). Explore English folktales through improvisation, devising, and performance skills in this one-day workshop led by a professional theatre director.

No experience needed, all materials provided—just wear comfy clothes and bring lunch, snacks, and a drink.  Book now at [ticketsource.co.uk/valley-arts](https://ticketsource.co.uk/valley-arts)

## ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

B&NES Library Events w/c 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/weekly26.01.pdf>

Valley Arts Half Term Holiday Clubs:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/February\\_Half\\_Term\\_Holiday\\_Club.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/February_Half_Term_Holiday_Club.pdf)

Be a Chorister for a Day at Bristol Cathedral:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2026\\_CFTD\\_flyer.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/2026_CFTD_flyer.pdf)

Ignite Sport Half Term Sports Club:- <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/weekly26.01.pdf>