



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

It feels like the Festive season is finally upon us. Last Thursday our school community was filled with wonder and excitement as we celebrated a unique Christmas worship, connected virtually with our partner school in Uganda.



Despite being thousands of miles apart, technology brought us together for a truly special experience.

Children from both schools led the worship, sharing readings, singing Christmas carols and leading prayers.

The seamless connection through the live link was a testament to the power of technology, allowing us to bridge the distance and share the Worship together.

Our Christmas Craft Day is on Thursday 4th December. This is always a special day in school with a fantastic community feel; please note for this event we are unable to accommodate pre-school children. Children are invited to wear non-school uniform on Craft Day for which the PTA are asking for a donation of a bottle for the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair. If you have signed up electronically to help on Craft Day we look forward to seeing you on Thursday; if you are coming to the morning session please come to the school hall after dropping off your children, where we will be serving refreshments. If you are coming to help in the afternoon, please report to the school office at 1.10pm.

The PTA Christmas Fair takes place on Friday 5th December between 5.00-7.00pm. This is always a great evening and a brilliant fund raiser for the school. Please do come along and join us; we will also be entertained at 6pm with our school choirs singing a few Christmas carols.

AUTUMN TERM
2025/26

28/11/2025

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www.chewstokeacademy.org

Headteacher: Ben
Hewett

Our Christian Value for
this term is

PEACE

Our British Value for
this term is

**THE RULE OF
LAW**





On Wednesday 3rd December we will be holding our Christingle service. This is such a special event and really captures the spirit of Christmas. We really hope that you will be able to join us. The service will be held at St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke, starting at 6.45pm. More details will follow and will include how to make a Christingle.

This week I have had the opportunity to observe some of the Christmas play rehearsals that have been taking place. The children are busy learning their lines and the singing is coming along well. If you are coming in to see one of our plays or concerts you are in for a real treat! Details of how to book tickets (Fox Class & Owl Class) will be emailed out.

Thank you to Aoife and Henley who earlier this year raised money by taking part in a charity bike ride. The money they raised, along with funds from the PTA, have allowed us to have a range of fun playground markings installed. The children have had a great time over the last few days playing hopscotch, twister and trying their skill at a beanbag target game. The money also allowed us to have a new netball court marked.



We had great fun raising money for Children in Need last Friday; as a school we raised over £250 for the charity.



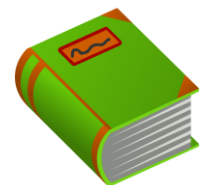
THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY TIME

At Chew Stoke Church School we have a real love of reading and we want to instill this passion into our children throughout their years with us. One way in which we hope to do this is by having a daily story time.

Why story time matters:

1. Promotes brain development

Story time plays a crucial role in your child's brain development. When children listen to stories, their brains are hard at work trying to create images and make connections from the text. These mental processes help children develop their cognitive and language skills and improve their memory, focus, and attention span.



2. Builds vocabulary

Talking and reading to children helps build their vocabulary and language skills. Exposing children to a wide range of words during story time and using different texts, tones and expressions can expand their language abilities and improve their communication skills.

3. Nurtures a love for reading

Story time can also help foster a love for reading in children. When children are read to regularly, it creates a connection between books and pleasure, encouraging them to look for books on their own. By helping them develop a love for reading at an early age, it could lead them to be lifelong learners and readers.

4. Sparks imagination

Story time can fire up a child's imagination. When a child listens to a story, they are transported to a different world, where they create their own images and engage their creativity. This activity can teach children how to be strategic thinkers and encourage them to come up with creative solutions to problems.

5. Develops emotional intelligence

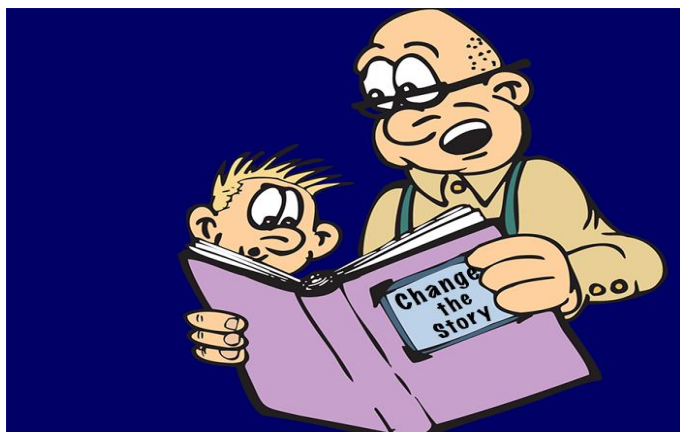
Lastly, story time can help develop a child's emotional intelligence. Listening to stories that explore different themes, characters, and emotions can help children understand their own feelings, as well as develop empathy and awareness of other people's emotions.

How parents can help at Home:

In Hedgehog and Owl Classes children will be bringing home books for pleasure as well as their phonic books. Children in KS1 and 2 also have access to the school library where they can select books to take home. We are also aware that children usually have books they can share with parents and carers at home.

Top Tips for Story Time at Home:

1. **Choose age-appropriate books:** You can select picture books or stories appropriate for your child's age. The books you select should not be too complicated for them to understand, nor should they be too simple.
2. **Create a cosy reading environment:** You can choose a cosy corner or a comfortable spot for story time. Try to remove any distractions that could steal your child's attention. You can also create a calm atmosphere by dimming the lights or playing soft music.
3. **Make it interactive:** While reading the stories, try to be interactive by using different tones, voices or expressions for different characters. You can ask your child to participate by encouraging them to answer questions or making predictions about what will happen in the story.



4. **Discuss the book:** After story time, you can discuss the book with your child. Try to ask them questions about the story, what they liked and what they didn't. This creates an opportunity to develop their recall and language skills.

5. **Use story time to develop life skills:** Story time is a great opportunity to teach children about values and life experiences. You can use the stories you read to encourage values such as honesty, respect,

or sharing. You can also use the story to teach children about diversity, inclusion, and kindness.

6. **Make it a regular activity:** Consistency is key. Make story time a regular activity in your child's routine. You can set aside a specific time for reading together, like before bed, or make it a special activity to be enjoyed together whenever you have a free moment.

Story time offers many benefits for children. It will foster a love for reading in your child, while helping them develop crucial life skills at the same time. We hope these tips are helpful and we are very grateful for the time you spend with your child to read at home.

We have also found some good websites which have lots of wonderful recommended reads and hope you find them useful when looking for stories to share with your child/ren.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/>

Mrs Bester (Reading Lead) and Miss Hennessy (Phonics and Early Reading Lead)

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME - THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 5PM TO 5.45PM



On the evening of Thursday 11th December Miss Hennessy will be hosting a Christmas-themed Storytime for all children in Hedgehog and Owl classes (siblings are also welcome). Children will be invited back in their pyjamas for a Christmas story with their parents, and a hot chocolate to truly get into the Christmas spirit! We hope activities like this will encourage a lifelong love of reading and will support parents in the types of questions that can be asked when reading with your child at home.

MODESHIFT STARS BANNER COMPETITION WINNER

Well done to Axel in Woodpecker Class, who entered our banner competition celebrating our National Award being won in connection with our work with Modeshift Stars.

The PE Council loved the illustrations and message being promoted by the design. We can't wait to unveil the banner when we are visited by the Metro Mayor later this term.

'BLING YOUR BIKE'

As part of our work with Modeshift Stars the PE Council are organising a 'Bling your Bike Day'. This will take place on the last Wednesday of term (Wednesday 17th December). There will be a prize for one child in each class and winners will be chosen by the PE Council.

Children can be as creative as they like, decorating their bikes with fairy lights, tinsel, stockings or creating their own props from cardboard. We have attached a photograph to get the creative juices flowing.



KS2 YOGA CLUB STARTING NEXT TERM

Yoga, mindfulness & meditation with Emma Hasell.

Moving and learning about our bodies through yoga and the breath.

Great tools to help with worries, sleeping, calming our monkey mind and cultivating awareness of the mind & body connection.

Sessions run after school from 3.20pm to 4.15pm on Wednesdays. To book your child in please call Emma Hasell on: 07817 467424.

ATTACHMENT LINKS

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

Music Production flyer #2:- [https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Music Production flyer -2.jpeg](https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Music%20Production%20flyer%20-2.jpeg)

DJ Workshop flyer:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/DJ_Workshop_flyer.png

WEMA Holiday Singing Days:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/WEMA_Holiday_Singing_Days_Flyer.png

Family Wreath Day:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Family_Wreath_Day_Poster.png

Santa & Sven:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Santa_-_Sven.JPG

PTA Jolly Jars flyer:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/PTA_Jolly_Jars.png

PTA Christmas Fair flyer:- https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/PTA_Christmas_Fair.png