



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been another great few weeks for sport at Chew Stoke Church School as last week we received a Football Association Equal Access School plaque. The plaque marks our achievement as a school to making a difference in young people's lives by providing equal access to girls' football in our school and has been awarded by Baroness Sue Campbell DBE (Women's Football Director).



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 learning packs available on our website for each class. These can be found via the ['learning tab'](#).

We're delighted to share some wonderful news with you all! Mrs. Baker is expecting a baby later this spring. We are all thrilled for her and her family and wish them all the best as they prepare to welcome their new arrival.

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 2024 Modeshift TravelWise Week Awards in the category of Best Modeshift TravelWise Week Campaign-School. We will hear the results of this award whilst we are taking part in the National Awards in London on March 27th. A huge well done to the whole school for their continued commitment and enthusiasm with Modeshift Stars. Good luck Chew Stoke!

**SPRING TERM
2024/25**

31/01/2025

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Our Christian Value for
this term is

RESPONSIBILITY

Our British Value for
this term is

DEMOCRACY



In Religion and World Views Hedgehog Class have been learning about the church as a special place for a Christian and the special events that take place there. Last week Rev Ian very kindly demonstrated a baptism to the class, so they could experience one first hand. We had some very proud parents and responsible Godparents who were taking their roles very seriously. The children asked some really interesting questions and were excited to name and welcome their baby to the church family.



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 4.0%; this is made up of authorised absences of 2.8%, unauthorised absences of 1.2% and compares to a national absence figure of 5.5%. Our aim this year is to have an average attendance figure at the end of July above 97%; currently this stands at 96.0%. 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.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Year 1 Phonics evening this week; we hope you found the sessions useful. My thanks go to Miss Hennessy and Miss Evans for leading this.

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

This half term we having been thinking about the Christian value of 'Responsibility'; a sheet you may wish to use at home to follow up on the theme can be found here: <https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Responsibility.pdf>

WORLD BOOK DAY - 6th MARCH

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. More details to follow after half term.

RED NOSE DAY - 21st MARCH

We will be raising money for Comic Relief on Friday 18th March. Children are invited to wear their home clothes on this day, with a theme of red if they wish.

INSET DAY - 24th FEBRUARY

A reminder that the first day back after the February half term holiday is an Inset Day, so the school will be closed to all pupils.

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.

BADGER CLASS CAKE SALE

Our next PTA Cake Sale will be held on Friday 7th February, with cakes provided by Badger 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!



SUSTRANS BIG WALK AND WHEEL

This year Chew Stoke Church School is taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. This initiative inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



On each day of the challenge, schools across the country compete with each other to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. Our school's best five days will determine final position. There are even prizes to be won throughout the competition.

We are taking part in this initiative from Monday 24th March until Friday 4th April and would love your help to achieve as many green journeys as possible. The PE Council are planning other activities to run alongside this competition and they will give further details in the up and coming weeks.

PTA NEWS

A big THANK YOU to everyone for all your support with our Christmas Fundraising efforts - together we raised just over £2,300 for the school which is a great start to the year!

All the money raised through fundraising events goes to the school - each year Mr Hewett and his team create a 'wish list' of things these funds will be used for. For example in 2024 PTA profits were used to help fund :

- new iPads
- Playground improvements
- new interactive whiteboard for hedgehog class

- Coaches for school trips
- Transport to and from swimming class
- White Rose maths books
- Blu Ray Player
- Coach-ability training for Badger class
- Christmas Theatre visits
- Kingfisher singing festival
- Year 6 Pilgrimage service
- Year 6 SAT's breakfast and trip to Bath Abbey

In 2025 we are hoping to raise money for more of the above plus some new chairs for the hall, renovation of the Spiritual Garden and some new markings for the playground.

Helping Out

If you have time to help please get in touch by messaging Anna (07968 790929) or Vicky (07930 842042) or your class rep. Being part of the PTA doesn't have to be time consuming - we are grateful for any time you can give. Perhaps you have a good idea for fundraising or a skill to share - we would love to hear from you. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

A survey will soon be sent out to all parents to collect views on fundraising activities.

Keeping in touch

Important posts will be pinned in each class what's app group so keep your eyes Peeled 🙄

Please follow the Chew Stoke Church School Parents Facebook page as this is where you can also find info about any events or reminders.

Friendship Dance Party - 7th Feb

Don't forget to book a place for your child to join their friends at our Dance Party on Friday 7th Feb.

Tickets are £5 and include a cupcake and a drink. We will also be offering FREE (eco!) face glitter and there will be balloons to play with and ribbon streamers to borrow. Our resident DJ Daddy Doswell will be playing the tunes and if parents want to hang out and wait we will be running a bar out of woodpecker classroom.

Key stage 1 (Hedgehog, Owl and Kingfishers) can join the fun from 4.15pm to 5pm. This is to ensure the small children are not overwhelmed by the big ones!

The Key Stage 2 disco will run from 5pm to 6pm..

Sign up using the link sent to class what's app groups.

THANK YOU for your support!

Your PTA

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

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:-

Swimming lessons at Hengrove Leisure Centre: https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Swim_lesson_poster.jpg

SASS Community Choir: https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/SASS_Community_Choir.pdf

Mendip Hockey Club Youth Sessions: https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/Medip_Hockey_Flyer.pdf

Be A Boy Chorister for a Day: https://files.schudio.com/chew-stoke-church-school/files/documents/BABCFAD_March_2025_Poster.pdf