



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome back to school after what I hope has been an enjoyable half term break for you and your family. The second half of the Autumn Term is always a busy time in school as we head towards the Christmas festivities. We are hoping to hold as many of our traditional Christmas activities as possible this year, however these will be subject to change should the Covid guidance for schools be updated. At the present time we are hoping to hold the following events:

- Christmas Craft Day - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Christingle - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December (6.30pm  
St Andrews Church)  
Theatre Production - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
PTA Christmas Fayre- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Owl Class Christmas Songs- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December (2pm)  
Fox Class Christmas Play - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December (2pm  
and 6.30pm)  
Hedgehog Nativity Play - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December (9.30am)  
Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Woodpecker Christmas Service - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

**AUTUMN TERM  
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Next week we will be holding the first parent conferencing appointments of the year. As you will be aware, this will be via a virtual appointment. We hope that you have managed to book your appointments. The online system has now closed, so if you have not yet made an appointment for next week please contact Mrs Dagger who will be happy to book you a place.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a non-school uniform day to raise money for the BBC Children in Need Appeal. We are asking for donations for the charity via Parent Pay.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

This year the school will come together in the hall for an act of Remembrance at 10.50am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. If your child attends a uniformed youth group, such as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows or Brownies, they are allowed to wear their uniform to school on this day.

Over the next week we will be selling poppies and wristbands in school. If your child would like to purchase a poppy please send them in to school with a suitable donation. The suggested donations for these items range from 50p to £1.50.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND PUPIL PREMIUM

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources in our school.

### **What is pupil premium funding?**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At our school we get an extra £1,345 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Extra one-to-one or small group support for children within the classroom.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work in classes.
- Providing extra tuition for able children e.g.in preparation for Year 6 SATs.
- Providing music lessons for children.
- Funding educational visits.
- Investing in resources that boost children's learning, such as laptops or tablets.

### **Is my child eligible for free school meals?**

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

### **Universal infant free school meals**

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

### **Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

### **How do I register?**

- Call 01225 394317 to make a telephone registration.
- Complete the form attached to this newsletter and return it to the address shown on the form.
- Visit [www.bathnes.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) to download and complete a form online.

- Email registration form or any query to [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)

### **More information**

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

### **WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**

As part of Road Safety Awareness Week we will have a walk to school day on Tuesday 16th November. School staff will be in School Lane and Pilgrims Way from 8.40am to support parents to walk safely to school on this day. We are also inviting children on this day to walk in odd socks to help raise awareness of anti-bullying.

### **DRIVING/PARKING IN SCHOOL LANE**

We have noted that several parents are regularly driving up School Lane in the mornings, in contravention of our School Travel Plan. One parent was recently spotted turning their car round by the ford at the entrance to Mill Lane; this is very dangerous due to the number of pupils who use the pedestrian entrance by the ford. If everyone abides by the Travel Plan and parks away from School Lane then we can make our journey to and from school safer for all.

### **REMINDER - USA CHALLENGE**

We are in the process of collating the first round of step counts. Please could you fill in the online form (available by clicking this link <https://forms.office.com/r/WsDmxhBZB9>) by Friday 5th November so the PE council can organise the data.

### **FORTHCOMING CLASS ASSEMBLIES**

Kingfisher Class will be presenting their class assembly next Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> November. The assembly starts at 9.10am but parents and guests should be seated in the hall by 9am. We hope you will be able to stay after the assembly to enjoy some refreshments.

Please enter and leave the hall by the large playground gate. Thank you.

Owl Class will be presenting their assembly the following week on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November and Badger Class assembly is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.