



# Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



## INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Our final few weeks in school are proving to be extremely busy and full of festive fun for our children. Last week Hedgehog, Owl and Fox classes took part in their Christmas performances. The children were brilliant and they should all feel very proud of what they achieved. Thanks to all the staff who worked so hard rehearsing with the children.



**AUTUMN TERM  
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Today the children have worn their Christmas jumpers and a special visitor (in a red suit), will be arriving this afternoon with a present for each of the children. The money donated today for wearing a Christmas jumper will be used to buy an iPad for our partner school in Uganda, allowing even closer communication between the children.



On Friday, we finish the term with our Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church. The service will be led by the children in Woodpecker Class. Parents of children in Woodpecker Class are invited to join us. Due to our current COVID-19 regulations we are only able to take Badger Class and Fox Class to be in the audience. We will be walking through the village and arriving at the church for a 9.30 am start. Please can parents sit in the central seats towards the back of the church.

On Friday, we say a sad goodbye to Miss Duffety who is retiring. I would like to thank her for giving so much to the school over the last 6 years and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Baker who is changing her role in school from January and will no longer be teaching Fox Class. Mrs Baker will be leading our

'Covid Catch Up' support and also working as a Teaching Assistant across the school; we wish her well in her new roles. Mr Elliott Jones, an experienced Key Stage 2 teacher, has been appointed to take over the teaching of Fox Class and he will join us later in the spring once he has worked out his notice period at his current school.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school, refreshed and ready for a new term on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** (please note Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January is an Inset Day and the school will be closed to all pupils).

### **BRISTOL SPORT FOUNDATION AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS - TERM 3**

The Tuesday after school sports clubs are now available to book. Details are on the attached flyer, including the link for making bookings and payments online.

### **BLING YOUR BIKE!**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who entered our Bling Your Bike competition today. Here are just a few of the entries! The winners will be posted on our Facebook page later on today.



## **MODESHIFT STARS**

This year we have decided as a school to renew our Modeshift Stars Gold Award status. Modeshift Stars helps us to consider ways we can further improve the amount of physical activity our children are taking part in every day. One of the ways we are going to increase physical activity is by encouraging children to use more sustainable methods of travel and being more active on their way to and from school. Modeshift Stars is a national awards scheme that recognises schools that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. We have already kick-started the year with road safety assemblies, Hedgehog Class have taken part in the Road Safety Week and we have had a Walk to School day. Throughout the year, with the help of our PE Council we will have competitions linked to cycling/ scooting, time spent in class teaching children about the health benefits of active travel and we hope to increase our Walk to School days. We will keep you up to date with our initiatives in our newsletter, on the school website and Facebook page and hope that all the children enjoy taking part.

Why do we want to take part in Modeshift Stars?

- Healthier pupils
- Safer pupils
- Involving the whole school community
- Reduce the number of cars and increase the amount of walking, cycling and scooting
- The generation of a School Travel Plan
- A National Accreditation

## **CHEW STOKE TODDLER GROUP**

We are delighted to welcome back Chew Stoke Toddler Group, who will be re-starting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in our school hall. Further details are on the village website at <https://www.chewstoke.org.uk/community/chew-stoke-baby-and-toddler-group/>

## **BIKE AND SCOOT TO SCHOOL WEEK**

Starting on January 10<sup>th</sup> we will be having a bike and scoot to school week. This will be kicked off with a 'Scoot-fit' day on the Monday where children get the opportunity to scoot to music and have ramps and other challenges in the playground (see parent letter attached). Children will need to have hair tied back if it is long but in a low ponytail to get helmets on; they will also need gloves, as it will be cold in January.

Throughout the week the PE Council will be counting the bike and scooter journeys to school as part of a whole school competition for a trophy and on the Thursday morning we will have a Bike and Scoot breakfast for all the children who journey to school on a bike or scooter that day.

## **UPDATE FROM THE PTA**

### **Festive Window Trail: Prize-giving, Mince Pies & Drinks**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm-6pm

Join us at window 12 (next to Bilbie Road playground) to hear the winning windows announced. Refreshments available, cash donations kindly requested.

The PTA would like to thank Mr Hewett and all the staff for helping us to plan and implement our fundraising activities this term under quite tricky circumstances.

We would also like to say thank you to everyone who has bought a raffle ticket, given prizes, signed up to Amazon Smile, donated wine or chocolates, paid for Santa's visit, bought a cake or Christmas cards, decorated a window or bought a trail map and supported our fundraising in any way. It all goes straight to the school and our children. Thank you so much. It's been a busy term and we really appreciate it.

It's hard to plan for events next year but we will keep you informed. In the meantime, we hope that everyone has a peaceful and wonderful Christmas.

Your PTA Team