friday 6th November 2026

NEWSLETTER

Chesterton Primary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! We hope all our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week and see them return with such enthusiasm, energy, and readiness to learn. As we begin what promises to be a busy and exciting term, there is already a real sense of purpose and positivity across the school. As you'll see throughout this bulletin, the weeks ahead are packed with enriching learning experiences, exciting trips, and many opportunities for our children to continue building firm foundations for life. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you and celebrating the children's achievements along the way.



Upcoming Events

08/11 - Anti-Bullying Week
09/11 - ODD SOCKS DAY
10-11/ 11 Parent's Evening
11/11 - Rememberance day
13/11 - Rowan Greek food tasting
13/11 - Children In Need
16/11 - SA Bake Sale Maple/Beech/ Ash
18/11 - Beech - Warwick Castle trip
19/11 - Rowan - Greek day at school
20/11 - Hawthorn - Black Country Museum
04/12 -Dress down day for donations
04/12 - KS2 Cross country Finals
07/12 - 08/12 - Elfridges
08-09/12 - KS1 Nativity
10/12 - Maple class Nativity
10/12 - Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park

Odd Socks Day:

As Monday is the start of anti bullying week, we ask that every child could wear odd socks to school on Monday if they are able to.

Families Survey

This year, we're partnering with The Engagement Platform (TEP), a research-led engagement tool that will help us better understand families' experiences by gathering valuable feedback from parents and carers.

Last year, only 38 parents completed the survey.
Let's see if we can beat that number this year!

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using the link below. It should take around 10 minutes and can be completed on your phone, tablet, or computer.
We want to hear from all families, whether your experiences have been positive or whether there are areas where we can improve. Honest feedback helps us understand what we're doing well and where we can better support our community.
Your responses will also contribute to a national study of parent and carer experiences. This research is conducted by The Engagement Platform and is completely anonymous. The findings help schools and organisations better understand and improve outcomes for families across the country.

Thank you in advance for taking part and helping us continue to improve.

Click the link to access the survey:

https://questions.tep.uk/chesterton

Before you begin:

- **You can complete this in your own language.** There will be an option to select your language when you start the survey.
- **You don't have to do this survey.** It's your choice. We encourage you to participate, because hearing from many different families helps us support everyone better.
- **More than one person can take part.** Each parent or carer in your home can answer the survey – we encourage feedback from everyone who wants to share their views.
- **No one at school sees your individual answers** - only overall patterns from all families together. There's no way for us to track who has said what.
- **This won't affect your child in any way** - positive or negative
- **You can be honest** - there are no right or wrong answers

Staffing Changes

I wanted to make the community aware of some upcoming staffing changes and say goodbye to some important people...

Laura Craig has decided to move on from Chesterton following many years of dedicated service to our school community. During her time here as SENDCo, Laura has supported countless children and families with patience, professionalism, and expertise. We are incredibly grateful for the contribution she has made to school life and wish her every success in the future.

Jo Hall has also decided to leave us. Jo has played an important role in supporting pupils, families, and staff during her time at Chesterton. Her warmth, positivity and dedication have made a real difference to the children she worked with. She leaves with our sincere thanks for all she contributed to our school community.

Megan Hawtin will be moving on to a new opportunity at Southwold School after Christmas. Megan has been a positive and supportive presence within our school community ever since qualifying as an ECT at Chesterton. She has built strong relationships with children, families and colleagues alike. We are grateful for her hard work, enthusiasm and commitment and we thank her for everything she has done to support our pupils. I know you will join me in wishing her every success and happiness in her new role.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Laura, Jo, and Megan for their service to the school and in wishing them every happiness and success in the next chapter of their careers.

Staffing Changes

We recognise that these changes may cause you to feel concerned about what our school looks like after Christmas.
We have now begun the recruitment into these roles in order to find the right people who embody our school values and we will keep our school community updated with any updates which we receive in order to be clear in how we intend to support our children into the future.

At the present moment, Mr Gratwohl will take the role of SENDCO to ensure continuity into the next stage of the school's journey - if you require anything from a SEND perspective, please ensure it is shared with him. Many thanks for your support.

School Council - Children in Need

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, we are again really excited to be raising money for Children in Need! As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Children in Need 2026 brings the entire nation together to do something amazing for children all around the UK. As always, Chesterton School Council has decided to get involved and help raise money for this incredible cause.

To do our bit and raise money, we will be...

SELLING PENS, WRISTBANDS AND PINBADGES

Between

Monday 9th November and Friday 13th November

Just £1

HOLDING A NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

On ***Friday 13th November***

The theme is 'Magical and Mythical'

Just £1

SHAKING OUR BUCKETS

On ***Friday 13th November***

Before and after the school day.

Any loose change is welcome.

PUDSEY DESIGN COMPETITION

Deadline extended to Tuesday!

Submitted by 9.00am - Monday 9th November

Maple, Beech and Ash – Design a new Pudsey bandana to match the theme of 'Magical and Mythical'

Chestnut, Hawthorn, Rowan and Oak – Design a new Children in Need Tee to match the theme of 'Magical and Mythical'

The winning design from each class will win a prize. Please use the attached entry form. All entries will also receive one point for their house.

50p to enter



Christmas Cards - The deadline for Christmas cards through class fundraising is Tuesday the 10th of November

Lost property

Lost property will be displayed on tables at the end of each school day. As unclaimed items quickly build up, any remaining belongings are regularly donated to local charity shops. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled and speak to your child's teacher if something has been misplaced.

School Association updates:

For all our school association updates and news of upcoming events, please follow the Chesterton School Association on Instagram and facebook.

Chesterton School Association

Chesterton CE School Association

Attendance

Maple: 93.3%
Beech: 95.4%
Ash: 97.1%
Chestnut: 97.4%
Hawthorn: 99.6%
Rowan: 100%
Oak: 93.1%

Parents' Evening

We wanted to let you know that parent appointments will be held on Tuesday 10th November (3.30pm - 6pm) and Wednesday 11th November (3.30pm - 7pm)

Appointment bookings are still available. If you haven't yet booked, then please log on to Scopay to do so.

Parents' Evening is held in the school Hall.
To meet the teachers, families will enter through the afterschool door to the hall and sign in before waiting for the teacher they are meeting to become availible.

Children's Hair

We have been made aware of a case of headlice in Chestnut Class. We would be grateful if every parent/carer would check their child's head and if necessary, carry out the appropriate treatment.

More information is available on the NHS choices website. Please use the link below:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

Can we please ask that longer hair is tied up in order to prevent the spead of head lice. Many thanks.

The reading raffle

Our reading raffle had 2 winners this week...
Oliver in Beech is walking away with a brand new copy of the Famous 5 and
Freddie in Ash is taking a new copy of Shifty McGifty home.
Keep reading to be in with a chance of receiving a free, new book from the reading raffle from Coles Books in Bicester!

Focus on Ash:

Wow! What an incredible time we had at the British Motor Museum in the final week of term! It was a day full of memory-making from walking down Time Road, to visiting William Morris' office, to role-playing on a 103-year-old bus, to having a ride in a car with no seatbelts, to moving race cars with only two fingers! It will be a day that we certainly won't forget. The children impressed us with their careful observation skills, noticing the subtle and big changes that have happened to transport overtime. Hearing their wonderings when riding in a 1950s car was one of my highlights, particularly when children questioned how to open the windows, where the air-conditioning was and what an 'ash tray' is! In addition to this, we are incredibly proud of how the children represented our school. After our visit, I received the following message from the museum: 'Both Jim and Sarah (workshop leaders) commented to me after the visit that your children were a delight to work with.' What a wonderful thing to read! Look out for further photos on the school website.







Safeguarding team

Just a reminder who our safeguarding team are - if you have any concerns, please come and speak to us:







Mrs Salter ***Mr Gratwohl***

Miss Norman



Parents' evening Jargon-Buster

With Parents' Evening taking place next week, we wanted to share some of the terminology you may hear during discussions with your child's teacher. Our aim is to ensure you feel confident and clear about the language being used when talking about your child's progress.

Over the summer, we reviewed the assessment language used across the school. These changes were made to align more closely with national expectations and government terminology, while also providing greater clarity for parents.

Assessment Judgements

Children are assessed using the following categories:

- BLW (Below) - Working below the expected standard for their year group.
- WTS (Working Towards Standard) - Working towards the expected standard for their year group.
- EXP (Expected Standard) - Working at the expected standard for their year group.
- GDS (Greater Depth Standard) - Working beyond the expected standard for their year group and demonstrating a deeper understanding of the curriculum.

Other Terms You May Hear

You may hear phrases such as "your child is working at the expected standard" or "your child is close to the expected standard." This means they are either meeting, or are close to meeting, the learning expectations for their year group.

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception).

If you are unsure about any terminology used during Parents' Evening, please do ask your child's teacher, who will be happy to explain further.

Parking and Road Safety

It has been reported to the school that parking around the school has become, at times, unsafe and inconsiderate. We recognise that parking is at a premium and that many of our families travel from outside the village. However, we kindly ask that, if you do drive, you park safely and considerately, showing respect for our neighbours and the wider community. Please allow plenty of time for drop-off and pick-up. If parking further away means you arrive a few minutes later than planned, we are happy to supervise children for a short additional period if it helps to keep our community safe. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone around our school.

School Logo

We are excited to launch a competition to design a new logo for Chesterton CE Primary School, and we would love our whole school community to get involved!

Our current logo has served us well for many years, but we feel it is time for a fresh look that better reflects who we are today. We are looking for a design that is clear, simple and memorable, while capturing the values, ethos and unique character of our school.

Over the coming weeks, we will be inviting children to share their ideas and designs in school. However, this competition is open to everyone in our community. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, former pupil, local resident or friend of the school, we would love to see your ideas.

As you think about your design, consider what makes Chesterton special, including our Christian vision of "Building Firm Foundations for Life", our values, our history, our strong sense of community or aspect of the school or village's history.

The winning design will help inspire the development of our new school branding and may influence our future logo, signage, uniforms and communications.

If you have a creative streak or an idea to offer, please send any ideas into the school office by the end of November for consideration. We are happy to accept paper, photos or online submissions.
If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Mr Gratwohl, Miss Salter or a member of the office team for more details.






Wrap-Around Care
Theme Days!
Breakfast Club
Superhero Breakfast
Superhero- Design your own Medal
Around the world- Italy
Treehouse
Science experiment- Slime
Suprise activity- Treasure Hunt
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