20 July 2026 6.8

Chew Magna Primary School Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

21st July- 2pm Y6 Leavers assembly-families welcome

22nd July-last day of term/non-uniform

7th September- first day of the new school year

As we reach the end of the school year, I would like to congratulate the children for the kindness and consideration they show each other, for their hard work and the progress they have made. We are really proud of them.

Thank you to the staff team for their continued hard work across the year and also to our Play Leaders, Friends Committee and Local Governing Committee for their valuable input into our school.

I hope you all have a great summer.

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

Each week, members of staff nominate children for praise certificates if they have tried hard in an area of learning. These certificates are given out during Celebration Assemblies on Fridays.

The children who received praise certificates last week were:

Kestrel: Connie, Ollie
Sparrowhawk: Harry, Dollie, Jackson
Buzzard: Freddie, Jarvis
Golden Eagle: Daisy, Dakshya, Whole Class!

SPELLING SHED BEES: Beau, Bonnie, Charlie, Harry H, Indi, Jarvis, Lara, Rosa, Charlotte, Emily, Freddie D-J, Luna, Reggie, Rory A, Thomas, William C, Zoe, Freddie B, Evelyn, Elodie, Alfie, Amelie, Penny, William R, Nico, Bertie

GREEN ZONE DOODLERS: Albert, Connie, Eti, Harlie, Hallie, Winston, Evelyn, Elodie, Rowan, Alfie, Quinn, Douglas, Amelie, Harry G, Penny, Mabel, Isabel, Nico, Bertie, Jamie, Elsa, Rosa, Jarvis, Bonnie R, Indi, Lara, Amira, Rory A, Luna, Clara, Thomas, Charlotte, Reggie, Emily

FOREVER TREASURE ISLAND SUCCESS

A HUGE well done to the children in Golden Eagle Class for their brilliant performances in Forever Treasure Island last Tuesday, the audiences for both shows left very impressed. Well done to Buzzard Class for their singing. So much hard work and time went into this performance and that hard work really paid off!
Thank you to the staff team for their hard work, to Katherine Holder for the wonderful costumes and to Will Terran for the amazing backboard.
Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event and to Friends for running the bar.

IN THE HOT WEATHER

Please put sunscreen on your child before they come to school and send them with a hat/cap/sunglasses and a full water bottle. We will ensure they keep hydrated and top the water bottles up across the school day.
Please ensure all fleeces/jumpers/cardigans etc stay at home this week. Children can wear shorts and school t-shirt/ summer school dresses. Please avoid sandals without socks as toes can get hurt when playing in school.

STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR:

Kestrel Class- Miss Blackmore with Mrs Langdon (Mon- Wed am) + Mrs Offer (Thurs,Fri am)
Sparrowhawk Class- Mrs Abbott (Mon- Thurs) Miss Burford (Friday) with Mrs Treble (Mon-Thurs am)
Buzzard Class- Miss Burford (Mon-Wed) Mrs Webber (Thurs, Fri) with Mrs Ruston (Mon-Fri am)
Golden Eagle Class- Mrs Ward with Miss Clarke (Mon - Fri am)

NEW BOILER

The Trust have obtained a grant for the school to have a new boiler over the summer- which means efficient heating next winter!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB-LAST DAY OF TERM

ASC will only run until 4.30pm on Wednesday 22nd July. There are currently low numbers for this date so please let the office know if you do not need your ASC place on Wednesday.

PARENTPAY/SMARTKITCHEN BALANCES

We still have a lot of outstanding debt for Breakfast Club, After School Club, Football Club (Terms 5 & 6) and Holiday Club. Please ensure that any balances are paid off by this Wednesday lunchtime at the latest as parents with outstanding debt will not be able to rebook these clubs for next year. Please do contact the school office if you need to discuss your payments.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Mrs Ruston and Miss Clarke will be running 9 days of Summer Holiday Club 27th-30st July and 3rd-7th August.

The timings are 8.30am -4.30pm. Please be punctual in picking your child up at the end of the day as late pick up will incur additional charges.

STAFF GIFTS

As part of our focus on affordability, we have been looking at the different times when families spend money on school. The Trust are clear that under DFE rules, staff cannot accept vouchers or gift voucher equivalents as gifts.

Whilst we appreciate that some families give staff small gifts as a token of their appreciation at the end of the school year, we wanted to clarify that there is no expectation to do so. Staff appreciate a card from a child/family as much as a gift.

NED'S FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

Last year Ned (currently in Y4) raised over £750 for the National Autistic Society by doing a 2km litter pick run every day of August.

This year, Ned will be raising money for The Haemophilia Society, something he wanted to do to support his classmate!

He is planning on running six peaks in six weeks. He is challenging himself to run the highest peaks in many counties, from Cornwall up to Wales and the Peak district beyond. Please donate whatever you can, to spur him on.

CHANGE TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

We would like to make you aware of some important changes to Free School Meal eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026.

The Government has announced that, from September, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household income.

This means that some families who may not previously have qualified could be entitled to receive Free School Meals for their child.

If you currently receive Universal Credit, we encourage you to check your eligibility and, if appropriate, apply for Free School Meals. Even if your child already receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, registering for Free School Meals may provide additional support and funding for the school.

If you believe your child may now be eligible, or if your circumstances have changed recently, please contact the school office for further information on how to apply.

If you are unsure about whether you qualify, we encourage you to apply. This can be done easily, quickly and confidentially.

If you would like help with the application please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Valley Arts' fabulous "A Play in a Week" Youth Theatre Summer Camp is back!

Once again led by experienced writer and director Toby Hulse, of Roustabout Theatre, this week-long holiday club is designed for young people aged 7 to 14. Throughout the week they will play games, have fun and learn a range of theatre skills from a professional theatre maker; including improvisation, storytelling and devising. Using these skills they then create their own play from scratch, which they perform to an audience of family and friends on the final day!

Valley Arts "A Play in a Week" Summer Camp
Mon 10th – Fri 14th August 2026 • 10am – 4pm every day
Chew Magna Baptist Church, BS40 8SP Link to book - Youth Holiday Clubs - Valley Arts Centre

End of year message from the Friends of CMPS

Thank you to everyone for your support with all of the Friends fundraising activities over the year, and to everyone who has volunteered or supplied random items to make everything we've done a success.

As many of you know, our amazing Friends/PTA Chair, Liz Rose, is stepping down at the end of this school year after years of dedication, creativity and commitment. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Liz for everything she has done for our school community and all the time and effort she has spent leading the Friends over the past few years.

We are now looking for new volunteers to help lead the Friends. Without people stepping forward, there is a real risk that the committee won't be able to continue.

The Friends is about much more than fundraising – it's about bringing our school community together and creating extra opportunities and resources for all of our children.

Last year the Friends/PTA raised an incredible £16,000. This funded everything from essential classroom subscriptions to fresh new playground markings, a spruce up of the field, giant chess pieces and new sets of the ever popular construction blocks. The children will soon also be enjoying a fantastic new playhouse. We'd love to keep creating these opportunities for all of our children—but we need your help to make it happen.

We're looking for:
⭐ *PTA Leads/Chair*
• Two people to share the role across the year, or
• One lead per school term (with a short handover). The January–Easter term is potentially already covered, so we're particularly looking for volunteers for the other two terms.

We're also looking for more volunteers who can help with event planning, fundraising, baking/ cooking/BBQ, creative ideas, sponsorship, or simply lending a hand at events. Every skill is valuable, and even if you can only help with one event, we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need any previous experience—just enthusiasm and a willingness to help. By sharing the workload, no one person or small group has to do everything. There are plenty of templates and support already in place, or, if you'd prefer, this is a fantastic opportunity to bring your own ideas and help shape the future of the Friends.

While these roles have traditionally been filled by school mums, we'd love to encourage more dads to get involved too. We're also very happy to welcome grandparents, other family members, friends or neighbours who would like to support the school community.

If you'd like to find out more or have an informal chat about what's involved, please get in touch with Annie, who will pass Kirstin's and Charlotte's numbers on so you can find out more.

FINDER'S KEEPERS

Mrs Abbott and I went to see Finder`s Keepers at Yeo Valley Gardens yesterday- it was great to see Obi, as well as other former pupils perform so well (special mention to Laura Davies and Sam Auden too!)

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

We do not authorise term time holidays and request that all family holidays take place within the time frame of the school holidays.
If families take more than 5 days unauthorised term time holiday, we can apply for a fixed penalty – the proceeds from which goes to BANES, not to the school.

While some parents may be confident that their children individually won't "suffer" too much by missing school, in fact the impact can be more significant than we might think. Not only do the children miss lessons themselves, but teachers and teaching assistants do very often have to spend extra time supporting them when they return.
This inevitably impacts on other children in the class, even though they were not the ones who took the holiday.

Also, when children go on term time holidays – even for a day or two - they miss part of a sequence of lessons. This means the quality of the learning that they do receive when they return is impaired.

. A pupil's unauthorised absence from school could result in one of the following:

1. A penalty notice. The penalty is £80 per parent per child payable within 21 days, or £160 per parent per child if paid between 22 and 28 days.

With a first penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3 year period, to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the penalty is £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.

Prosecution : a third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child **within 3 years** of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third **time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.**

Please see the attached flyers for **Life Drawing sessions and Chew Magna Writer's Room** sessons that will be running in the village.

Happy birthday this week and over the holidays to...

Joseph (11), William S (11), Mo (10), Bonnie B (10), Rudy (10), Griff (9), Ruby (9), Clara (9), Colette (9), Amelie (7), Quinn (7), Douglas (7), Penny (7), William R (7), Nico (7), Bertie (7), Akira (5)