Monday 5th October 2026 1.5

Chew Magna Primary School Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

15th October
Spooky Disco 5:15-6:45pm
23rd October
INSET Day
26 - 30 October
half term
4th November-
individual/sibling photos
w/b 9th November-
Individual Learning Reviews Y1-6
11th November-
Remembrance in St Andrew's Church
Friday 13th November
Children In Need
w/b 16th November-Anti-Bullying Week
Wed 25th November-Movie Night

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: Louie, Zennor, Edie
Sparrowhawk: Ollie, Dollie, Hendrix
Buzzard: Amelie, William C, Mabel
Golden Eagle: Victoria, Jarvis, Bonnie, All of Golden Eagle

DOODLE MATHS TROPHY: The class with the highest percentage of children achieving stars this week is Sparrowhawk class with 68%.

NETBALLERS OF THE WEEK: Nico, Isabel

HOCKEY PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Hector, Penny

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT
We have reviewed our parental code of conduct which has been designed to ensure a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and families. This can be found on our school website: https://www.chewmagna.bathnes.sch.uk/Parent-Code-of-Conduct/

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
Thank you to everyone who came to support our Macmillan Coffee Morning. All proceeds will go directly to Macmillan. Thank you to Marie Clarke for organising it.

Y1-6 STANTON DREW STONE CIRCLE TRIP SUCCESS

The children in Y1-6 went on a walk to the Stanton Drew Stone circles last Wednesday and learned about the history of the circle. The children had a great time and were brilliant. Thank you to: Holly Bird, Helen Buttanshaw, Nick Goldsmith and Vicky Boniface for coming along to help and to Zoe Abbott for organising it.

CELEBRATING DOODLE MATHS

Thank you to the parents and children who shared their feedback at our Doodle Maths Coffee Morning last Friday. We have listened carefully and are making some changes to the way we celebrate Doodle Maths achievements in school.

From now on:

- Weekly Stars: Children who achieve their weekly star target and reach the Green Zone will receive a special clap in Celebration Assembly.
- Beat Last Week: If we beat the number of children who reached the Green Zone the previous week, all the children who achieve their target that week will receive 5 extra minutes of playtime.
- Doodle Trophy: The class with the highest percentage of children achieving their weekly stars will be awarded the Doodle Trophy for the week.
- Class Star Challenge: Each class will choose their own class reward that they can work towards together by collecting stars. For example, a class might decide, "If we earn 50 stars together, we will have some extra playtime." This gives every child the opportunity to contribute towards a shared class goal.
- Dojo Points: Children will continue to receive Dojo points for completing assignments set by their teacher. These assignments are carefully selected to link closely with the maths learning taking place in class that week.

We hope these changes will put the focus on effort, progress and working together, while continuing to encourage children to use Doodle Maths regularly.

Thank you again to everyone who attended our coffee morning and shared their thoughts. We really value your feedback and appreciate your continued support.

Zoe Abbott

PRE LOVED UNIFORM

There is now a new rail in the lobby with a wide range of good quality uniform for you to buy.

We have a good amount of school uniform in school to fit all age ranges and sizes, ranging from 3-4 years to 12 years. There are coats and football boots, shoes and the range of school uniform. The Friends Committee work really hard to organise this- please come and look at the rail in the lobby and we have more boxes stored away- let either Philippa Tofts or Anna Langdon know if you are looking for something but are unable to find it on the rail.

ILLNESS

If your child has diarrhoea/sickness please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last episode to prevent infection of other children.

If your child is feeling a bit under the weather, please send them into school. We can give them Calpol with your permission.

If your child needs medicines administering in school, please ask the office for a medication administration form to complete.

FRIENDS UPDATES:

Spooky Disco

Our first event of the year is the Spooky Disco on Wednesday 15th October! Tickets will be available to purchase via Zeffy. This is a new ticketing system that we are trialling for this year's Spooky Disco. It doesn't charge us commission and also allows us to scan tickets at the door.
Tickets are available here:
Buy Spooky Disco Tickets

Over the next few weeks, our Uniform Team will also be putting out a selection of pre-loved Halloween costumes to purchase. If you have any costumes that your children have outgrown or no longer use, we would be very grateful for donations to our uniform shop.

A big thank you to our Year 6 (& year 5) bakers for their delicious contributions to last Friday's cake sale. There were some wonderful bakes, and we're very grateful to everyone who contributed.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated school uniform to the Friends' second-hand uniform shop. We've received lots of generous donations and have plenty to sort through, so we would be grateful if you could pause any further donations for the time being.

We're busy preparing for this year's Christmas raffle and are looking for prize donations from businesses connected to our parent community. Prizes could include a bottle of champagne, vouchers or other treats. If you run a business or could help secure a prize through your workplace, please get in touch with your class rep. Every contribution is greatly appreciated.

ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP OFFER

"Keeping your child safe online" session will take place on Tuesday 6 October, from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm, with Child Exploitation Prevent and Coordinator Officer Andri Nicolaou. Book your place via the links at the bottom of this email.

Andri will share information, advice and tips to help parents and carers create a safer digital space for children and young people. The session will explore the different forms, exploitation can take, the warning signs to look out for, the practical steps they can take to help protect young people online and how to reach out for help.

Child exploitation is often subtle, gradual, and may hide in plain sight. It can happen online, in public spaces or through friendships - and it can affect any child.
To sign up for one of the sessions (which people can join without turning their cameras on or speaking) visit:

BOOK NOW - 06th October 2026 - 13:00 till 14:30
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-keeping-your-child-safe-online-from-grooming-and-exploitation-tickets-1992620730244

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. office@chewmagnaschool.org.uk

UPCOMING CHEW VALLEY ARTS EVENTS:

Yara in the Wild Wood

Sun 11th Oct, 2.30pm

Compton Martin Village Hall

A wild and wonderful adventure for ages 3–8, brought to life with puppetry, non-verbal storytelling and original music. Follow Yara as she navigates the woods, faces new challenges and discovers the unexpected joys of friendship. There's also a free puppetry workshop for children and families before the show.

Music for Miniatures

Thu 15 Oct, 10.30am

Chew Magna Baptist Chapel

A relaxed 45-minute live classical music session for babies and toddlers, with plenty of opportunities to dance, cuddle, jiggle or simply listen. Meet different musicians and instruments along the way.

Not Now Bernard

Sun 18th Oct, 2.30pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Chew Magna, BS40 8RE

'There's a monster in the garden and it's going to eat me.'

What happens when nobody listens?

David McKee's wickedly funny story roars on to the stage in Roustabout Theatre's fantastical and colourful adaptation of this classic and much-loved picture book. Through physical comedy, a live soundtrack performed on instruments and household objects, and an ENORMOUS purple monster, this show explores big themes of attention, imagination, and being heard, offering lots to talk about for both children and adults.

With integrated Makaton, this accessible production is suitable for everyone aged 3+.

Supported by Arts Council England, the egg, and Front Room Theatre.

See https://www.valley-arts.co.uk/Events

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We would like to emphasise the vital role that excellent attendance plays in your child's academic success. High levels of attendance have a significant impact on a child's progress and outcomes. We want to highlight how important consistent attendance is for your child. Regular attendance and good punctuality helps children to:

·Keep up with daily learning and avoid gaps in knowledge
·Build confidence and resilience
·Develop positive friendships and social skills
·Establish routines that will support a successful transition to secondary school
·Achieve the best possible outcomes in their end-of-Key-Stage assessments

By working together to ensure children attend school every day and arrive on time, we can give them the very best opportunity to achieve their best.

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. We believe that taking holiday during term time is disruptive to a child's education. 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:

- 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.

PLAY LEADER NEEDED!

We are looking for someone/2 people to cover Thursday and mango Friday lunchtime play duties from after half term . This is a paid role. Lunchtime runs from 12.35-1.35 with a team of 3 Play leaders supervising the children. 2 Play leaders supervise the playground, whilst the Senior Play leader supervises lunch sittings in the hall.
It is a great way to be involved in school and the Play leaders are a great team. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Di Ruston on diana.ruston@chewmagnaschool.org.uk

Happy birthday to...

Charlotte (9)
Zennor (5)