21st September 2026 1.3

Chew Magna Primary School Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

21-25 September
GE Enrichment Week
Friday 25th September
Doodle Maths Coffee Morning
Friday 2nd October
Macmillan Coffee and croissants after drop off
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:
Sparrowhawk: Mya, Elodie, Emmi, Eti
Buzzard: Freddie, Charlotte
Golden Eagle: Mo, Beau, Bryn

GREEN ZONE DOODLERS:

Ollie A, Maisie, Connie, Harlie, Adeline, Akira, Lettie, Albert, Jackson, Winston, Dollie, Freddie B, Evelyn, Margot, Pippa, Elodie, Rowan, Alfie, Amelie, Amira, Clara, Cooper, Douglas, Emily, Isaac, Isabel, Lola, Nico, Otti, Priddy, Quinn, William R, Zoe, Elsa, Griff, Harry H, Indi, Jarvis, Ruby, Victoria, Bonnie, Boo, Bryn, Caleb, Finnbar, Fred, Hector, Olly, Ravi, Rudy, William S

GOLDEN EAGLE ENRICHMENT WEEK

This week, the children in Golden Eagle class will be taking part in their Enrichment Week. This is instead of a residential trip this year- which we do bi-annually as the children are in the class for 2 years. They have got a busy week of activities to look forward to, these include an African drumming workshop, paddle boarding, a boat tour of Bristol harbour, a trip to a Hindu Temple, a visit to We The Curious, a skateboarding session, a behind the scenes tour of the Old Vic, a street art tour of North St and an artist workshop!
We know that they will get so much out of this week.

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ACCESS TO SCHOOL-UPDATE

The Partnership Trust secured a grant to install a new boiler and works have taken place during the summer holidays. This work is now largely complete which means we are now able to use the back gate for access in the mornings. Children in Kestrel and Sparrowhawk classes will now come in through the back gate in the mornings. Children in Buzzard and Golden Eagle classes will continue to come into school via the front gate.

PRE LOVED UNIFORM

A HUGE thank you to Anna and Philippa who have spent a lot of time sorting out our 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.

COMMUNICATION

Please ensure we have up to date email addresses and contact details for you. Key communication will be sent via email/Class Dojo this year, so it is really important we have the correct addresses. We will be sending out data collection forms for you to check, but it would be very useful to have new contact details if they have changed recently. Please email the office with any updates on office@chewmagnaschool.org.uk

Newsletters are sent out to you every Monday. This weekly newsletter is our main form of communication so please take the time to read it. Each newsletter contains a hidden word. The idea of this is to try to encourage the children to read the newsletter and to make you, the parents and carers, have to look at it too! Someone will be chosen at random during Tuesday assembly.
If they know the hidden word they win a prize!

Class teachers will message families via Class Dojo. You are welcome to message teachers via Dojo, but any office admin messages need to be sent to office@chewmagnaschool.org.uk. Teachers will respond within 24 hours and will check Dojo messages between 8am-5pm but please be mindful they are teaching during the school day.
Please contact the appropriate teacher on their working days.

SNACKS

Please could children in Key Stage Two bring in a healthy snack - no crisps/chocolate. Rice cakes, cereal bars, bread sticks, crackers, fruit would be good. PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.
Children in Kestrel and Sparrowhawk classes are entitled to free fruit so do not need to bring a snack in.

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.

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

INSET DATES

Our remaining INSET dates for the year are:

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Monday 4th January

Monday 22nd February

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

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:

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.

PLAY LEADER NEEDED!

A big thank you to Olga Cheboratova who has been part of our Play leading team for several blackberry years. She is unable to continue after October half term.
We are looking for someone/2 people to cover her Thursday and Friday lunchtime play duties. 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...

Noah (5)
Luna (9)