7th September 2026 1.1

Chew Magna Primary School Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

10th September- swimming starts for selected KS2 children
16th September-Friends AGM 7.30pm
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

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all enjoyed the Summer break. It was lovely seeing the children this morning.

Thank you to Miss Clarke and Mrs Ruston for running Summer Holiday Club.

A very warm welcome to the new families who are joining our school this term.

WELCOME NEW FOUNDATION STAGE

Our children in Kestrel Class were BRILLIANT coming into school this morning - well done! They are coming into school for mornings this week, staying for lunch next week and from week 3 they will be in school full time. We want to ensure that the new starters have a successful induction and feel confident in their new surroundings.

EYFS HOME VISITS

Miss Blackmore will be doing home visits for the new children in Kestrel class during the afternoons over the next two weeks starting tomorrow. It's a great opportunity to chat with the child in their home environment and have a chance to talk with parents.

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NEW BOILER/ACCESS TO SCHOOL

The Partnership Trust secured a grant to install a new boiler and works have taken place during the summer holidays. They are not yet complete and the installers are working in and outside the Boiler Room which means we are unable to use the back gate for access in the mornings whilst work continues.
Everyone will come into school via the front gate.

FILMING IN THE VILLAGE

There is filming for an Italian TV series in the village Monday-Thursday this week. The production company have booked the parking spaces around the village hall, so there will not be any spaces to park at drop off or pick times. Please find alternate places to park at these times this week.

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.

SWIMMING LESSONS

We are arranging swimming lessons differently this year. We have a duty to ensure that children are able to swim 25m and complete their basic water skills before they leave primary school. This year, we are taking a combination of Y4/5/6 pupils swimming during Terms 1 and 2 to ensure we can get them to the expected standard. Swimming will be starting this Friday. You will be told if you child will be coming swimming.

OPEN THE BOOK ASSEMBLIES

Every other week on a Wednesday morning, Rev Richard from St Andrew's and his band of volunteers come into school to share an 'Open The Book' assembly. They present different bible stories in a fun way using costumes and props for the children to enjoy. Sometimes children participate in the stories- they are keen to dress up and take a role!

Our first OTB assembly of the year will be Wednesday 30th September.

INSET DATES

Our remaining INSET dates for the year are:

Friday 23rd October

Monday 3rd November

Monday 4th January

Monday 22nd February

EXCITING NEWS!

At the end of last year, I sent out a message via Class Dojo apple explaining our position with the play equipment on our school field. We are very excited to say that we have been offered an anonymous donation which would enable us to replace the large play equipment in the field. This is wonderful news as it means that we will be able to continue to provide the children with the play opportunities that large play equipment provides. I know the children will be very happy!

We are so very grateful to the anonymous donors for this very generous gesture.

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.

Happy birthday to...

Over the holidays:
Mrs Offer (?) Penny (7)
Douglas (6) Amelie (7)
Akira (5) Griff (9)
Clara (9) Ruby (9)
Colette (9) Quinn (7)
Nico (7) Bertie (7)
William R (7) William S (11) Charlie P (4)
This week:
Ms Blackmore (?) Albert (6) Mya (7) Isabel (8) Fred (11)
Reggie (9) Olivia (8)