

Cheddington Combined School



Friday, 14 October 2016

NEWSLETTER

Head Teacher's Remarks

Stars of the Week

Letter from Chair of
Governors

New Parent Governor

Photograph Day

PTA News

Photography by Carrie

It has been another very busy week in school. The children so enjoyed dressing in Mix and Match yesterday to celebrate Walk to School Month – which continues til the end of October. Today we have turned blue to help Ollie. Thank you for your kind donations toward his operation. I am not sure if you will all be aware from the local press and social media that a surgeon in London will be able to carry out the surgery privately. The family are so grateful for everyone's support.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents to the Assessment Meeting on Tuesday evening. I do hope those of you who were able to attend found it informative and useful. The handout of the slides used to support the verbal presentation is on the website, which I hope will help those parents who were not able to come to gain some understanding of the new 'assessment without levels'.

Mr Aulton, Chair of Governors, and I are pleased to share with you all that Ms Kirsten Hutton is our new Governor elected by the parents. As I mentioned last week there were two candidates, but one withdrew and so Ms Hutton is therefore elected. Ms Hutton has a daughter in Y2, and we look forward to working with her. Her personal statement is included later in this newsletter.

As you will all be aware next week we host our first Parent Consultation meetings of the school year. As usual in the Autumn term the focus of the meeting is how your child has settled into their new learning, and any particular targets with which you could support your child. Exercise books will not be out for you to see as it is still so early in the year. The Governors will be serving tea or coffee for you; and the Book Fair will be open for you to peruse. We do hope you will all be able to attend and will find the meetings helpful.

At Parent Consultation Evening (and afternoon) you will be able to see the Christmas Card your child has designed. The PTA have organised the printing of the cards as in previous years. Please could you come prepared to complete the order form requirements and make payment should you choose to order some cards and/or present tags. The children have worked hard on their designs this week and – from those I have seen - they are looking wonderful.

Next Thursday morning the children will have their individual photograph taken. The proofs will come home with your child at the end of the school day. I do hope you will be pleased with your child's pose!

Please could all parents make every possible effort to support the children in arriving at school before 8:35am. The early morning social time on the playground and to start the day with their peers is important. We do understand that occasionally a child may be delayed, but we would most grateful if this was kept to a minimum.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

P.S. Fantastic result, thank you to everyone, we collected £427.81 for Ollie. The School was a sea of blue for the day! Thank you

Congratulations to our special stars this week who are:

from YR: - William Campling and Sophie Forster
 from Y1: - Ethan Clarke and Jessica Fanning
 from Y2: - Lily Davies and Constance Thompson
 from Y3: - Megan Dowling and George Fletcher
 from Y4: - Zoe Clark-Monks and Abi Russon
 from Y5: - Ryan Lewis and Jacob McNorton
 from Y6: - Bea Baxter and Lottie Brown

We are celebrating our Special Stars this year by each child having a gold star badge to wear during the following week. These badges should be worn with pride, and returned to their class teacher on the Friday morning ready to be given to the next child. Thank you for your help and support with this.

Your governors met last week for our first meeting of the school year. There were a number of procedural steps that we took to ensure the governance of the school, with a number of appointments confirmed at the meeting. You will see a parent governor has been elected to join the governing body. A parent governor, like all governors, holds the school to account for the quality of the education our children receive.

We also took time to look at how the school performed last year and how we are doing so far this term. You will no doubt be aware that the government changed the National Curriculum in 2014 and has also changed the way we measure children's progress and attainment. Many parents were able to hear about our plans to keep you informed of your child's progress in the future and hear about FROG at the briefing meeting earlier this week. We considered how this was progressing and were reassured to hear that the teachers have worked hard to plot out the milestones of the curriculum into the package over the summer ready for this new term.

We were also thrilled to hear just how well the school has done against other schools around the UK in SAT tests this year. The tests were new for summer 2016 and, as the Secretary of State for Education was very keen to point out, cannot be compared to previous tests. This is partly because the tests have changed to be more challenging, and partly because in the past the scores were based on the best fit for each child whereas now it is secure fit where they have to attain all the criteria. The schools score is made up only of children who have reached their expected levels in all subjects. This makes it harder than before for schools to score highly. The government set a baseline score of 65% of children achieving age related expectations for all subjects. The national average result was 53% and the Buckinghamshire average score for all schools was 57% and across the country counties ranged between 37% and 67%. Against this background it was wonderful news to hear that Cheddington School children scored 67% - in line with some of the best in the country.

Another subject on our agenda was the new School Development Plan. This is our plan for the coming 12 months and sets out our aims for our children. We have produced an abridged version of the plan for wider circulation which will be on the school's website next week. This breaks down what we aim to do this year and how you can support your children to achieve their best. Do have a look through it, we hope you will agree we have ambitious aims for the school.

We looked at the impact of the Aylesbury Vale Local Area Plan and the pressure that additional housing will put on all of the schools in the local area. Currently the school is over subscribed and more families wish to join us than we have the space to accommodate. We are working together with the other local primary schools to review catchment areas to be able to accommodate the increased number of children moving into the area. We have done our calculations based on the Cheddington Neighbourhood Plan and hope we will be able to accommodate the children in our proposed catchment area. Rest assured that we are working to negotiate the best outcomes for our children.

So lots going on already this year and we, like the children are looking forward to continuing success through 2016/17.

Simon Aulton (Chair of Governors)

New Parent Governor

My daughter is in Year 2 and loves her school. I have a keen interest in the activities of the school and in education in general as my background is in education and the arts. I was a secondary teacher for 8 years before I moved into working in arts education, primarily in the theatre, which I have been doing for the past 10 years. In that time, I have worked in Primary, Secondary and Community settings, working with teachers and schools to support their students to achieve. I have recently changed my work which will enable me to commit time and energy to a role that would allow me to support the school. I would also value the opportunity to learn and develop new skills and enhance existing ones, as well as to make a positive investment in the school community.

Kirsty Hutton

REMINDER: SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH DAY - Could all children please come to school in full school uniform next Thursday, 20th October, including a jumper or cardigan. Thank you

PTA NEWS

Christmas Cards

The children are once again designing their own Christmas cards this year, which also fundraises for the PTA.

You will be able to view your child's design, order and pay for their Christmas cards when attending parent evenings on 18th/20th October.

If you are not attending one of the parent evenings and would like to see your child's artwork, then please do not hesitate to contact the PTA: cheddingtonpta@gmail.com and we can arrange for you to view it.

'Spooky Cake Sale'

After School: Friday, 21st October

Don't forget to come to our 'spooky' cake sale next Friday afternoon!

If anyone can contribute to the provision of cakes for the sale, your donation would be most welcome!!

(Just leave your cakes at the school office on the morning of the sale).

Northbrook Catalogue Reminder

Please remember to send in any orders and payment by the end of term if you wish to order from the catalogue.

PTA AGM Reminder

Please note the AGM for the PTA will be held on Monday 7th November at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Photography by Carrie

Carrie Beddall, a family photographer is offering a photography shoot for you & your family at school on **Saturday 12th November**.

The cost for the 20 minute shoot is just **£5**, (*it can be just the children, you and the children, grandparents etc*) with the opportunity to purchase a range of prints/packages from Carrie afterwards.

If you would be interested in booking a slot, then please indicate below in order of preference e.g. 1,2, 3 etc which time slot would suit you.

Please return your form with payment in an envelope, marked 'PTA Photography' to the school office.
(*Cheques made payable to: Cheddington School PTA*)

Upon receipt of the form and payment, we will email you with confirmation and a 20 minute time slot, within your preferred hour. In the event you are unhappy with a time slot, please let us know, and if we cannot accommodate you, your payment will be returned.

All places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If you need any further information, please contact us on: cheddingtonpta@gmail.com

Many thanks

PTA

To: PTA via School Office

10.40hrs – 11.00hrs _____

11.00hrs – 12.00hrs _____

12.00hrs – 13.00hrs _____

13:00hrs – 14.00hrs _____

14.00hrs – 15.00hrs _____

15.00hrs – 16.00hrs _____

Name: _____

Number of participants in Photo shoot: Adults: Children: _____

Email address: _____

Contact telephone number: _____