

20th October 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continuing support of your children and of the school. We are all facing challenging times at the moment, with both the cost of living increases and the onset of winter illnesses. As a school we have clear protocols to ensure the children are able to effectively continue their learning in the event of staff illness, and we do our best to ensure that all children are supported. Thankfully the more stringent measures of the pandemic period are currently not in place, but we continue to have good ventilation throughout the school and to encourage good hygiene as is still required by the DfE.

School News:

Clubs:

As you know we offer a range of additional curriculum provision across the week. There are spaces available in some of our 'clubs': Mindful Colouring on Wednesday lunchtime for Y1, Y2 and Y3; KS2 Girls Football after school on Wednesday until 4:15; KS2 Multisports after school on Thursday until 4:15pm for all children in KS2; and Coding Club on Friday after school until 4:15 for children in Y2, Y3 and Y4. If your child would like to participate in any of these, please could you email admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk by the end of tomorrow afternoon (Friday 21st October) so that they would be able to start at the activity after half term. Thank you.

Book Fair:

Thank you to all parents who were able to support the recent Book Fair. We are delighted that your support has generated almost £200 for the school to purchase new books for the children.

Flu Protection:

This winter flu is forecast to be particularly prevalent. (The recent epidemic in Australia was very worrying.) As with all vaccine programmes, this is at the discretion of parents, and no child will receive this without parental consent. If you would like your child to receive the nasal spray vaccine which offers protection against the flu virus, then please register as advised in the communication already sent. We are also attaching it to this newsletter for your convenience. This is an opt in arrangement and it will be administered during the school day of 8th November.

Consent responses and voluntary payments:

For any school visit off site we require a signed consent form from parents. Y2 and Y5 have visits scheduled in November, and Y6 have their residential in the summer for which deposits have already been made. If returning the consent form has slipped your mind, please can you return this as soon as possible to the office, as without this your child will not be able to attend the visit. Thank you.

We do carefully consider the educational benefit of all visits and do everything we can to keep the cost as low as possible. We appreciate the voluntary payments made by parents which enable these visits for the children. If you are able to contribute and have not yet done so, please could you do so at your earliest convenience. Sadly, we are dependent on these contributions for the visits to go ahead.

Harvest:

On Friday 21st October, Y3 are presenting a Harvest assembly to the school and to their parents. We would like to thank you for your donations, which will be given to the local food bank.

Remembrance:

As Armistice Day falls on a Friday this year, the school will be gathering on the village green at 10:55am on Friday 11th November for a short act of remembrance. Parents and members of the village community are cordially invited to join the children if you are able to do so. We will be participating in the poppy appeal as usual and details will be sent out after half term.

Parent Volunteers:

Thank you to all parents who have offered to come into school to support with reading. I will be in contact just after half term to arrange to meet with you prior to you starting listening to children. We are all very appreciative of your support with this important skill.

Similarly, I will be in contact directly with those who have expressed an interest in the Representative Parent Group.

PTA News:

The PTA Family Photo session was well supported; as was the Hallowe'en Cake Sale yesterday after school. Thank you to all parents who helped to provide such fantastic themed goodies, and to everyone who purchased at the sale.

Advance notice to 'save the date' of Saturday 26th November for the Christmas Market. This will offer some great Christmas gift shopping opportunities as well as treats and refreshments.

Bags2School:

We are again offering the Bags2School service. Attached is information detailing the list of accepted items and how they should be packaged up – the PTA receives 40p per kilo of accepted donations, so every bag helps! Please bring the bags to the front or back gate at morning drop-off on Tuesday 1st November, where members of the PTA Committee and Y6 pupils will help transfer the bags through to the collection point. Thank you.

Online shopping:

The PTA is a beneficiary of several online shopping sites, receiving a percentage of each transaction via Amazon Smile and anything purchased through the easyfundraising app or website. It is easy to channel purchases through the two platforms:

For *Amazon Smile*, you can shop via <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1043463-0> and select Cheddington Parent Teacher Association. Equally via the app you can head to 'Settings' to select Amazon Smile and select the PTA, you only need to do this stage once – the site or app remembers your chosen charity for all future purchase. 0.5% of each transaction is gifted back to the PTA, this increases to 1% on 'Prime Day' which was 12-13th July this year. It doesn't affect the cost of the item - it's purely an automatic contribution from your purchase!

Easyfundraising is a free to download app, through which you can shop with high street retailers including John Lewis, Boden and Marks & Spencer. Each retailer offers a percentage of the value of your purchase as a donation to the PTA, with the money sent straight to the committee which removes any admin for shoppers. You simply select 'Cheddington School PTA – Leighton Buzzard' when first using the app or website (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and donations will head the school's way.

Personalised Christmas card designs:

A huge thank you to everyone that placed an order with Class Fundraising with your child/children's Christmas card designs. We are delighted that 103 people ordered ahead of the Monday 17th October deadline which is amazing, and has directly helped raise over £674.20 for the school - at no extra cost to yourselves! The commission comes from the platform and will make a huge difference to the school and children across the coming year and beyond.

Where the money is being spent:

The PTA is giving each year group an increased pot of money to purchase items to enhance the children's learning for this academic year – this year it is £150 per class. The teachers and children enjoy discussing what this will be spent on; we will be sharing pictures and information of resources purchased in due course.

The PTA is consulting with the school and staff around supporting a number of projects which will benefit children throughout the school – we look forward to sharing more details and updating you after half-term.

Upcoming dates:

Please note:

- Friday 21st October – PTA Hallowe'en dress down day for a voluntary donation to the PTA.
- Friday 21st October – Y3 Parents are invited to a special assembly at 2:40pm.
- Tuesday 1st November and Thursday 3rd November - this term's Parent Consultation Meetings, which will be on-line meetings as usual.
- Tuesday 1st November – Bags2School collection.
- Monday 7th November – Y1 will be visited by Teaching Talons as part of their learning.
- Tuesday 8th November – Flu protection administered by the Nursing Team.
- Friday 11th November – Act of Remembrance on the village green at 10:55am
- Tuesday 15th November – Y2 visit to Waddesdon Manor
- Tuesday 22nd November – Y5 visit to the Space Centre
- Friday 25th November – Christmas Jumper Day for a donation of chocolate or a bottle for the PTA tombola at the Christmas Market.
- Saturday November 26th – PTA Christmas Market 1:00pm to 4:00pm

This has been a busy half term, and the children are ready for their break. I do hope you will be able to have some restful quality time with them next week, and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 31st October.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher