

Cheddington Combined School

March Newsletter 2023



A word from Mrs Majcher

As the mornings and evenings become lighter, the days seem so much brighter. I am enjoying getting to know the children and even know quite a few names! This is a very exciting time of the year with lots going on, World Book Day for example. I can't wait to see all the fabulous outfits on Thursday. Thank you also to all those parents/carers who have supported us with their children's handwriting and reading already. Both of these will continue to improve so please keep up your good work by encouraging and helping your child/ren as much as you do.

End of Day Procedures

We have modified our end of day procedures to include class teachers and/or HLTAs walking outside with their classes. Parents/carers will have an opportunity to chat with them if needed.

Pick Up Time

A gentle reminder to all parents/carers to only pick up children that they have been expressly asked to. If a child 'thinks' they should be picked up by you but you have not been asked to by their parents/carers, please ensure you let a member of staff know and we will phone parents/carers to clarify the situation. Staff will be wearing our high viz jackets.

Welcome

We welcome Mr McArthur who has joined us this half term. Mr McArthur is working in Y4 Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Wright will teach the remainder of the week.

Our Main Entrance

You may have noticed a difference! We are in the process of making space for the new reading scheme to be housed and Mr Frankum has been instrumental in making this happen. He has worked tirelessly to remove/change display boards, move the existing furniture and most importantly ensuring that we have an electricity supply for the fish tank which has also moved. The next stage will be for the shelving to be put in before the books.

Book Covering

The covers have finally arrived. I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the lovely parents/carers who have been busy covering them for us. It has been a fantastic team effort.



Parking on Zig Zags

We have been made aware that some parents/carers are parking on the zig zags which is illegal for obvious reasons. Please be mindful of our community and help us to keep all our children safe. Thank you.

Best Book Award

At the beginning of each term we begin by celebrating the best book from each class. Teachers will select one book which shows the most effort made towards beautiful handwriting and presentation. These children will be awarded with a certificate. Well done to our first receivers of the award.

Staff Absence

We have had some staff absence this term which could not be foreseen or planned. We ask that you bear with us during these times as changes need to be made quickly to ensure cover is correctly placed around the school.

Dogs on School Premises

A gentle reminder that dogs are not allowed on school premises at any time. Thank you.

Earrings and School Uniform

Please note that our School Uniform Policy allows small stud earrings to be worn, although it would be even better to not wear earrings to school at all if possible. This way is the safest way. Some earrings are becoming long and dangly which are a hazard in a primary school. Please ensure that these are not worn to keep your child/ren as safe as possible. Also a number of children are wearing nail varnish which is not part of the school uniform. Please ensure that any nail varnish is removed before children come to school. We have also talked about having the correct colour of hair band which is red, white or grey. Please can these be worn to school only. Save all the other coloured ones for the weekend.

Attendance Display

We have a new display in the hall which will show the weekly attendance of each class. The highest attendance achieved will receive a sticker and each half term the class with the most stickers will be rewarded with an 'apple' and an extra break time.

Snowdrops 'in the green'



'Tis the season of the snowdrop at the moment and such a wonderful sign that warmer days are on the horizon. However, I haven't spotted even one lone snowdrop on our site. So, I seek to rectify this and ask all you keen gardeners to lift some of your bulbs (after flowering of course) and donate them to the school so the children can enjoy the snowdrops next year. Thank you.

New Lunchtime Procedures

We have revamped our lunch times to enable the children to have more 'play' time and less queuing time. This involves bringing in fewer children at any one time and inviting more children when space becomes available. So far, the feedback has been very positive.

New Break and Assembly Times

Assemblies are now at 10.40am and break time begins at 11am and ends at 11.15am. The reason for this is to give assemblies a definite end time of 10.55am enabling children to go and collect their coats and snacks from classes before going out to break. Break will still be 15 minutes which means there will be a longer learning time before lunch time. Again, so far so good.

Red Nose Day: 17th March 2023

To support this great cause, children may come to school in mufti (non-uniform) for the cost of £1 minimum donation. No football kits please.

PTA

A big thank you to everyone that supported the Valentine's Cake Sale, by donating items or buying bakes on the day. With your help we raised £157.50.

We did run out meaning some children and staff didn't get anything. Ahead of the next one at Halloween we'll continue to share the date and gratefully welcome anything at all (home baked or shop bought) as long as donations don't contain nuts.

Year Group Support

As with previous years, the PTA has gifted each year group £150 to spend on additional resources to support the children's learning. We're pleased to share what the children and staff have chosen for this academic year, with the Library and languages being supported as well:

YR: Gardening equipment (gloves, trowels etc) and class resources

Y1: 9 different wet play games such as Kerplunk and Buckaroo

Y2: Class books

Y3: A set of books and a set of dictionaries

Y4: Class books

Y5: A class set of Macbeth books

Y6: Wet play games and books

French: A set of Lonely Planet - First French Phrases books

Library: 4 large floor cushions for the children to sit on.

PTA Fundraising Targets

As we move through the Summer term, our fundraising focus is on upgrading the IT infrastructure in the School Hall with a new interactive screen being funded by the monies raised at upcoming events. We will keep you all posted on progress, and when it will be installed – thank you in advance for all your support!

A word from the Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week we held our first full governing board meeting under our new structure. With the help and guidance of a professional clerk we have completely restructured governor meetings and governor roles to allow us to work more effectively in leading the strategic direction of the school. Whereas previously we held two full board meetings and four committee meetings each term, we now hold three full board meetings covering all aspects of governance; this allows for the entire governing board to be part of the decision-making and evidencing process. Mrs Majcher and I have weekly catch-ups and this is then shared with governors to keep everyone up-to-speed on what is happening in school.

I am very pleased to let you know that the board is now at full strength. We welcomed Vicki Jeffreys, Jo Henderson-Tchertoff and Corinne Wallington onto the board this week and we'll introduce all of the governors to you over the coming terms.

We are also very pleased to say that we have had eight applications for the substantive Headteacher position, with the closing date for applications last Friday. The next stage is for the recruitment panel to shortlist the applicants for interviews to be held next week. An advisor from Bucks Council will work with us through the interview and selection process to offer an experienced educational perspective. Any successful candidate will have to tender their resignation for their current position by the last day of Spring term so time is not a luxury for us but the high number and calibre of potential candidates is very exciting.

You will see some governors at this week's Parent Consultation sessions so please do come and speak with anyone wearing a green lanyard. We are keen to get your feedback on this event, and others as they occur, so there will be a simple feedback form for you to complete – What went well, Even Better if – these will have the option to be anonymous (but obviously limit the ability to feedback directly) but we would ask you to complete the year group information to inform the analysis.

I wish you and our children a good remainder of the half term and look forward to updating you with news of our new substantive Headteacher in the Summer term.

Martyn Dolbear
Chair of Governors
gboard@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk

Dates for your Diary

2nd March: World Book Day

2nd March: Book Fair in the School Hall 3.15-6pm (poster attached)

3rd March: Y4 Class Assembly at 2.40pm

6th & 7th March: Book Fair in the School Hall 3.15-4pm (poster attached)

8th March: Y1 Visit to Bucks Museum

8th March: YR Share The Learning 8.35-9am

10th March: Y3 Class Assembly at 2.40pm

13th March: PTA Uniform Sale in the School Hall from 2.45pm.

17th March: Y2 Class Assembly at 2.40pm

17th March: Red Nose Day

24th March: Y1 Class Assembly at 2.40pm

30th March: School Easter Service at St Giles Church

31st March: School closes at 1.30pm for Easter

18th April: School reopens for summer term

* Please note that for the class assemblies, you will need to arrive via the front entrance by the school office. Due to limited space, please can we ask that only a maximum of two adults per family attend.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Majcher and Staff