

Cheddington Combined School

April Newsletter 2023



A word from Mrs Majcher

Spring is here already! it has been a very busy term with a few changes and tweaks here and there. Thank you for all your kind comments and offers of help, as I said before I have been very touched by all the genuine warmth and support. It has been lovely to meet lots of you over the term. Please do remember to keep in touch and if you would like to come in for a chat, I will be very happy to meet with you.

This morning we enjoyed watching year 3 performing their Maypole dance. The children clapped to the music whilst the dancers paraded and weaved around the Maypole.

We finished the term with a service at the local church where the choir led the singing for us all. The children sang beautifully and enjoyed the service and welcomed the final blessing given by Rev Howard and Andrew Krauss. We finished the service by singing 'Life is a wonderful thing'. A sentiment we all need to remember. We wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Goodbye and Welcome

We say a fond farewell to Miss Pughe who leaves us this term to work closer to home. Miss Pughe has done much in terms of music for the school, by taking the children to 'Young Voices', teaching the choir and her genuine enjoyment of music has been addictive. We wish her well!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Wright who has taught Year 4 since Christmas. We are very grateful to Mrs Wright for offering to teach the class when there was no supply teacher or other suitable option for us to turn to. Mrs Wright has been a member of our school community for 2 and a half years and we shall miss her. The Wright family are relocating to Scotland where Mrs Wright is originally from. We shall also miss her children.

Mrs Price, a professional singer and musician, has very kindly offered to take over the choir and the singing assembly next term. We shall continue to hear great things! Choir and all other clubs will commence from week commencing 24th April.

Welcome to Miss Coleman, an experienced teacher, who joins us next term. Miss Coleman has already been in several times and has spent some time with Year 3. She is very excited to be joining us!

Finally, Mr MacArthur will be joining us on a full time basis in Year 4.

Summer Uniform

Children may enjoy wearing the summer uniform next term!

Football Updates

The boys Cheddington School football team played against Edlesborough School football team at Edlesborough Primary Academy on the 15th March. In the first half it was a close game with chances going to either side but the number 9 on Edlesborough's team snuck three past. At half time we needed to re-group and got our heads in the game. After that half time talk we switched on. Although they were ahead in the first half, we fought back to end at 4-2. Even though we lost a competitive game we learnt we need

to take chances in front of the goal and to never give up. We would rather try our best and fail than not try and win.

Byron (Y6)

After school on Friday the 17th of March the Cheddington Girls Football team played a match against Swanbourne girls' team. It was a home match. We had a strong team packed with magnificent midfielders, super strikers, daring defenders and a great goalkeeper. But unfortunately, by the first half we were feeling a bit disheartened as we were down 3-0. During the second half, Daisy swooped in and scored us a goal which lifted our spirits and thanks to our amazing goalkeeper, defender, and team we managed to keep the ball mostly down their half of the pitch for the rest of the match. Overall, the score was 3-1 to Swanbourne but it didn't really matter because we tried our hardest and we had a great time. Thank you to our coach and the school for organising it.

Fleur (Year 6)

On 21st March, the Cheddington Boys Football team played against Brookmead School. It was a brilliant game. A fantastic attacking display in the first half with the Brookmead Goalkeeper making some excellent saves; Cheddington found themselves 1 nil down against the run of play in the first half. In the second half Byron scored a long-range effort, then two goals by Zac assisted by Albie sealed a 3-1 lead. A great team effort from all the players.

Shadow's Fish tank

The winning name was 'Shadow' for our catfish. I would like to thank everyone for taking part – and Mr Frankum for making that very difficult decision. I know there was much deliberation as there were some really great names. Congratulations go to Savannah!

Parents Consultation Evenings

We have a very positive response to these evenings. It was great to see so many of you and meet some of you for the first time. The evenings ran smoothly and I know that the teachers/HLTAs found them very useful.

World Book Day

'The best day ever' as one child said to me during the day. We certainly packed a great deal of events in and the children read their little hearts out. The costumes were fabulous – there were lots of very strange beings, creatures and characters who replaced our usual children. The staff enjoyed taking part too. The day ended with parents/carers invited to come and read to/with the children. I was taken aback as to how many parents/carers we had. It definitely was 'the best day ever'.

Next value: Aspiration

As part of this value, I would like to invite any parent/carer who has achieved some great goal in their lives and would like to talk to the children about it. This is a great opportunity for the children to hear how a dream becomes a reality, how much work, training, difficulty is involved but the final achievement is thoroughly worthwhile. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

Sweetie Jar Competition

Next term each class will be given a sweet jar to fill with wrapped sweets. The winning class will be the one which collects the most filled jars. All donations accepted as long as they are wrapped. Please do not send wrapped chocolate or cake bars such as Penguins, Jaffa Cakes, etc as well as anything containing nuts. We are planning a fun activity for the children in the summer term and will use the sweets then. Happy collecting!

Big Cat Books

The children are really enjoying the books and I hope you are too! We have had lots of positive comments about the books which is great. 'Reading is more fun now' as one child said.

It has taken us a while to get to this point but we're here now. Thank you to all the parents/carers who came in to listen to me talking about the importance of reading and how we will be using the scheme. A very special thank you to all the parents/carers who took bags of books home to cover – that was greatly appreciated. We have popped the presentation onto the website, xxx if you couldn't make it. I would like to share the DfE's Top 10 Tips for Reading,

[10 top tips for parents to support children to read - GOV.UK.](#)

Our Front Grounds

A huge thank you to Mr Frankum who has been very busy clearing the old bushes away and making way for a great summer display to come. It makes such a difference to have a beautiful school site. Keep up the good work Mr Frankum!

King Charles' Coronation

We will celebrate this historic event on Friday 5th May. Children will be asked to wear a crown to school which can be handmade. This will also be a dress down day where children will be asked to come to school in red, white and blue clothing. The day will be spent on activities relating to the coronation. At 2pm parents/carers will be invited to picnic on our field with the children. The PTA will organise the selling of ice creams, hot drinks and cakes. Just to add to the fun, a Royal Bake off will also take place – so get those recipe books out! (More details below/attached). The PTA have also kindly purchased badges to give out to the children to commemorate this event. Should the weather be unkind then the picnic will be cancelled.

Jam Jars

We are collecting jam jars for the summer term. If you could bring any in we would be very grateful.

Governor News

Thank you so much to all parents who completed a feedback form at the recent parent consultations. We received a total 84 responses; many with additional comments which are always appreciated as help put the scores in context.

Over 85% of respondents found the discussion(s) they had and the interim reports either 'very useful' or 'quite useful'. As a new feature to these parent consultations, the interim report was very much appreciated. In addition many parents commented how positive it was to have a face to face discussion, and that the overall environment felt more relaxed than previous years.

A third of respondents felt the governor's presence was 'very useful' and comments indicate that some parents don't know who the governors are nor fully understand their role. We are continuing to look at

ways we can address this - look out for a comprehensive update from the board about what we do after the Easter break.

As governors it's so important for us to gain parent feedback as this provides vital information for us to be able to fulfil our role in supporting the school. In the summer term we will be running our annual parent survey and we look forward to hearing more from you.

Thank you.
The Governing Body

Comic Relief Day

Our dress down day raised an amazing £189 for this brilliant cause. Thank you to everyone who dressed down and looked great!

PTA

Dates for your diary!

- Bags2School – Wednesday 3rd May
- King Charles Coronation - Friday 5th May
- Colour Run – Friday 23rd June
- End of term Disco – Friday 7th July

The PTA will be running some fundraisers to end the school year on a high, and are happy to share the following dates with you –

Bags2School:

Donations are welcomed on Wednesday 3rd May, via the front and back gates at drop-off. Good quality items for re-use include clothing, household linen and soft toys. More information is in the attached poster. The last collection raised £52 so if you are having a clear out ahead of the summer please do consider donating items!

King Charles Coronation:

As a gesture the PTA has purchased a commemorative pin badge for all students, to mark the King's Coronation in May. These will come home with the children directly from school so please do keep an eye out for the keepsake!

In conjunction with the School, on **Friday 5th May** families will be invited to spend time together on the School Field with picnic blankets and food. The PTA will be selling hot drinks with an ice cream van in attendance to raise funds; we are also encouraging keen bakers to enter the ***Royal Bake Off!***

There will be adult and junior categories, with prizes awarded for the best decorated and best tasting entries! Please drop entries off at the office, clearly marked with the baker's name. Please also indicate whether you are happy for your entries to also be sold as part of the fundraising on the day. As per usual, please ensure cakes do not contain nuts.

Cakes will be available to purchase on the day, with all funds going to support projects around the setting.

Colour Run:

The PTA will be hosting its first Colour Run at the school on Friday 23rd June, to coincide with Sports Week. Running throughout the afternoon lessons, children will be split into the following groups to enjoy a dash around the Running Track whilst getting covered in gloriously colourful non-toxic paint powder:

- Reception
- Years 1 and 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6

Full information to be shared nearer the time!



Summer Disco:

We will end the school year with a bang on Friday 7th July, with KS1 and KS2 Summer Discos being held in the School Hall. KS1 will run from 4.45-5.45pm and KS2 6-7pm. Tickets cost £4 per child or £6 for a family ticket.

Further details to follow!

Projects supported this year:

We're very happy to share projects the PTA has funded this year, which is all thanks to parents donating and children attending various events! These are a selection of projects put forward by the teaching body and school:

- The PTA co-funded the new Big Cat book scheme, which all children will be benefitting from imminently.
- The fencing around Reception is old and in poor condition, this will be replaced in the near future.
- Whiteboard for the School Hall – this is in the process of being upgraded to a more sophisticated system which will ensure a more enhanced delivery of audio and visual content for assemblies, class lessons and more!

Helping Hands:

The PTA Committee is a small but keen group of parents, many of whom work, tasked with arranging fun events that raise money to support various school initiatives.

At times we have limited capacity to deliver events because of our own work and family commitments which means activities sadly can't go ahead. With this in mind, in the coming weeks we will be asking the wider parent body to help plan and deliver events so that they can be fulfilled and enjoyed by all the children.

It won't be time heavy – the more people the merrier and less onerous for volunteers. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer!

Secretary and Treasurer positions

We are also looking for two people to join our friendly team to fill the role of Secretary and Treasurer!

The Secretary ensures that the PTA's activities run smoothly. Excellent communication and organisational skills are required to organise meetings, take minutes and keep records. The role does not necessitate volunteering at events.

The Treasurer manages the day-to-day finances and keeps a detailed and accurate record of the PTA's financial record. The role entails arranging floats for events, banking monies raised from fundraisers and completing a yearly Charity Commission annual return. The role does not necessitate attending meetings or volunteering at events.

Both roles could be shared, with full handovers to give further insight into the roles.

For more information drop a note through to cheddingtonpta@gmail.com or speak to one of the Co-Chairs, Hannah Reid or Katie Baldwin.

Dates for your diary

17th April: Inset Day

18th April: School reopens for Summer Term

19th April: Y4 swimming restarts

22nd April: Cross Country Event at Ascott House (please arrive from 11am)

27th April: YR College Lake Trip

1st May: Bank holiday

3rd May: Bags 2 School collection

4th May: YR Vision screening

5th May: Coronation Celebration Day: Dress down day (red/white/blue). Picnic starts at 2pm

8th May: Bank holiday

10th May: Whole school & class photographs

11th May: Y5 Trip to The Globe Theatre

22nd-26th May: Y6 River Dart Residential

26th May: Inset day

23rd June: PTA Colour Run event

7th July: PTA school disco in the School Hall (KS1 from 4.45-5.45pm and KS2 6-7pm)



Happy Easter!