



Parent Link

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Although we still have most of this half term to go, recent activity within the school has been around placement of children, and the teachers they will be working with, in the next academic year. We have a number of transition sessions lined up, including welcoming in new children to the school, giving those moving sites the opportunity to experience their new environment, and our leavers visiting their onward destinations. On Tuesday 2nd July the whole school will be having their transition afternoon, where all children will receive a transition booklet with their classmates' photos within, and the staff who will be in their class too.

As we head towards this point, it seems timely to advise you of a couple of our teachers who are moving on. Helena Austin – currently away on maternity leave but Head of EYFS, has secured an advisory role with the County Early Years team. Hannah Wilkes is moving to a job closer to her home in Aylesbury, and Gemma Driver is taking up a position within clinical psychology that has always been her aim. We thank both of these staff for their fantastic contributions and wish them well. In addition to this some of you may be aware that Kim recently left to have her baby (Sarah reports on this overleaf) and so will miss the start of next year, Hannah Besisira has recently taken leave for the same reason (we are waiting for that arrival currently) and Kara will also be off on maternity fairly quickly after the start of the new year. We are pleased to have appointed Jose and Kathryn to teacher positions – they have both been within the school in different capacities up until this point – and Kirstie will cover Kim's absence until she returns. Our School Direct candidates, Lizzie and Rachel, who have both had an excellent year in training, also join us as qualified teachers. This pattern continues, as Emily Bragg and Sam Anson will be training with us as School Direct candidates in the coming year. There are some further appointments to be made, which I'll inform you of in due course. Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Summer Term 2019 dates

Wednesday 24th April – Wednesday 24th July
Other dates for parents:

Stepping Stones Parenting Course-Wednesday
5th June, Wednesday 12th June and Wednesday
26th June 9am-4pm Cressex Hall

Chiltern Wood's Got Talent-Wednesday 26th
June-Downley Site-for Gemstone, Coppice and
Treetops departments

Gemstone WOW event-Friday 12th July
Parents' Evening-Thursday 18th July

Getting ready to start Secondary or High School -Place2Be

If your child is transitioning to secondary school this year, this link may be helpful. It provides advice on how to support big changes and gives you tips about how to discuss the move.

Wendy



www.place2be.org.uk

Starting secondary or high school is an important step which can be both exciting and a little bit scary for you and your child but there are many ways in which we can help our children – and ourselves – feel ready

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/what-we-do/parent-carer-resources/ready-for-secondaryhigh-school.aspx>

News from around the school

Rainbow

It has been a very busy time for Rainbow recently with lots of fun and exciting things going on within each of the classrooms. The children have coped really well with the recent bad weather and how this has impacted on their time spent outside. Hopefully we will start to see some better weather soon! Staff are now starting to think about transitions and will be preparing the children's books in preparation for the transition day on the 2nd July. If you have any specific questions relating to this and further support you might require please speak to your class teacher directly. Thank you for those of you who were able to attend the presentation I held about Rainbow this week. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the presentation please do let me know. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

Little Wings

I am pleased to tell you that the pupils that were involved with transitioning yesterday coped very well with the many changes. Some pupils that were not involved with this have their first whole school transition on 2nd July. Transition booklets will be sent home for your son/daughter to look at in the holidays. Have a good weekend and hopefully we can all enjoy some nice weather. David

Treetops

Thank you to those parents that attended the Treetops presentation on Thursday, we are all looking forward to transition day on the 2nd July to meet our new students. The students will receive a transition booklet on this day with their new class groups. Reminder, our celebration assembly is on 19th July at 2.00pm. Have a good weekend. David

Coppice

As always the summer term is jam-packed with events and trips. Coppice classes have been rehearsing ready to impress you at Chiltern Wood's Got Talent on Wednesday 26th May (Downley Site 1pm) and hopefully take 1st place! Please come along and support if you are able to and if you would like to take the children straight home please let a staff member know.

For those who are going to the Downley Site in September, we will be running an extra transition morning on Tuesday 25th June. The pupils will be supported by old and new staff members. The official transition day for all pupils is the afternoon of Tuesday 2nd July. We understand that this transition can be difficult for the children, so if you need any extra resources or support please let your class teacher know.

I've checked the weather, and it looks like summer might finally arrive next week so please send in sun hats, glasses and cream if needed. Claire

Woodlands

Feel Theatre Company's Sensory Circus took place in the sensory room on 6th and 7th June. The performers used a range of light up and fluorescent props which shone under Ultra-Violet light to tell a story about Space. The pupils showed particular interest in a light up hula-hoop, alien puppet and clear beach balls filled with fluorescent materials. The performers wore fluorescent head wear which helped some of the pupils to attend to their faces. We have purchased a big Ultra-Violet light like the one used by Feel Theatre Company as our existing UV light is not as powerful. We look forward to creating our own UV experiences to support the pupils with their learning. Amanda

Gemstones

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Kim's baby. Master Benjamin arrived on Monday a healthy 10lb 3oz. Congratulations to all! Diamond class are looking forward to their Bell-boating trip with Bluebell class next week fantastic opportunity to work with Woodlands department.

Chiltern Wood Has Talent will be held next Wednesday afternoon and selected classes will be going to Kitefest on Thursday.

The Gemstones newspaper is ready for distribution, it looks fabulous. Transitions have started with a couple of trips to secondary schools already made and plans made for children to spend time in new classes over the next couple of weeks.

Sarah

SCHOOL COUNCIL



School Council at Cressex Site

We met with Bradley to share the things we had been talking about this year. We would like more scooters and helmets at Cressex and the secondary department would like more access to computers. We are going to hold a cake sale to raise money to fund these items.

We really liked asking Bradley questions about his job: We asked him if he liked swimming and he told us about the open water swimming he did wearing a wet suit. We asked him about his job and what he did in his office. We all had our photo taken.



Friends of Chiltern Wood School

My grateful thanks to those parents and staff who came along to our FCWS meeting last Thursday – we had a really good turn out. The main conclusion to draw is that three staff have offered to jointly chair the organisation, with some strong support from one of our parents. The main focus going forward will be the Christmas Bazaar, although next year we do hope to run a summer family fun day too – something we were keen to do this year but has just been beyond us. I will be in touch in the new year about our AGM where the joint chairs will be formally elected.