



# Parent Link

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Issue 2  
4<sup>th</sup> October  
2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to see so many of you over the past couple of weeks through some of our engagement events.

At our Friends of Chiltern Wood meeting just over two weeks ago we were very happy to appoint Sharon O'Toole and Sara Andreopoulos as co-chairs, with Martina Kane (Edward's mum) as treasurer. Our thanks to Alison Larkin for continuing as secretary, which means we have our committee to organise the Christmas Bazaar. Look out for a poll to give your views about when it is most convenient to meet, as we will be arranging a further meeting before half term to really get things moving for **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 12 – 3 pm at the Downley site**, a revised date to prevent clashes elsewhere.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the MacMillan coffee morning last Friday, there was a great array of cakes and it was lovely to have children involved in the sales on both sites. A keen topic of conversation was the potential for a summer playscheme that we are looking to set up for next summer – look out for more details on this in due course.

We hope to see all parents and carers in the week including Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, which is our designated **parents' evening**. This will be your first chance in the year to discuss your child's all important PPP (Pupil Provision and Progress) document, which is the breakdown plan of your child's EHCP. Save the date!  
Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

## Autumn Term 2019 dates

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

### Other dates for Parents:

12<sup>th</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> November – Every  
Wednesday – Stepping Stones Parenting  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October –  
Parents evening

'A Sensory Celebration with Parents' week  
commencing 14<sup>th</sup> October – Woodland department

## Community GROW project

Sheila Bees of Community GROW said:  
"Community GROW were joined by returning  
volunteers from Opal Vauxhall Finance to  
improve the Post 16 outdoor space."



"Of the 8 volunteers, 2 had worked with us before which was a great accolade. We had not planned to lop back the overhanging trees from next door but when Ansur managed to sweet talk the Head Teacher into giving us permission, there was no stopping the team. Not only did they finish the planned work but opened up the whole area letting in much needed light as well.  
Guys, thank you so much."



Thank you to all that support us by playing Wycombe Lotto regularly.

For those of you that don't know, if you play Wycombe Lotto, you can choose Chiltern Wood School to be your good cause. Each ticket is £1 and we will receive 50p of it. You have a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000!

## Rainbow's Request for help!

As you might be aware one of our focus areas for last year was the outdoor spaces in Rainbow. This continues to be a focus this year and we are really grateful for all the work our parent volunteers do to support us. We are currently updating one of our play spaces and part of this will include a sensory garden...we are looking for any donation of herb plants and outdoor toys that could be added to this and these would be gratefully received! Also if anyone has any toy cars (large or small) and related items e.g. a car mat these would be well received. Thank you in advance. Hannah

## News from around the school

### Rainbow

It was great to have so many of you join us for the Stay and Play event this week. We were pleased to welcome you to our classes. As always if you have any feedback, positive or constructive, we would love to hear it! We have had a good couple of weeks in Rainbow. Our music groups are becoming more established and children are becoming more confident in the routine. Our music therapy sessions have also begun with Helen and James which has been a great addition to our week. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

### Little Wings

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our Autumn stay and play on Wednesday. We strive to ensure good communication and consistency across home and school so your involvement is greatly appreciated. It was great to see Mums, Dads and Carers get stuck in with messy play, creative arts, and climb around our outside area! We have seen huge progress in such a short amount of time, it was great to share this with you. The next stay and play will be held on 5th February 2020, please come along! Claire

### Treetops

The students have continued to work hard this half term. Hawk class helped with the community cafe on Wednesday. Eagle class went to Bucks University by public bus on Wednesday and helped prepare bags for prospectus students and got a tour around the site. Owl and Kestrel class have enjoyed lots of life skill activities by going for weekly walks to ASDA and Tesco and then making sandwiches and pizzas in their cooking sessions. Have a good weekend. David

### Coppice

Coppice Department have had an amazing start to the year. Children have settled into their classes and routines well. It has been lovely to see children excited to be learning in their new environments. Falcon class have been excited to visit Booker Gym weekly. Red kite have been making amazing models of the lungs! Squirrel class have been reading the story Think Big and talking about what they want to be when they grow up. Deer class have been exploring patterns in maths. Our key focus is on communication and it has been lovely to see all the children embrace and use our signs of the week around school. Salma

### Woodlands

On Tuesday Ian Bean spent the day in Woodland Department. Ian is a consultant specialising in the use of ICT and assistive technology to support the learning and communication needs of people with severe and complex additional needs. He worked in classes with individual pupils and the class staff, and has given us some really helpful advice regarding the use of switches, touch screens and how we can support the pupils to use the equipment. After school he provided a training session for all of the Woodland Department staff about 'Switch Progression'. We are looking forward to Ian's next visit, which is likely to be in the spring term. You should by now have received an invitation from your child's class about attending a sensory tea party themed around the story 'Alice in Wonderland'. If you require any additional information about this or haven't seen an invitation, please ask your child's class teacher. Amanda

### Gemstones

Walking around the department this week it has been a joy to see everyone settling down and positive relationships forming across the classes. What felt strange and new in September is now more comfortable and familiar. Routines are established now so please remember your children's PE, swimming and Forest school kits when needed. Sarah

## Su and Wendy's Request for help!

Su and Wendy have just qualified as practitioners in therapeutic sand play and are asking for the following play items to support this very exciting work.

**People-** domestic, military, fantasy, mythological

**Buildings-** houses, schools, churches, castles

**Animals-** tame, wild, zoo, prehistoric, marine (in families)

**Vehicles-** land, air, water, space, war machines

**Vegetation-** trees, shrubs, plants, flowers

**Structures-** bridges, fences, gates, walls

**Natural objects-** shells, stones, driftwood

**Symbolic objects-** wishing wells, treasure chests, trophies, jewels, goblets

Do you have any of these items lurking in your loft or toy box that you would be happy to donate to us?

Please send into either school office where they will be gratefully received

## Professionals Fayre

What is the Professionals Fayre?

This is a great opportunity to raise awareness of our services to parents who have children with additional needs ranging from 5 to 19 year olds

What are some of the services provided?

SENDIAS/[Adviza](#), NRS, Direct Payments and Brokerage, Chat Charity, [MyLiferaft](#), Buckinghamshire Family Information Service, Community nurse team and more!

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

9:30am – 11:30am

Chiltern Wood School,  
Downley Site,  
Faulkner way,  
High Wycombe, HP13 5HB

The morning will be very relaxed and informal, and a great chance to meet lots of different organisations that can offer information, advice and support to you and your families. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out about services that you could access, ask any questions you may have regarding your children and gather useful information.

## Change to May Bank Holiday 2020

The early May Bank Holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Make a note in your diaries!

**YOU'RE THE ICING ON THE CAKE**

**A big THANK YOU**

To all parents who supported the Macmillan Coffee Mornings last Friday 27 September by coming and eating cake, playing dunk the biscuit, trying the french quiz, or simply donating money to a good cause.

Also to Eagle and Opal classes for their colourful decorations and enthusiastic help on the day with the cakes and games.

Together we raised

**£196.29**

Downley: £83.26      Cressex: £113.03

LET'S DRAW THIS!      COFFEE MORNINGS      MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT