



# Parent Link

office@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearing the end of term already, and there has been such a lot to see and celebrate within the school.

I was delighted to attend the Royal Albert Hall on Monday evening of this week when some of our youngsters had the privilege of taking part in Echoes 8, alongside many mainstream schools across the authority. Fay Hayhurst, who devised the part of the programme that we were part of (she also comes in once a week to support music lessons across the school) – told me this is the first time a special school has been involved in the show. Not only that, but the first child's voice to be heard on the night, was one of our own – Terrell spoke clearly (and bravely) into the microphone as part of the start of the first song. All the children coped brilliantly with the performance and as ever were a huge credit to the school. Enjoy the photos. Thanks to Sara A, Sharon, Judith and Sarah R for supporting the children.

Just a week ago we celebrated Red Nose Day in our own way. Many of the pupils came in wearing red, Gemstones department held an assembly learning about why we raise money for Comic Relief, and they also held some fun games with prizes on the afternoon of the day. As we approach the end of term I wanted to make you aware of a change to staffing following Easter. Pali is stepping down in his role as Gemstones Department Lead to focus on other areas within the school – I'll let you know who is taking up his position in the next newsletter. Pali will continue as Onyx class teacher, but relinquish his department lead responsibilities – our thanks to him for everything he has put into this role.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Open to **any** parent  
of Secondary age young people



### Transitions beyond the school.....

Come and chat to Ruth Goodman.

A previous parent about her experiences of the transition process and the options open to you...

**March 27<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3pm**  
Chiltern Wood School  
Cressex site

### Spring Term 2019 dates

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Please note that the School will be closed on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April for an INSET day.

Pupils return to school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Other dates for parents:

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – 1.30-3pm Transitions Workshop – Cressex Site (suitable for all Secondary Parents)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Crafts Stay & Play – Rainbow and Little Wings.

### Parents Forum

Come and share your ideas, concerns, and suggestions

### Held at the Cressex site

For all parents on **both sites**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

At 9:15am for coffee

for

9:30am start



## News from around the school

### Rainbow

We have been continuing to work on embedding SCERTS within our curriculum in Rainbow and we are seeing some brilliant results from the children. Staff have noted an increase in sustained engagement, requests through gestures, symbols or verbal means and an increase in shared attention when engaging with both adults and children.

We have two events coming up over the next fortnight.

These include a Mozart concert for the children to watch (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March) and a Stay and Play event (1<sup>st</sup> April). Hannah

### Little Wings

The last couple of weeks classes have continued to enjoy their topic under the sea. They have been enjoying different sensory stories and hands on activities. The training from SCERTS that all staff received has helped with supporting students with their social and emotional regulation. Their has also been lots of classes using PECS to make requests for motivating toys or snacks. Reminder stay and play on Monday 1st April, hope you are able to make it. David

### Treetops

Thank you to those parents that were able to attend the parent event last week, I hope that you enjoyed seeing the students in action! The classes have continued to complete lots of different tasks including making lunches and snacks in cooking and remembering how to hold and find utensils correctly. We also have had some classes get the public bus into town to buy their own lunches. Reminder there is a transitions meeting for all parents on **27th March** starting at 1.30 with a parent talking about the process for post 19. David

### Coppice

A big thank you to all who donated to Comic Relief on our mufti day. It was great to see the children getting involved in such a worthy cause!

On the 28th March Gemstones and Coppice department will be hosting an Art exhibition at the Downley Site. Since Christmas, classes have been working together to create a variety of creative art pieces. The exhibition will be open from 9.15-11.45am however, the classes will be visiting at the following times:

9.15-9.45 Onyx & Ruby

9.45-10.15 Fox & Topaz

10.15-10.45 Rabbit & Sapphire

10.45-11.15 Emerald & Deer

11.15-11.45 Diamond & Squirrel

Parents and carers are welcome at any time. There will also be a craft table to build your own creations with the children! Claire

### Woodlands

We are looking forward to 'Crocodiles of the World' visiting Woodland Department on Tuesday. Please ensure you have signed the consent slip and returned it to school.

The Zoo is based in Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and would be well worth a visit if your child is interested in reptiles. Amanda

### Gemstones

Hi All, Gemstone's classes have been busy preparing for their Art Exhibition and Dance Show. Everyone is invited to attend. The children who attended our Echoes performance were a real credit to the department and school, singing their hearts out, bless them! Thank you every one for your support during our Red Nose Day events and activities. The pupils had a blast and were excited to be raising money for other children. Pali.

