



Parent Link

office@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

Issue 10
14th February
2020

Dear Parents and Carers,
Halfway through the year already! It's nice to see the mornings and evenings feel a bit lighter and we can look forward to spring and summer arriving, once we have survived the numerous downpours and gale force winds ...
My grateful thanks to those staff who supported a number of our youngsters who went to Young Voices at the O2 last week. They were treated like royalty as they were allowed to relax in a VIP box in between practices. All had a great time and I know parents who attended were very proud – a late night all round though!
I am aware over the past couple of weeks a number of our year 6 pupils had their EHCPs finalised and sent to parents, naming the child's secondary school for September 2020. In some cases I understand the covering letter has stated Chiltern Wood as the named school, even though section I lists another school for the September 2020 placement. The Local Authority have asked us to pass on that the covering letter automatically generates the name of the child's existing school, and that this should be ignored. The vital information is contained in the EHCP itself, which should list the correct school in section I. There are some pupils for whom the authority is still finalising the secondary place, so please do not panic if this is the case. Please be aware the LA is the decision maker as far as placements are concerned, but it is always a good idea to keep us informed and we will help where we can.
Kathryn Edwards from Squirrel class is planning to leave us at Easter time as she is expecting a baby! Jane Robb will take over as the class teacher, and Jane is spending time in the class already getting to know the pupils and routines. It was great to see so many of you last night and over the course of the week; enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing pupils return on Monday 24th February.
Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Spring Term 2020 dates

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 14th February

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

Other dates for Parents:

Community café starts – every 1st Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 26th February – 10.00am – 12.00pm –
Off site South Bucks coffee morning

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 27th March – parents of Coppice and
Treetops students invited in to buy mini –
Enterprise – details to follow

Friday 27th March – Parents Forum – 9.30am
Cressex site, 11.00am Downley site - details to
follow

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March so will soon be upon us after the half term break.

Individual departments will take an individual approach and so will be in touch regarding what will be organised for the day. Book tokens will come home shortly after the break though, and some classes will be dressing up. For example pupils in Gemstone and Woodland classes are invited to dress up as a character from a book as classes will be working with each other through the day. More details to follow.

Brighton marathon

You may remember that 2 years ago a number of staff took part in the Brighton marathon and raised money for the school. This year, Mati Walter's mum, Izzy, has signed up. She is in the process of setting up her justgiving page to raise money for the school and I'll include full details in the next newsletter. I'll be running the marathon too, although I have promised we won't be racing each other! Bradley



News from around the school

Rainbow

We have had a brilliant half term in the department. The children have really enjoyed our theme of 'On the Farm' and this will be consolidated after the holidays with a farm visit to school. Moving into next half term we will be focusing on zoo animals. The team have already started putting plans into place to develop this theme with the children and there have been some lovely ideas already being discussed. It was great to see so many of you attend the Stay and Play session last week. As always we look for ways to improve and develop this further and if you have any feedback we would welcome this. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back for Spring 2. Hannah

Little Wings

A big thank you to all the parents who attended the stay and play last week, as well as those who came to parents evening. It is always lovely to see families playing together and to share the pupils' successes with you. As always, please send us messages and photos of events happening at home so we can share and discuss these experiences at school. This week, Doug the therapy dog came to visit Little Wings and the week following half term, we will be visited by some farm animals. Lots of new sights and smells to experience! Claire

Treetops

This half term seems to of flown by with lots of engaging and fun activities. Some of the highlights have included doing lots of walks at forest school, our older students completing work experience activities around the school, students making stir fry, sausage tray bake, lemon cake and quiche! We have also enjoyed doing our sensory stories including Funny Bones and The Pig in the Pond. There has also been lots of travel training, community walks and students preparing for our community cafe. Hope you all have a good half term. David

Coppice

Deer class and Falcon class had Doug and Billy the therapy dogs in class this week. The children were very excited to see them and shared some lovely moments with them. We are already looking forward to our next visit!

A few of the children from our department also attended Young Voices - a long but fun day!

Deer class and Falcon class have enjoyed their cooking sessions with Chef Michael this half term, next half term Squirrel class and Red Kite will have the opportunity to work with him. Hope you all have a lovely half term break! Salma

Woodlands

Highlights of the last fortnight have included the pupils in Meadow Class responding so positively to the sound and vibrations from the cello during a whole group music therapy session, and pupils in The Den Class working extremely hard on their physical development skills in the hydrotherapy pool. It was great to see how the resources used in the swimming pool motivate them, especially the pool lights! Please save the date for Music and Mayhem in the Downley Site hall on Thursday 19th March at 10am. Further information to follow. Amanda

Gemstones

Last Wednesday, an excited bunch of children took a trip to the London O2 arena to participate in Young Voices 2020. Needless to say, this was definitely a year to remember! Not only did the children sing with Tony Hadley, they had their own VIP box to experience the concert in. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school, what a brilliant day we all had.

Well done to all the children involved, we are extremely proud of you. Sara A

Support Staff

Vicki attended Mental Health First Aid Champion course with St Johns Ambulance this week. Lots of practical advice on how to support wellbeing in the workplace and support mental health first aider in school. Parents Evening – Online bookings opened for whole school this time. For parents seen outside of the 4-7pm window – please let office know so that reception teams can monitor uptake. Any feedback on the process is welcome!

Sheila B will be putting a plan together with the help of Meadow class on sprucing up the outside area of the nursery with the help of the Opal Vauxhall Finance volunteers.

During half term both sites will be open between 9 am and 3 pm Monday to Friday. Vicky

A note from your Parent Ambassador

It was great to see so many parents at the Toileting Workshop this week and to know the practical advice from the Learning Disability Nurses and information sharing with others was so helpful. There were useful exchanges too at the Epilepsy Workshops run by our school nurses earlier in the term with tailored advice being given to parents. Thank you also to parents who contributed to useful discussions at the recent Parent Forum.

Events coming up soon after half-term include:

Parent Forum at the Downley site on 27 March 9.30 – 10.30am

Happy Easter Coffee Morning with CHAT Charity, FACTBucks and Talkback on 1 April 9.30 – 10.30am

A Workshop by SENDIAS on the EHCP process on 14 May to help parents get the most out of the Annual Review

More details will follow on all events nearer the time. Please let us know if there is anything you would like.

Let's hope there is not too much wet and windy weather next week. Happy Half Term to all! Allie

Gemstones and Coppice – Young Voices 2020



Change to May Bank Holiday 2020

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