



Parent Link

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Issue 1
17th September
2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

A super busy start to the half term and lots to fit in!

Drop off and collection at both our sites always causes congestion and I know it has been quite challenging for all concerned over the course of this week. However, everyone is getting used to a new routine and changes to transport amongst other things.

Thank you so much to the vast majority of parents who work so collaboratively with us, with compassion and understanding that we are all working to the same goal. There have been a couple of incidents this week where parents have been highly disrespectful to staff. We all acknowledge the stresses of time constraints at either end of the school day, but please remember that our staff do not deserve to be on the receiving end of abusive language and behaviour, and it won't be tolerated. We strive hard to build excellent relationships with you all as parents, and I am indebted to the overwhelming majority of parents who work with us collaboratively. We have tried to iron out some of the issues that were in evidence earlier in the week, and hopefully we are now on top of them.

Vaccinations have been at the forefront of my attention this week with flu vaccines for years 7-11 due to roll out in the coming week (Tuesday) and Covid vaccines for 12-15 year olds getting approved. This will be carried out in school before half term, with more information to follow. Consent is required for any vaccination, via the online portal and letter which will come out in due course. Please get in touch if you have any concerns about these.

On a related theme with regards to Covid, we have had a total of two confirmed (unrelated) cases amongst staff over the past 2 weeks. As I have outlined previously, there is now no further action due unless NHS Track and Trace deem it necessary. I think it's helpful to acknowledge this takes some getting used to, as we are more familiar with rules requiring isolation regarding close contacts of a confirmed case.

Some staff news – Michael Bown, who is a senior support assistant in Topaz class on the Downley site, has completed his degree, and succeeded in getting a first! His aim is to become a teacher, and we hope to support him in that in the future.

The Local Authority have done a lot of work on the Local Offer recently, and have urged all special schools to remind parents of its existence. My feeling is that generally it is not well used, but it can be a source of excellent information for all things SEND.

Please find the link below and when you get a moment, have a look at the content:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/>

Many thanks to those parents who contributed towards our tombola stand for Downley Day which is taking place tomorrow.

Many thanks to Tina, Theresa and Annie from Woodland department for organising and manning our stall there – it would be great to see some of our children and families there too. It is taking place on the common between 1 and 5 pm – more details linked here:

<https://www.downley.org/community/downley-day>

Enjoy reading the news from your departments, and please do come along to one of our parent events over the next few weeks, we really appreciate your feedback on how everything is going.

Best wishes for the weekend,

Bradley Taylor

Calendar dates

Thursday 21st October – Parents Evening

Monday 25th – 29th October – HALF TERM

Please see page 3 for further events for parents

Morrisons has an exciting Campaign which started on Monday 6th September.

It's called Good To Grow!

Customers can collect tokens when they shop, for every £10 they spend they will get 1 token.

Customers can then donate these to their school of choice.

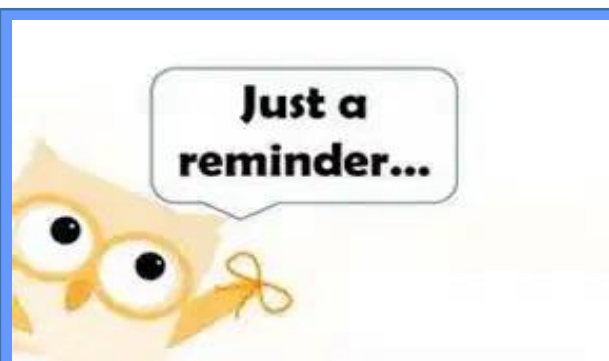
Schools can then spend these on Free Gardening Equipment.

Tokens can be collected between Monday 6th September and Sunday 24th October.

Customers have until Sunday 21st November to donate tokens.

Our school has registered for Morrisons Grow vouchers so we ask parents and staff to collect for CWS.

Please download the My Morrisons app to start collecting Grow Tokens.



if a child has a medical appointment during school time, please can you provide evidence for our records. Parents can also show messages from NHS portal as we are aware that everything tends to be electronic.

News from around the school

Rainbow

Welcome back to the Autumn term . If you are new to Rainbow welcome to the department, if I have not yet had the chance to meet you I hope we can do so soon. Over the summer our team along with the site team have been continuing to improve our environment. This has included corridor painting, improvements to the outdoor space and some space themed painting in one of the Daisy spaces! (photo below) Thank you to all involved. We are incredibly proud of how all the children have returned to school. For some they have moved to a new class, new department and have new staff around them. These are big changes and ones which they have faced and overcome really well. The classes are all settling back into the routines of school life and it has been lovely to see how new relationships are already being built. Around the department we have been very busy with an array of different activities including attention autism sessions, music groups and intensive interaction opportunities to name but a few. You should hopefully have received your class newsletter last week to give you specific updates related to your child's class. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah



Woodland

I have had the pleasure of seeing such busy, happy pupils engaging in a wide range of learning activities since the term began. It is very important that the home/school learning resource bags that were sent home before the summer are returned to school as soon as possible as these resources may be used within lessons. If you haven't already done so, please return your son/daughter's drawstring bag and the contents to school. Please email me if you have any feedback regarding the 'Park with my Friends' sensory story and plan including independence guidance points that was also sent home before the summer holidays. abrown@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk . Amanda

Coppice

Welcome back. I hope you have all had a great summer. The school year is already in full swing, and I have seen some lovely work going on around the department already - it has been fantastic to see lots of smiling happy faces around the department. Classes should all have ClassDojo set up for you so that you can communicate with staff - this is also a great way to see photos of what the children have been doing at school! Salma

Gemstones

It has been wonderful to see the children settle back into school routines, some on a new site with new adults and new class peers, and lovely to see the old Gemstones children confidently move around the school.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to Dojo, this is our main form of home school communication, if you have not yet signed up please do so. Learning around our topic, Home Sweet Home has started in all the classes, all of whom were able to tell me all about it in assembly on Friday. Sarah

Little Wings

Welcome to our new parents in Little Wings and welcome back to returning parents. It is lovely to see how both new and older pupils have settled in again after the summer. This term we are likely to see a change in the weather, please make sure that pupils have spare clothes and clothes for all weather conditions as we do lots of our learning outside! Wellies and waterproofs are a benefit to this! Hannah

Treetops

It has been great to welcome the students back to school. The classes have settled well and are enjoying working in their new classes. Owl and Kestrel class have been enjoying lots of sensory stories and attention autism sessions. Some of the students enjoyed taking part in sailing and gardening at St Katherines whilst the others stayed at school and did some gardening in our horticulture area. Have a good weekend. David

Health and Therapies

Hello everyone, welcome to the start of another school year! The therapists have loved seeing all of the children back in school and are really excited to work with them. Thank you to those that attended the virtual Coffee Mornings this week, we enjoyed meeting you all. Our school Nurses Helen and Nikki would like to remind you that Flu Immunisations for the children are on Tuesday 21st September, so please ensure you have sent your consent forms back for this.

From the Health and Therapies Team

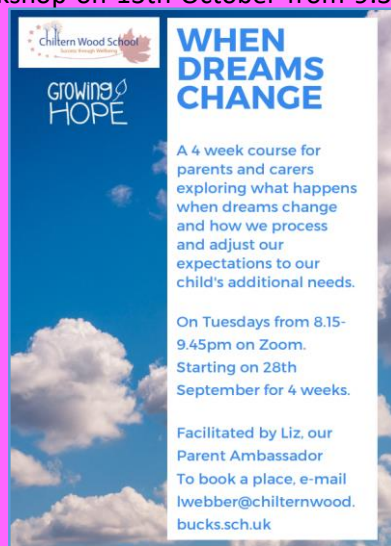
Message from Parent Ambassador

Welcome back and a big welcome to those who are new to the school,

I'm Liz and I'm the Parent Ambassador at school. I'm here to support you to ensure that your child has the best experience during their time at Chiltern Wood. I arrange various training and events sessions for parents, including opportunities to meet with other parents at the school. I am also available to help with questions, form filling, or just for a chat. On Thursday mornings, I run our Parent Volunteers team, which gives you the opportunity to be involved in helping the teachers with preparing materials for class or helping to make the garden areas look good. It's also a great way to meet other parents at the school! Watch this space for further details on how to join the team!

This term, we have a variety of training and events coming up including:

- Recharge Walk and Talk at the Rye this coming Tuesday. See poster for further details.
- When Dreams Change evening Course starting 28th September for 4 weeks on Zoom. See poster for further details.
- Recharge Needle Felting Craft session on 29th September at Downley (open to all). See poster for further details.
- Parent Forum on Thursday 30th September at Cressex (open to all) from 9.30-10.30am - further details and agenda to follow shortly.
- Annual Review Workshop for new parents on 5th October on Zoom from 10-11am. Please note that there are other sessions coming after half term for those already at the school. Further details will follow soon.
- ThinkuKnow Internet Safety Workshop on 13th October from 9.30-10.30am (venue tbc) Further details will follow soon



Garden makeover at Cressex site

