



Parent Link

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Issue 2
1st October
2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, please see below a message from the school's governing board:

Some of you will be aware of this from yesterday's parents forum: I am pleased to be able to confirm on behalf of the school and Governing Body that a new Head Teacher has been appointed yesterday who we expect will start with us in January 2022.

The Governors of Chiltern Wood undertook a rigorous recruitment process for the position of headteacher, and were delighted with an excellent field of applicants. In collaboration with the Local Authority a number of challenging tasks were given to the candidates over the course of the day on Tuesday, and the successful candidate was Rachel Chapman, who joins us from Alfriston School. In the face of strong competition, Rachel excelled in the areas of leadership, management, finance and interpersonal skills. We are delighted with the appointment.

You will of course hear from Rachel once she has started in post. In the meantime, we will work hard to ensure there is a strong transition and with Bradley we will welcome her on behalf of the whole school community.

Bridget Ledson, Chair of Governors

From a personal perspective, I look forward to working with Rachel to provide a smooth transition to new school leadership. I am pleased to have this final term working with the staff, children and families ahead of my own move to the Vale Federation of Schools.

In other news, we were delighted to welcome some extremely unusual and interesting reptiles to Gemstones department on Tuesday – the photos enclosed tell their own story! I had a great time experiencing this encounter alongside Opal class.

There will be further information in relation to this, but children aged 12-15 within the school will be offered the vaccine this Thursday. All consent is online – if you have any kind of difficulty giving consent or have any questions, please do contact the school. Disruption due to Covid has been relatively limited – since I last wrote we have had a further one positive case amongst the staff, unrelated to either of the other cases. In general terms, school has been running as normal.

Finally we send our very best wishes to two members of staff who leave us this week. Yvonne Hall has been a teaching assistant for some 16 years, and the time has come for her to retire. Similarly Vicky Clanfield our School Business Manager has relocated within the county, but concludes her employment with us today. We sincerely thank both members of staff for all they have done for the school, especially for the children and their families. We hope they remain friends to the school in the future.

Best wishes for the weekend, Bradley

Calendar/ Events dates

Tuesday 5th October at 10am - Annual Review Workshop for new parents via Zoom
Wednesday 13th October at 9:30 - ThinkuKnow Internet Safety Workshop
Thursday 21st October – Parents Evening
Monday 25th – 29th October – HALF TERM

Please donate if you can

Shiv from Red Kite class is running for NSPCC charity this Sunday. If you would like to support her please use the link or the QR code attached below. Thank you for all your donations!

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SiobhanAllinson/1>



Just a
reminder...



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

It has been great to see some of our therapy sessions getting started again over the past few weeks. These have included our weekly SALT sessions, some music therapy groups and support from OT. The children have been enjoying these sessions and getting to know Sally our new therapist for the department. As you may be aware we are in the process of updating the health care plans. If you have not yet sent these back please do so as soon as possible. Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Hannah

Woodland

One of my most favourite parts of my job is visiting classes to witness first-hand the fantastic learning that is taking place. I have recently seen a pupil in Meadow Class learn to roll to a motivating activity board. The class team have moved the furniture around so that the pupil can work on rolling longer distances to reach the activity board. Pupils in Snowdrop Class showed me how good they are at threading using some felt threading activities made by Agnieszka. Orchard Class have a wonderful end of the morning plenary session involving a song about 'The Orchard Family' based on 'The Adam's Family' song. A black parachute is used with a ball that glows under UV light, encouraging the pupils to attend. The pupils in Forest Class have been effectively communicating that they would like 'more' bouncing on the trampoline or swinging in the leaf swing. We see some of the best smiley faces on the trampoline! In the Den Class, the pupils have been highly engaged working on their individual ECT targets. One pupil used her eyes to communicate that she wanted to use the computer programme that another pupil was using. Well done, Everyone! Amanda

Health and Therapies

Hello everyone! We are really enjoying doing our therapy sessions with the children this new academic year and seeing some lovely things. Nicky and Lucy from OT had a great session with a child from The Den who is working on reaching with her right hand. Well done! Photo attached. From the Health and Therapies Team.



Coppice

As the term continues, I am already impressed with the calibre of learning that is taking place across the department. As the weather gets colder, please can I remind everyone to ensure that children bring in their coats and dress warm. (Please remember to label all clothing with names!- Thank you)

The children will be saying a sad goodbye to Yvonne a teaching assistant who has been working across all the classes in Coppice. We wish her all the best in the future!

Salma

Gemstones

Walking around the classrooms it is clear to see the progress the children are already making this term.

Our Topic Home Sweet Home is taking us on all sorts of adventures, walking through Downley, visiting the Inuits in Greenland and flying on a magic carpet to Egypt !

We had a visit from the Reptile Roadshow on Tuesday, Richard brought in lizards, snakes, a tortoise and chinchilla for us to see. The children had an amazing time getting to know the different creatures, as you will see from the photographs.

The sunshine is trying to push through the clouds, but the weather is changing so please make sure that your child has clearly named, appropriate layers and waterproofs in school. Thank you. Sarah

Little Wings

We have now welcomed Sam who will be a teaching assistant in Bumblebee class. I have had the pleasure of seeing pupils engaged and happy in a wide range of different learning activities this week and it is clear to see the progress they have already made! Hannah

Treetops

The students continue to be working hard. Both Kestrel class and Owl Class have been enjoying taking part in Forest School walks with Lyn and completing various tasks. Hawk class have been enjoying getting the bus into town and ordering their lunch from the local cafe. Both Eagle and Hawk class have been enjoying gardening sessions at St Katherines, last week they were planting strawberry plants. Photo below. Have a good weekend. David



Downley Day



Gemstones Reptile Show

