



Parent Link

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Issue 7
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an emotional week for me knowing it is my last as Chiltern Wood School headteacher. My heartfelt thanks to everyone connected with the school – parents, staff and most importantly the children and young people who have made my time here a privilege and a pleasure.

There have been plenty of highs and lows over the 9+ years since I first started at (then) Chiltern Gate School, but my strong over-riding feeling is one of pride in the school over that period. There were significant challenges to be faced at both Chiltern Gate and Maplewood in the early days, but through the fantastic work of staff and the support from the parenting community, the school is so much stronger now than then, and I feel sure that Rachel and the team will take the school on to even better things for the future. I do sincerely wish everyone connected to the school all the very best, and hope our paths cross again as time goes by.

My final parting message comes from one of my favourite books by Dr Seuss – Oh The Places You'll Go! From time to time life is hard; it seems as though it's too hard to go on and you just feel like it's too much. This has probably never been more true over the past 21 months with the ups and downs of the Covid-19 era. The biggest lesson I have learned over my time at Chiltern Wood is that there is always a way through those tough times, provided we are there to support each other, listen to views, and say when we need help. With some uncertainty about the current state of play with this new variant, I hope you can recognise what strength there is in the school community when we pull together, and recognise that no challenge is insurmountable when we approach it as a joint force. My very best wishes to you all and your children for the future.

Bradley

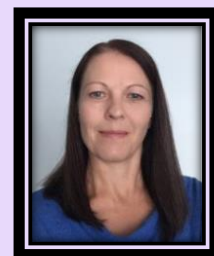


Goodbye message from Rhonda

It feels very strange to be saying goodbye after spending 16 years here, firstly at Chiltern Gate, then at Chiltern Wood.

When I first started here I planned to get a better understanding of the needs of the children before going back to University to study Educational Psychology. I did not anticipate how incredibly rewarding I would find working with the amazing children and young people here. Last year I had the pleasure of seeing a student who I taught in Reception, leaving the 6th form at 19 and going off to college. Never before have I worked with such a passionate community of people who are all working towards the same goals.

I feel immensely proud and privileged to have been part of the Chiltern Wood journey.



Good luck & farewells

Fran begins maternity leave in mid January – best wishes Fran!

Claudette, Sima, Kerry, Jo, Delphine and Kat are moving on to pursue new opportunities and challenges in January – we wish them luck and thank them for their hard work and commitment

Calendar dates

Monday 3rd January –BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4th January – INSET DAY

Wednesday 5th January – Friday 18th February 2022

Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February – HALF TERM

News from around the school

Rainbow

We have had a lovely end of term with the children. The classrooms have been full of an array of winter themed tasks from letters to Santa, bucket themed Christmas cards to 'snow' filled sensory trays. Looking back on the term it has been wonderful to reflect on the different things the children have done and the wow moments that we have seen. We have seen some children join in for the first time with planned pauses in response to a song, seen some start to put their nappies/pads in the bin and others who have touched wet sensory trays which they wouldn't have previously engaged with. We are so proud of all our Rainbow children and the achievements they have made over the last term. Thank you for all the support you have given to our team, it really does mean a lot. We hope you all have a very special Christmas and a wonderful holiday. Take care, Hannah

Little Wings

What a pleasure it has been to see all of the children in Little Wings make such amazing progress this first term, for some children their first term in the school. I hope you all have a safe, well-rested Christmas break. After Christmas Claire will be back from her maternity leave and will be leading Little Wings department. It has been a pleasure working with you and your children. Hannah

Coppice

Over the course of this week classes have been engaged in Christmas based activities leading up to Santa visiting on Thursday! Children will be bringing home gifts from Santa and photos will be shared of the fun activities the children have been taking part in.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you and goodbye to Claudette, Jo and Sima who are leaving us. I know the children will miss them as will we.

I hope you all manage to have a restful and safe Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Salma

Treetops

I can't believe we are now at the end of term. The students have achieved so much this term. The classes have enjoyed their various Christmas lunches including one class making a roast dinner and some students having pizza. All of the students have been communicating more with their various communication devices. Apologies again for having to cancel our parent event but I hope you all have a good Christmas and look forward to seeing you back in January. David

Gemstones

At the end of this long term, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Thank you for all your support this term and we are looking forward to seeing you all safe and well in the New Year. Teachers are already planning lots of wonderful learning opportunities for the children in the Spring term. I would really like to thank the office angels at Downley who are always so supportive and helpful! Sarah

Woodlands

Thank you to Cerys, Dexter and Bradley for all that you have brought to our school. It has been an absolute pleasure to have you all here. You have all shown super determination and excellent communication skills, in your own way. Your new schools will be extremely lucky to have you. Good luck and please keep in touch. Thank you also to Mandy who is moving from The Den Class to Little Wings Department on the Cressex site. Good luck to you too, Mandy! Merry Christmas, Everyone! Amanda

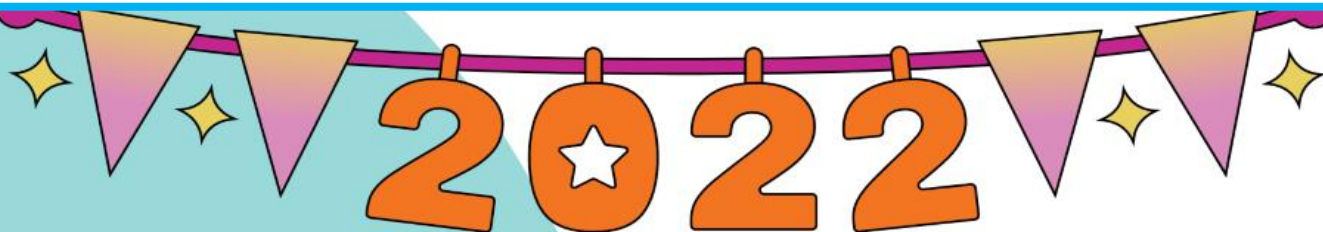
Health and Therapies

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children this term, and have seen some lovely moments of progression and achievement. We are all very much looking forward to carrying on this exciting work in Spring Term.

Have a wonderful and well-deserved Christmas break with lots of smiles and happy memories.

The Health and Therapies Team





Come and meet
our new
Headteacher
Rachel Chapman



Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Headteacher's Welcome
3. Parent Events
4. Parent Volunteers
5. AOB

Parent Forum

Focussing on the needs
of your child

Join us

On: Tuesday 11th Jan 22

At: 9.30-10.30am

Venue: On Zoom

For parents from both
sites



Oh the places you'll go! – Dr Seuss

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And *YOU* are the guy who'll decide where to go.

Out there things can happen and frequently do
To people as brainy and footsy as you
And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew.
Just go right along. *You'll* start happening too.

You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers who soar to great heights.
You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.

Except when you *don't*. Because sometimes you *won't*.
I'm sorry to say so but, sadly, it's true
That Bang-ups and Hang-ups *can* happen to you.
You can get all hung up in a prickly-perch.
And your gang will fly on. You'll be left in a Lurch.

You'll come down from the Lurch with an unpleasant bump.
And the chances are, then, that you'll be in a Slump.
And when you're in a Slump, you're not in for much fun.
Un-slumping yourself is not easily done.

And when you're alone, there's a very good chance
You'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants.
There are some, down the road between hither and yon,
That can scare you so much you won't want to go on.

But on you will go though the weather be foul.
On you will go though your enemies prowl.
On you will go though the Hakken-Kraks howl.
Onward up many a frightening creek,
Though your arms may get sore and your sneakers may leak.

On and on you will hike. And I know you'll hike far
And face up to your problems whatever they are.

Step with care and great tact and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.
And will you succeed? Yes! You will indeed! (98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent guaranteed)

KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS.