



Parent Link

office@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

Issue 31
15th September
2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year and we hope you have all had a super summer.

It has been wonderful to see all the children settle back into school and their routines as well as welcoming our new starters to the school, who have all got used to the Chiltern Wood ways very quickly. I am particularly happy to be back at school as I had an operation on my foot just before the summer, so spent most of it not doing very much. I am now in a grey Velcro boot until half term, but at least I can get around school a bit more..

I have really enjoyed reading the department news and some of the class newsletters that have gone out. I am looking forward to seeing some of the exciting plans come together and also more cross site working with some of our Gemstones and Coppice students working together on Young Voices ready to perform early in 2024.

I have completed a separate update on the swimming pool and want to thank you for your patience with this.

We love to hear all about what is going well in school, but occasionally we don't always get it right. If you have any concerns or issues, we always want to work with you to improve and get better. I would always encourage you to speak to the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. If you would like more information, please have a look at the 'Complaints and Resolutions' policy on the school website.

I am looking forward to meeting some of our new parents next Tuesday, 19th September at the coffee morning at Cressex. However if you do see me outside at transport time do please stop and say hello, I am easy to spot as I have the grey Velcro boot!



Rachel Chapman

Calendar dates

Half Term: 23rd to 27th October

Parent Events

19th September: Meet the Parents (Cressex)

26th September: Meet the Parents (Downley)

8th November: Professionals Fayre 9.30am-11am

Parent Volunteers

Every Thursday (from 15.09.22) 9-10.30am

Attendance reminder

We continue to focus on good attendance for all our pupils and request that holidays are not booked in term time.

Newsletter Dates 2023-24

Please note the dates for the newsletters being sent out this year are:

- September - 15th
- October - 13th
- November - 17th
- December - Tuesday 19th (end of term)
- January - 19th
- February - 23rd
- March - Thursday 28th (end of term)
- April - 26th
- May - 24th
- June - 28th
- July - Tuesday 23rd July (end of term)

News from around the school

Gemstones

Dear all, It has been so wonderful seeing your lovely children back at school after the summer holidays! I hope they all had an enjoyable, well-deserved summer. It has been great hearing about the opportunities the pupils got to be involved with over the holidays - some attending weddings, going on holiday for the first time and even working on their communication in the community. I have already been fortunate enough to visit all classes over the last week and have already seen WOW moments which has made me feel ever so proud. It is amazing how quickly classes have settled down and established new routines. Class newsletters and timetables have been sent out this week, so please do read them to see what is happening this term. All classes in Gemstones will be using Class Dojo as a main platform of communication. Please do check Dojo as you will be able to find out what learning has taken place that day, alongside staff sharing WOW moments! We also love receiving pictures and updates of what is happening at home. Dojo will also be a way of us sharing and inviting you to our events. I look forward to seeing what this year brings! Sara.

Woodland

A very warm welcome back to all of our families and also a big welcome to our new starters for this September. I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and that the transition back to school went smoothly. We are really looking forward to another fun term with lots of exciting celebrations and festivals coming up. We look forward to sharing our fun with you all in due course. Kara.

Coral

It has been lovely welcoming the learners in Coral Department back, it seems that everyone has had a growth spurt over the holidays. Our topic this term is 'Our Natural World', each week we will be exploring different countries around the world. This week we have been looking at the UK. The learners have been learning how to make a cup of tea and decorating double-decker buses. I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff in Coral who have come back refreshed and ready to have an amazing year! Izzy

Coppice

Welcome back to Chiltern Wood School. I hope that you all enjoyed the Summer Holiday. In the Coppice Department, we are facing this new school year full of enthusiasm, new ideas and resources to contribute to our students' learning. The Deer, Squirrel and Fox teams have been working very hard in order to welcome our students and it has been lovely to visit the different classes and witness how everyone is settling down with their new teachers and peers. We can not wait to start this year's journey! Kindest regards, Sarai

Treetops

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. We all very much enjoyed meeting the students when they arrived at school on Wednesday. The children were excited to meet their new teachers and peers. It has been great seeing all of them settling into routines very quickly. Our topic this half term is 'People who help us'. Children have already enjoyed lots of fun and engaging activities prepared by their teachers. We are hoping for a firefighters' visit by the end of this half term. How exciting! This half term, we all will be working on developing communication, independence and life skills. Some classes will enjoy cooking with chef Michael, shopping at ASDA or going forest school and many more! If you have any questions, please contact the class team on Dojo or the school office. We wish you all a wonderful year and as always would love to see any photos or hear of any 'wow' moments that happened over the holiday. Magda.

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 also clothes for all kind of weather conditions as we do lots of outdoor learning and exploring outside! Wellies and waterproofs are a benefit to this! If you need anything, your Class team and myself will be always happy to help! Thank you and have a lovely weekend, Patri

Rainbow

Hello and a warm welcome back, especially to our new parents. I hope you all had a wonderful Summer with your children. It has been lovely to see how well the children have settled into their new routines and already forming bonds with staff. We are all very excited for the new term ahead and have lots of fun and engaging activities planned. Sam

Staffing Update

September Staffing Update

A warm welcome to the following new starters:

Cressex:

- Dacia – TA
- Natasha – MDS
- Nowshin – TA
- Sidrah – Admin Assistant
- Olivia – Kitchen Assistant

Downley

- Lorna – Class teacher
- Sharmaine – Kitchen Assistant
- Zoe – TA
- Dini – TA
- Mikey – Swim instructor

Change of roles across both sites

- Izzy – Coral Department Lead
- Elena – move from MDS to TA
- Travis & Omriye – Unqualified teachers

We are also very excited to welcoming back Michelle Eggett and Emily Bragg.



Swimming Update

We are working with the Local Authority to ensure we are compliant with our swimming pool and to get it open to our pupils as quickly as possible.

So far we have:

- Appointed a new swim instructor
- Appointed a life guard to be pool side at all times (not yet started)
- Trained 4 staff to Level One Swim Teacher
- Booked 20 more staff to be trained to Level One Swim Teacher on 3rd October (this may mean some partial closures of classes)
- Have a trainer coming to see how we deliver training in school with three of our classes on 21st September.

When we have completed this training we want to get going with swimming as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience and support with this.

Parent Ambassador Update

I hope that you have had a good start back to the term. I have been busy pulling together the events calendar for this coming term. You can see them on the parent noticeboards outside the main door at Downley, in the foyer and round by the gates to the playground at Cressex. You can also find out what is coming up by joining our Facebook page "Chiltern Wood School Events". Notifications also come out via Parentmail and Dojo too, as well as in this newsletter!

We have 2 Coffee Mornings coming up, so do join us to meet other parents from the school, as well as taking the opportunity to meet your child's school therapists:

Tuesday 19th September at Cressex from 9.15-10.15am

Tuesday 26th September at Downley from 9.15-10.15am

Our Parent Volunteers start back next Thursday and will be busy helping to prepare materials for the teachers, as well as doing other very useful jobs. If you would like to join the team, please do e-mail me lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

Finally do put our Professionals Fayre on 8th November from 9.30-11am in your diary. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with lots of different organisations who provide services, activities and support to families with children with disabilities. It's definitely one not to miss!

Bye for now,

Liz



New School Year Coffee Morning for Cressex Parents

On: Tuesday 19th September

From: 9.15–10.15am

Venue: Dining Room at Cressex

**A great chance to meet
other parents and staff
from the school**



New School Year Coffee Morning for Downley Parents

On: Tuesday 26th September

From: 9.15–10.15am

Venue: Meeting Room 1, Downley

**A great chance to meet
other parents and staff
from the school**

