

8 September 2017

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to all our existing, and new parents, to the school year. I do hope you have had a wonderful summer and are ready for what will be a very exciting year. It has been great to welcome our new Reception children this week and our children who have joined in other year groups. They have all settled in really well.

This weekly newsletter will provide all the information that you need to know about what is happening at school, and it comes out every Friday. We will send it out by email and put it on the front of the school website, but if you would like a paper copy sent home, please complete the attached slip and return it back to the office. You can always discover what is happening in school through our school website and our twitter feed @chacewatersch which will appear on the website homepage as well.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for all of the beautiful cards and gifts the staff received last term. We were very grateful.

As well as our lovely new children, we welcome Miss. Hoare as class teacher to the Young Oaks and Miss. Mckellar as maternity cover for Mrs. Medlicott who will be back with us in February. We also welcome Mrs. Keast who joins us as a student teacher in Acorns. Some of you may also have noticed the wonderful news that Mrs. Fox is having a baby. She will be off on maternity leave in January, and I will keep you up to date with our appointment for her maternity cover.

Below I am attaching some key information about things coming up in school and also a list of key dates that we have planned in already, to help with diary planning.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Gould

Parent Assemblies – these happen every Friday, and our first one will be next week. Please join us from 9 to 930 in the school hall. In our diary dates, you will also see when your children's class our leading the Assembly. Reception children will not be joining us for Assembly just yet but we will let you know when this is.

Collection from school — - ensuring that your children get home safely is really important to us, so we will be sending home our forms for you to complete stating which people can collect your child. As ever, if your child will be collected by someone not on our list, please ensure you let the class teacher know or phone the school office. We will not allow children to go home unless we have this information.

<u>Holidays in term time</u> - Can I remind you of the current law around holidays in term time. We are not allowed to authorise these and I must point out that for children who took a holiday in term time last year, it was clear that it affected their progress both academically and emotionally. This year, we have enlisted the support of the Educational welfare service and any requests I get for holidays will involve me liaising with them.

<u>Parental Involvement</u> - having been Head teacher at Chacewater for eight years, one of the things that I am most proud of is how well parents are involved in the life of the school. We have some opportunities for you to get involved.

We are currently looking for two new parent governors. The governing body, with the headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. Training is available for all governors and this governing body has an expectation that those new to being a governor attend free induction training.

Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 or more hours per academic year or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

Being a governor is a big commitment. If you would like to stand for election we would like you to meet with our Chair and Vice Chair of governors prior to applying, so you can find out more about the role. They will be in school on

Wednesday 13th September. Please see me/contact me on Monday and I will arrange a time for you to meet them. They will then give you a nomination form and you must return it to the school no later than Friday 15th September. You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent. If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

In addition, we run a parent forum, who aim to meet at least once a term. This group discusses how we can ensure there is good communication and ensure the smooth running of the day to day operations of the school. We currently have a vacancy for a Reception/Acorns class parent. If you would like to join the forum, please see me.

Macmillan Days

- To give you the opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher we have organised the following coffee mornings which have worked very successfully over the past few years. We tie these in with the Macmillan coffee mornings and invite parents to join us on the times and dates below for coffee and any cakes you are able to bake along aside the opportunity to make a donation to Macmillan. All mornings will start at 9am and finish at 930am.

18th September - Year 1, 19th September Year 3 and 4, 20th September Year 2, 21 September Year 5 and 6, 22 September Reception.

<u>Expansion</u> - you may have noticed that our numbers have risen recently. Over the past few years we have grown from 111 children to 162 children. Therefore, we are requiring some additional space and I am delighted to say that next year we will be creating a new classroom by remodelling some of our existing space. The plan is that we will then be able to move to a school of 1 form entry in the future as applications for the school have grown. The governors will update you with further details through the term.

Parking — as we start a new term, can I remind everyone to be considerate when parking and not to park on the zig zag lines or turn in the staff car park entrance. Also, I have received complaints from the Parish council about the speed some parents were driving at on the Falmouth Road last term. Please do be considerate to our local community.

Reading and 99 club - this term we are having a real focus on reading which is very exciting. We are now implementing our accelerated reader scheme throughout Ks 2 and some parts of KS 1 over the next few weeks and your class teacher will

communicate how this works. We have moved our library and are turning this into a "Reading Garden."

We are also relaunching the 99 club following feedback from children and parents - we are currently re designing the badges and as soon as the children have done this we will let you know how it works. A clue is that it will be a "Roman theme."

<u>After school clubs</u> - tonight you will receive our selection of after school clubs for the term. These will start on the 18th September.

DIARY DATES 2017-2018 Academic Year

| 15 th September 9am | First Parents Assembly of the term |
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| 18 th September 9am | Year 1 Macmillan Meet your teacher |
| | coffee morning |
| 19 th September 9am | Year 3 and 4 Macmillan Meet your teacher |
| | coffee morning |
| 20 th September 9am | Year 2 Macmillan Meet your teacher |
| | coffee morning |
| 21st September 9am | Year 5 and 6 Macmillan Meet your teacher |
| | coffee morning |
| 22 nd September 9am | Reception Macmillan Meet your teacher |
| | coffee morning |
| 23 rd September | Chacewater Village show in school |
| 2 nd October | Flu Vaccinations for Reception to Year 4 |
| 12 th October | Harvest service at Church 930am |
| 20 th October 9am | Mighty Oaks Parent Assembly |
| 23 to 27 October | Half term |
| 30 th October | Inset Day school closed |
| 3 rd November | Seedlings Parent Assembly |
| 10 th November | Oaks Parent Assembly |
| 17 th November | Young Oaks Parent Assembly |
| 24 th November | Buds Parent Assembly |
| 1 st December | Acorns Parent Assembly |
| 8 th December 2pm | School Christmas Fayre |
| 13 th December | Christmas Dinner for pupils |
| 14 th December 6pm | KS 2 Christingle |
| 18 th and 19 th December | Reception and KS 1 Nativity |
| 21st December to 3rd January 2018 | Christmas Holidays |

Please note - KS 2 SATS week - w/c 14th May 2018

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