

Friday 19th March 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Today's date marks a year since schools were closed due to the Pandemic. We were startled and reminded of the fears that we felt in early Spring 2020, as Mrs McLean was looking through the children's Prayer Journal from Act of Worship. A year since things were and felt 'normal'.

At the end of the second week of the return to school, it's good to be able to see some things settling in to place, albeit with some adaptations. Whilst the adapted rhythms and routines of class and school are being built, we are still mindful that the consequences of the Pandemic, restrictions, Lockdowns, working-from-home, remote learning and financial changes are still hitting our families. Recovery will need time and effort, in order to secure the stability and security that we need.

We are grateful to the PTFA team for organising last night's Extraordinary Meeting. Seeing so many Chevening parents, carers and friends giving their time and consideration for the school's current needs was very moving; it was good to be able to talk together. Thank you for the on-going support for Chevening through the time given before and during the meeting, the generous offers of financial support, as well as the professional expertise and practical help that have also been voiced.

We have received enquiries about how to make donations for the swimming pool and how to sponsor a fish. ***If you are able to use Gift Aid, please do—this fully maximises any donation.*** The details are below:

Sponsor-A-Fish: please click [here](#)

Voluntary Fund: Chevening Primary School Voluntary Fund; sort code 60-19-02; Account: 23139870

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend!
Best wishes, Miss Minnis

Next week in Worship we will be exploring the events of **Holy Week**, seeing how the emotions of individuals and crowds changed from the excitement of Palm Sunday, to the sorrow of the Cross, followed by the joy at the miracle of the Resurrection.

Christian Value Certificates

This week we are pleased to recognise the following for all their endeavours and displaying our school values in school and at home:

Class R (Miss Levy)- Micah for **perseverance**; trying really hard with Phonics and making great progress! Renee for her **compassion**; for being kind and always helping her friends.

Class 1 (Mrs McLean & Mr Langston)- Percy for his **perseverance**; for all his hard work on his writing. Well done!

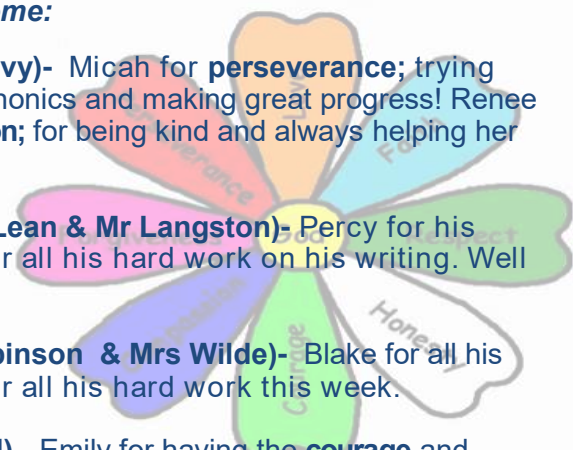
Class 2 (Mrs Robinson & Mrs Wilde)- Blake for all his **perseverance**; for all his hard work this week.

Class 3 (Mrs Roll) - Emily for having the **courage** and **resilience**; asking for help when she needs it and continuing to work through problems, even if she finds tricky.

Class 4 (Miss Sweeney)- Ollie for continuously showing **respect** and being respectful to others; adults and peers alike - and all within our class. Taking care of all and everything!

Class 5 (Mr Qureshi)- Molly B and Freddie for their **honesty** with their answers during our RE work this week. **Perseverance** for the all of class 5 for working really hard to improve their accuracy in our new maths topic.

Class 6 (Mrs Edwards)- Ollie for having **self-respect** and showing he is proud of his work.



Class 5

This week, the children have continued working hard on our whole school book 'What We'll Build' and thinking about how we can all find a way to recover from the recent challenges in order to build a better future. You can see a little video and some of our work on the school website. (<https://Chevening-St-Botolphs.secure-primariesite.net/what-well-build-whole-school->



The class are working hard to help others and ourselves. The book has been a useful way to focus our thoughts.

Class 5 were pleased to see that **CLPE** (who produce guidance for our 'Power of Reading' books) retweeted the post about the children's work saying how wonderful it was.



Class 5 have also continued exploring the Solar System and Mars! We joined an online session featuring Tim Peake as well as taking part with other activities for '[Mars Day](#)'.



Finally, the children submitted entries to two Mars competitions and we are hopeful that the judges will enjoy our work.

Class 6

This week **Class 6** were set an invention challenge. They were asked to work with their partner to invent something to protect birds in trees. Each pair had to innovate in order to come up with their design and then present it to the rest of the class. The ideas that were produced were amazing! Well done!





Thank you to all the children that took part in our **Sponsored Read**. A total of £193 has been raised, well done!

All the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school and we see it as a great way to celebrate coming out of this latest lockdown together!

Free Recorded Webinar for Parents/Carers

A free webinar is available for parents and carers on **Supporting Children's Emotional Wellbeing in Times of Uncertainty** led by [Kelly Hannaghan](#), Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultant for The Education People. The session offers parents and carers a space to gain knowledge-rich approaches and key skills to help recognise and respond to your child's emotional health needs both within and beyond the pandemic.

The aims of this session:

- To provide a safe space for parents/carers to pause and reflect on your own emotional needs and the needs of your child.
- Explore the possible impact that the pandemic has had on your family.
- Gain an understanding on how to protect mental health and wellbeing in challenging times.
- Take away top tips for helping your child thrive through resilience.
- Start to build your own family wellbeing toolkit.

For further information, support and guidance please look through our [Mental Health and Wellbeing pages](#).

Please click on the image to access the webinar:



Governor News

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Dana Dobrescu to the Governing Board, as our new Foundation Governor. Dana is a parent of the school and a member of St Botolph's, Chevening Church. We look forward to Dana's input to our strategic duties. She will serve on our Learning and Development Committee.

Prue Burrlock

Chair of Governors

Clean Up Sevenoaks

The PTFA have arranged for Chevening to join in the **Clean Up Sevenoaks/Litter Picking Weekend** on **Saturday 20th March and Sunday 21st March 2021**.

The suggested plan is for families to go out for a walk this weekend, pick up any litter they see, put it in a bag and then proudly take a photo and uploaded to CleanUp Sevenoaks Facebook group.

There are many prizes to be won - including a prize for the school that picks the most litter.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to engage with their environment and give back to the community in a very small and easy way.

Additional information is available on the Clean-up Sevenoaks website www.cleanupsevenoaks.co.uk.



Family First Magazine

Family First is a magazine that is packed full of information to help keep children happy, learning & entertained at home during lockdown. Please click the image for more details:



House Points

Houses	Total House Points for the week
Churchill	146
Sackville	150
Stanhope	211
Wolfe	241

Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for Red Nose Day by wearing something red to school and making a donation.

So far we have raised **£126.05.**



What We'll Build

The whole school have really enjoyed reading the Oliver Jeffers book 'What We'll Build'. We thought our parents/carers might like to know a little more. So here is a lovely short video of the Author explaining the thinking behind the book.



Key Dates

Date	Event
31st March	Captain Fantastic Easter Celebrations
31st March	Last Day of Term
1st April	Inset Day
2nd April	Good Friday (Bank Holiday)
5th —16th April	Easter Half Term
19th April	First Day of Term 5

These dates may be subject to amendment due to COVID-

On site reminders

Please could parents/carers remember:

- To supervise younger children/toddlers carefully and keep them close to you at all time.
- The children need **coats and wellies** to school every day and waterproofs when it rains
- Your child can wear a **plain fleece** on top of their existing school uniform to help them stay warm; **named** gloves, hats, scarves or snood are welcomed.

-When dropping off or collecting your child/ren please keep away from our climbing equipment. Sadly, current COVID-restrictions mean this is not yet in use.

Class Attendance

A great start to full school attendance last week! Regular and punctual attendance ensures that everyone benefits from all that is on offer in school—socially, emotionally and academically, now and into the future. **Attendance has been brilliant—please keep it up! Our gates close at 8.55am, so learning can start and everyone is safe; please try to be on time!** Attendance and absence are closely monitored each day, so staff notice concerns and successes, even during COVID. The Government have said that absence, for reasons linked to COVID Guidance, will not impact individual children's attendance.

	Weekly % attendance	Year to date % attendance
Class R	98.4%	97.1%
Class 1	100%	97.8%
Class 2	100%	97.8%
Class 3	99.5%	95.2%
Class 4	95.3%	97.8%
Class 5	98.7%	94.9%
Class 6	99.7%	96.3%
Whole school	98.8%	96.8%
Excellent	>97%: celebration of excellent attendance	
Good	95-97%: note of good attendance	
Poor	<95%: alert to poor & worrying attendance	