



Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School Newsletter No 01

Autumn Term

Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of the new academic year! The children and staff have made a focused start to the new year, with new classrooms, staff, uniforms, responsibilities, routines and opportunities to shine. Well done everyone for such a positive start to the school year.

It's been lovely to catch-up with holiday news and celebrate special people, places and memories together. Please join me in offering a special 'Chevening' welcome to the new families and friends who are joining us this term, mostly in Class R. Everyone is excited to meet the new children and help them feel 'at home' as soon as possible.

Please take time to admire our newly installed 200th Mosaic (situated on the wall by Class 2). Last term, all the children contributed their time and talents to this project to proudly mark our celebration of 200 years of schooling in the Parish. We are grateful to Sue and Sarah for working hard to complete the installation in August.

We are in the process of renewing door and locking arrangements—you may well notice new systems around school. The playground gate, by the School Office Porch, will be opening at 3.10pm each afternoon, so parents/carers are on the playground in time as staff dismiss the children at 3.15pm.

To maintain security, we ask ALL parents/carers to confirm **any** changes to normal collection at the end of the school day—without this, we cannot release children to anyone else. Please alert staff at the main doors 8.45-8.55am or phone the School Office before 2.45pm to advise us of any changes.

With best wishes for the weekend, Miss Minnis



We have received information about a number of events and opportunities for families, which are too numerous to be included in this newsletter, so have been attached to the email that it sent out each week to our families.

Please see the separate attachments which give details about each event.



Christian Values

Here is a reminder of our school Christian Values. Each week, a child from each class is nominated by their class teacher in recognition of their shining examples of these values in daily life. This can be done at home as well!





On Tuesday we heard that more than 2500 children across the Sevenoaks District have been participating in this year's Summer Reading Challenge - including 99 from Chevening! At the time of reporting, our school was ranked 3rd on the Schools' Leader board - a good achievement for a small school. However, the Challenge has not ended - 20% of our children have finished the Space Chase and received their rewards. Let's try and increase the number of children who complete the challenge and see if we can't nudge our way further up the Schools' Board by 14.09.19!

Medication in School: Some of our children do require medication to be kept accessible for them in school. Please check that your child's medicines and paperwork are up-to-date and correct at the start of the new academic year. Thank you.

Nut Free School: Please be reminded that we are a "Nut Free School" and therefore ask parents to ensure that packed lunches contain no nuts or nut products.



The 4 year term of office for one of our **Parent Governors** will be ending soon, creating a vacancy on our Governing Board. If you are interested in considering this vital role, please speak with Mrs Prue Burrlock, Miss Minnis or ask at the School Office. There will be more information soon, but in the meantime, you can learn more about the role at <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

Silver Sports Award: We are pleased to announce that we have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for 2018/19.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme that rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport and to all who support our sporting events and activities. Congratulations to everyone! We are pleased that our shared hard work has been recognised and rewarded in this way.



School Term Dates 2019-20

Term Dates 2019-20			
Term	From	To	INSET Day (School closed to children)
Term 1	02.09.19	18.10.19	Mon 2 nd Sept
Term 2	28.10.19	18.12.19	Fri 18 th October
Term 3	06.01.20	14.02.20	Mon 6 th Jan
Term 4	24.02.20	01.04.20	Wed 1 st April
Term 5	16.04.20	22.05.20	
Term 6	01.06.20	22.07.20	Fri 3 rd July

Class Attendance



As a school, our minimum YTD attendance target is 96%. Attendance monitoring takes place every week and you will be informed of your child's attendance routinely. Please remember that regular and punctual attendance is vital to helping the children develop socially, emotionally and academically, now and into the future.

	Weekly
Class R	Tracking to start w/c 16.9.19
Class 1	100%
Class 2	99.1%
Class 3	98.7%
Class 4	100%
Class 5	99.2%
Class 6	95.4%
School YTD	98.8%
Excellent	>97%: celebration of excellent attendance
Good	95-97%: note of good attendance
Poor	<95%: alert to poor & worrying attendance

PTA News

Our PTA play a vital part in supporting school life in many ways, including lovely learning opportunities for children, social events for our families and a wealth of new resources that the school could not afford without their generous support. Just this holiday, more brand new Interactive Whiteboards were installed, which will help keep your child's learning engaging and relevant. However, without key people, the plethora of events and fund-raising activities would not happen.

We are looking for someone to take on the PTA Chairperson role. If you are interested in finding out what the role entails, please feel free to speak with Heidi Brooks or ask at the School Office.

There will be **coffee mornings** on **Mon, Tues & Weds of next week for our Reception Class families from 9 - 10 am.**

The next **PTA meeting** will be on **Friday, 20th September at 9:00 am at the Bricklayers Arms.** Please do try to join in and support the vital work that our PTA do!

Dates Ahead

Date	Event
9th September	Parent Governor Elections
9-11 September 9-10 am	New Year R Parents - Welcome Coffee
w/c 9th Sept	Private Music lessons begin
12th September	Kent Test
w/c 16th Sept	Term 1 Clubs Start
26th September	BBC Music Day
3rd October 9-10:30 am	School Harvest Service @ Chevening St Botolph's
6th October 10:30 - 11:30 am	Chevening St Botolph's Harvest Service

Community News



Further details about these events as well as other community information are attached to this newsletter.

Act of Worship

This week our focus has been on thankfulness for Summer memories of special people, places and events—with the children using summer sandals to thank God for all of these.

Our attention has also been on the 'New Beginnings' for staff and children alike: new rooms, classes, clothes, hair-dos, opportunities and challenges. We do not face these on our own, which gives us confidence and certainty in times where we may feel anxious due to change or upheaval.

If parents/carers would like to complete a sandal thank you prayer, templates are available in the Office Porch!