

# Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School

## Newsletter 3 - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

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### G2BD Week – Good to be different

This week in school has been a special time to learn all about different Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The children have taken part in a range of activities and lessons designed to help them understand more about how we are each different, valuable and unique. They have looked at disabilities that are visible as well as those which are hidden. We were all delighted to welcome Toby Hewson from the charity 'Just Different' who came to talk to each class about living with his condition of Cerebral Palsy. Whilst Toby needs a communicator with a voice synthesiser to speak and is wheelchair bound, he fascinated the children with his exploits on the slopes aboard a specially adapted mono-ski and told us how he would love to try sky diving, but isn't sure that his girlfriend would approve! Through the week the children have learned that people are all like them, even when they look a little different. They have talked about how special resources and a few adaptations can help people who are a little different to them to do the things they do, whether that is extra calm-down time at school, or an electronic communicator so they can speak. They have considered what it might be like to be a little different and how what they do can help someone to feel equal, included and valued. It has been a really positive week and I hope the children have been able to share a little of what they have done with you all at home.

Children are able to order a 'Just different' wristband for £1 from the office. Orders should be made to the Office by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September and Mrs Grobbelaar will advise when they arrive for collection.

### Welcome Class R

We have had a lovely start in Class R with the children and parents being made to feel welcome by all of the older children and adults in the school. This has had such a positive effect in helping the children to settle in to the Chevening family. Thank you to all from Class R!

### School Harvest Celebration

We look forward to celebrating Harvest at St. Botolph's Church on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9:15am**. Children should be taken by parents straight to the church at 9:00am and we hope you will stay for the service. After which parents are requested to collect their children and take them from the church to the school playground, where a member of staff will be ready to supervise them.

Please could the children bring a tin or a couple of small tins (no fresh food please) of *in-date* produce with them to add to the harvest goods to be displayed in church before being delivered locally.

### Football Match

On Monday, Mr Bowen took the school football team for their first match of the year. They played against Amherst and got the year off to a really good start with a resounding 2-1 victory. Well done to all the team and we look forward to seeing more success as the year progresses.

### Singing at Walthamstow Hall

All the Y5 and Y6 girls were invited for a singing day at Walthamstow Hall this week. Accompanied by Mr Bowen, they enjoyed an opera themed repertoire and learnt lots of new warm up exercises, breathing technique tips and songs. It was a great experience for them and a lovely opportunity to sing with children from other schools.

### Reading Angels and Helping your child to read

Mrs Billing and Mrs Robinson will be holding a reading workshop at school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 3pm. This will be a chance to learn more about how your child learns to read and how you can support them at home. If you would like to volunteer at school as a Reading Angel we also ask that you attend the workshop to receive the training. Please sign up at the office in order that we can get an idea of numbers.

### 'Shine Day' at Chevening

Many thanks to the children and staff who wore a neon or shiny accessory today and together contributed £109.44 to Mrs Edwards fundraising efforts for tomorrow. We wish Mrs Edwards and her sister a dry night and happy feet as they take part in the 'Shine Marathon' tomorrow night, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. There is still time to make an online donation if you would like to at: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/cat-and-caz>

### Diary Dates

2017/2018

**28<sup>th</sup> September**  
School Harvest Service  
9:00 for 9:15 start

**28<sup>th</sup> September**  
PTA Welcome back social  
at The Bricklayers Arms

**2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
Harvest deliveries (Yr 6)

**6<sup>th</sup> October**  
Open Morning for Prospective  
Parents

**13<sup>th</sup> October**  
PTA Cake Sale 3:15pm

**18<sup>th</sup> October**  
Cross Country Competition at  
Radnor House

**19<sup>th</sup> October**  
Open Morning for Prospective  
Parents

**19<sup>th</sup> October**  
Last day of Term 1

**20<sup>th</sup> October**  
INSET day

**31<sup>st</sup> October**  
Individual and Sibling  
photographs

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
PTA School Christmas Fair

### School Productions

We have been busy planning ahead for events across the school year and would like this year to put on a big summer production involving the whole school. With this in mind, this Christmas we will be having a nativity for Key Stage 1, but a lovely Christmas by Candlelight evening service for Years 3-6. Mrs Robinson is already busy thinking ahead to which show we will be putting on in the summer and is very excited about working with KS2 children on this later in the year.

### New Piano

We are very grateful to the PTA for providing funding to replace the old piano in the music room. We now have a lovely new Clavinova in there, which will benefit children having music lessons, choir and orchestra as the year progresses.

### Old piano

Do you want a piano?  
Our old one's going spare.  
If you can come and get it  
It's free – we think that's fair!

### Registering for FSM

Is there any chance that your child might be eligible for free school meals?  
Confusingly, there are now two separate systems which both sound very similar, but the distinction is important. All Reception and KS1 children are eligible for a free meal at school. This is a relatively new scheme and has nothing to do with income.

The other older type of free school meals (FSM) is vitally important for school funding and this is the one to which I would like to draw your attention. It is for all age children, from reception to year 6, who meet certain criteria to do with family income. Children, who are eligible for these free school meals and claim them, also attract significant additional funding for the school. This enables us to plan and fund better provision for our children. Having claimed them, the children can still choose daily whether or not they wish to order a school meal, and so can still have a packed lunch if they wish. Making a free school meals claim is confidential, so your child will never be identified to other children or parents. As school budgets tighten and a greater proportion of funding is released through the FSM formula, it is vital for the school that anyone eligible does claim their entitlement, even if they are Key Stage One and so get a meal anyway, and even if they don't actually want to have a school lunch. I have pasted the link below, so if you think there is any chance you might be eligible, please have a look.

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals)

### Thursday 28th September – PTA Welcome back/social get together at The Bricklayers from 8pm.

To mark the start of a new school year we are heading to The Bricklayers Arms on Thursday 28th September for a social drink or two! All parents, carers and staff are welcome and to top it off it is 'Prosecco Night' - £15/bottle! We hope to see as many new and not so new faces there....

### Save the Date: PTA School Christmas Fair Saturday 2nd December

The annual Christmas Fair has been confirmed for Sat 2nd December from 12pm - 3pm; please mark this key date in your diaries - preparations have started and the PTA elves will be busy!

### Rabbit care

During the week the rabbits will be cared for by each of the classes in turn. We would still welcome volunteers for caring for them over weekends and during holiday periods. If you are able to help with this, please sign up on the rotas which are up in the school reception area. Thank you.

### Attendance

Class 1 and 2 are leading the way this week – Well done!

	Class R	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	Whole School
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	97.9%	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	97.6%	92.6%	99.0%	99.3%	97.9%

Kind regards,

Kathy Taylor  
**Headteacher**

## Diary Dates cont.