

# Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School

## Newsletter 27 - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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### Attendance

I have been contacted by Kent County Council this week, who have picked up on Chevening's poor attendance figures and raised this as a concern. They are lower than last year and significantly lower than other schools' locally. Indeed, they are currently at a level which would cause considerable concerns for Ofsted and potentially could jeopardise our 'Outstanding' grading, as there is a well recognised link between high attendance and optimum learning being achieved. I have certainly been inundated with an unusually high number of term-time holiday and absence requests, which has exacerbated the problem. We will be reviewing individual attendance levels over the next couple of weeks and will contact parents individually where attendance levels are of concern. I completely understand that at times children are genuinely unwell, and we certainly do not wish children to be in school with either a temperature or sickness/diarrhoea. However, if your child is just a little under the weather, please send them in and we will be sure to contact you if we are concerned about them. I am sure that with a concerted effort as a whole school, this is an easy problem to resolve, especially with the better weather and winter coughs and colds disappearing.

### Rachel Copeland Resignation

Due to personal circumstances, Rachel Copeland, a highly valued member of our governing body, has stepped down from her role as foundation governor. Rachel has been a great asset to the governing body and we are extremely grateful for all the time and commitment that she has shown to the school. We hope that she will stay in touch.

### Deputy Headteacher Appointment

We are delighted to announce that following a rigorous recruitment process, we have appointed Mr. Richard Townshend to the position of Deputy Headteacher at Chevening from September. Richard has a wealth of experience which will compliment our leadership team; the recruitment panel were unanimous in their conviction that he will be a great asset to the school. He hopes to visit the school later in the summer term and we look forward to welcoming him in the new school year.

### Class 4 Trip to Wide Horizons

This week, Year 4 have spent a night away on their first off-site residential at the Wide Horizons centre at Margaret Macmillan House near Gravesend. They have had a fantastic time, enjoyed opportunities to lead and work as teams and challenge themselves to try new activities. Thank you to Miss Gidley, Mrs Mackelworth, Mr Garrett and Mrs Day for taking the children and giving up their evenings and sleep!

### Year 4 Football Fixture

On Monday, boys from Year 4 played Amherst in a friendly football match. Although the score wasn't in our favour, the team played really well against a mix of Year 4's and 5's. We look forward to a rematch in the near future. Well done Year 4 boys!

### Year 3/4 Kwik Cricket

On Wednesday, boys and girls from Year 3 and 4 went to Sevenoaks School to play in the district Kwik Cricket competition. Both year groups are benefitting from specialist coaching on a Monday afternoon in Term 5, so this was a great way to try out our new skills. Unfortunately only 3 schools were represented in the tournament, but we managed to fight back to beat Amherst twice after losing to Anthony Roper in our first match. Well done team!

### Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

As you will be aware, we are taking part in Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' campaign 2017. Sainsbury's have now stopped giving vouchers out but we still need those lurking in wallets, bags and cars. Please can you have a last search for any vouchers you may still have and post them in the collection box in the school reception by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May so that we can exchange them for sports equipment for our students.

### Diary Dates

17<sup>th</sup> May

Class Photographs

21 May

Family Service and BBQ at  
St. Botolph's Church

18<sup>th</sup> May

Drama workshops  
(Class 1, 2 & 6)

18/19<sup>th</sup> May

Class 5 Residential

19<sup>th</sup> May

PTA Cake Sale  
(Class 6)

20<sup>th</sup> May

Maintenance afternoon

21<sup>st</sup> May

Family Service & BBQ at  
St Botolph's

23<sup>rd</sup> May - 6:00pm &

24<sup>th</sup> May - 2:15pm:

Secondary Transfer

Information Meeting

(For parents of Class 4 & 5)

25<sup>th</sup> May

Sevenoaks & District  
Swimming Gala

26<sup>th</sup> May

Last day of term 5

5<sup>th</sup> June

First day of term 6

### **Class Photographs**

Please ensure that your child is smart for the class photos which will be taking place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Hair should be tied up with the appropriate dark coloured bands; no bows or flowers please as we will ask the children to remove them in school.

### **PTA Meeting**

Our next PTA meeting is on Monday evening 15<sup>th</sup> of May at 8pm, at the George and Dragon pub in Chipstead. Preparations for Mini-Fest are well underway and so all Class Reps are invited to join us to finalise the details and allocate stalls. All parents and carers are welcome!

### **Open day at Chipstead Place Lawn Tennis Club**

Chipstead Place Lawn Tennis Club will be hosting an Open Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 1.30pm with some free coaching, a bouncy castle, a BBQ and the opportunity to find out more about the coaching program - all children and adults are welcome to come and join us.

Adam Reavely from the club runs tennis for our younger children here at Chevening on a Friday evening after school and quite a few of our children belong to the club, so if you are free do go along.

### **Charity Afternoon Tea**

Some of our parents are holding a Charity Afternoon Tea to raise funds for children of South Sudan, East Africa and Syria. All are welcome at Chevening Parish Hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 1-3pm. Donations on entry. Sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee will be served.

### **Upcoming dates:**

#### ***Family Service and BBQ at St Botolph's Church:***

Please note that the Family Service and BBQ at St Botolph's Church will be held on the *21 May* and not the *14 May* as previously stipulated in the school newsletter. Further details will be sent out closer to the time but please mark this special event in your diary!

#### ***PTA Football Event:***

The PTA Football event will be taking place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The tournament will run from 12 to 4pm at Chevening School. This is a fun family afternoon with refreshments and a BBQ. If you would like to take part please contact Steve Bishop at [stevedcbishop@gmail.com](mailto:stevedcbishop@gmail.com) and mark this exciting event in your diary

#### ***Mini-Fest - Saturday 1st July 2pm - 6pm***

Back again by popular demand, we highly recommend you keep your diaries free for our 3<sup>rd</sup> mini music festival! More information about the event will be provided soon.

#### ***Performing Arts Afternoon followed by Open Classrooms – 18th July 3:30 – 6:00pm***

This year our Performing Arts Afternoon will take place before the Open Classrooms

Kind regards,

Kathy Taylor  
**Headteacher**

## **Diary Dates cont.**