

Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School

Newsletter 19 - 24th March 2017

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Book Week

Next week we will be holding our 'Book Week' which incorporates World Book day on Thursday 2nd March.

During the week there will be a host of different activities for the children to engage in and which will hopefully foster their love of reading and books. These will include a carousel of activities on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon where children will go to different classes for activities related to books, which have been specially chosen by the teachers.

On Thursday the whole school will be taking part in DEAR reading (Drop everything and read) where the bell will go at random points in the day and we will all stop what we are doing to read for a short period.

On Friday, the children will be dressing up. In Key Stage 1 there is a theme of Alice in Wonderland and in Key Stage 2 the children may choose any book character they like as inspiration for their costume.

There is also the favourite places to read display which Mrs Edwards emailed about earlier this week and the children will all receive their World Book Day voucher, which they will have the opportunity to spend at the book fair (See below).

It promises to be a lovely week full of exciting and enjoyable book related fun.

Book Fair

To help celebrate World Book day and the joy of reading, our book fair will run from Monday 27th February to Friday morning 3rd March. The Book Fair will be located in the library and will be open every morning at 8:30am and afternoon after school, so do schedule a time to pop in. Leaflets and a voucher should have been given to your child today. With your help, these fairs raise hundreds to spend on class resources and books for the library. The last book fair in October raised £562.30 in commission to spend. So thank you in advance for your continued support. If you are able to help out either before or after school for 20 minutes at the book fair, then please contact Angela.Kerr@hotmail.co.uk or text 07971690947.

Swimming Pool Update

The school's governing body has unanimously agreed to refurbish our swimming pool so that it continues to meet health and safety standards and is ready to re-open in summer 2018. This will secure the pool as a long-term asset for the school and the future children of Chevening. Work will begin, we hope, soon after the end of the swimming season this year.

The decision is based on the recommendations of the working group of governors, staff and parents chaired by David Lewis. Many thanks to David, Joseph Devine, Jon Bowen, David Garrett, Louise Rutter, Lee Murphy and Riona Horley who all worked hard to ensure that the Governing Body was fully aware of all the available options. The next step will be a thorough tendering process and definition of requirements.

I can also announce that we have been blessed to receive an extremely generous donation of £100,000 from a member of St Botolph's Church towards the costs of this project - a wonderful expression of the strength of the relationship between our school and the local church community. This gives us great confidence that we can proceed with this important work and we are very grateful to the anonymous donor.

We'll keep you updated with further news as we have it.

What are you going to do for Lent?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 1st. Lent is a forty day season when people through the ages have paused to take stock. How am I doing? Where am I going? How is my relationship with God? Although there is nothing wrong with giving up chocolate, Lent can be so much deeper and richer than this. If you would like to make more of this opportunity here is how St Botolph's can help you. First, do come to church on Ash Wednesday to mark the start of Lent. There are services at 11am at the chapel (in the Parish Hall) and at 7:30pm at St Botolph's. Second, please consider reading this year's 'Lent book', which is The True Vine by Andrew Murray. It's all about how our lives can be more fruitful and stable with Jesus Christ. If you've been on an

Diary Dates

Mon 27th Feb to Fri 3rd

March

Book Fair

2nd March

World Book Day

3rd March

Monthly School Prayer

Meeting

3rd March

PTA Cake Sale

Class 1 at 3:15pm

10th March

PTA Movie Night

13th March

Class R Hearing Screening

16th March

PTA Banana Leaf Curry Night

17th March

Mid-year report to Parents

20th March

Parent Consultations

5:00 - 8:00 pm

22nd March

Parent Consultations

3:30 - 6:30 pm

24th March

PTA Coffee Morning at

The Bricklayers Arms

26th March

Chevening School Service

Alpha Course or Christianity Explored Course before, this short book will be a great help to a growing faith. Copies are available from the church for £1. Third, we are hosting some 'book club' style groups to help us learn together about 'The True Vine'. Six of the leaders are parents at the school so why not catch them on the playground if you'd like to know more or join in? They are Katie Williams, Jo Miners, Catherine and Chris Smith, Frank Butler and Wendy Heydorn. These Lent Course groups will meet five times before Easter and are being held in various homes and at different times of the week. Please see the church newsletter or website for full details www.cheveningchurch.org . If you have never made anything much of Lent before perhaps this is the year to give it a try?

Rev Chris Smith 07941 015 679 or revcsmith@gmail.com

Time off School

It came to my attention in the approach to half term that we had many children (10% of the school on this occasion) who were absent for all or part of the day before half term, in order to get away for half term earlier than 3.15pm on Friday. This is a significant proportion. Please could I reiterate that the school holidays are set so that they begin at the **end** of the last day of term and not before. I would respectfully ask that when making future bookings, you ensure that you time flights and other reservations so that children do not need to miss the end of term. I completely understand the temptation; we would all like to be able to have a bit of extra holiday or a cheaper alternative to the standard dates. Where possible we tag INSET days on to holidays and half terms to enable this to happen, however I would greatly appreciate your co-operation with respecting our term dates in the future. There are 175 non-school days in each year, which hopefully allows for adequate holiday arrangements.

New Governors

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to the governing body. Melissa De Vere-Loots has joined the team as our new foundation governor, elected by the Diocese of Rochester and Alan Leaman is our new Local Authority governor.

Parking

Please do not block driveways or access to farm land/buildings; local residents are becoming increasingly frustrated at not being able to use their driveways and are voicing their frustrations to parents who block their drives. Please park considerately in Chevening Road when dropping off and collecting your children thus avoiding any conflict with our neighbours.

Cancellation

Please note that there is no Prayer and Praise tomorrow evening. The best arrangements for this are being considered and a new date may be released accordingly.

Kind regards,

Kathy Taylor
Headteacher

Diary Dates cont.

27th March
PTA Easter Fun Day

28th March
Love to Dance Show
At the Stag Theatre

28th – 31st March
Class 6 Residential

31st March
End of term Easter Service
St. Botolph's at 2pm

18th April
Term 5 starts