



**CHANDAG  
INFANT SCHOOL**  
*Be the best you can be!*

# Newsletter

## Friday 14th September 2018

Happy autumn memories from 2016!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. It is lovely to see all of our children back safe and sound, having had fantastic fun over the holidays. Welcome also to our newest children and families who have joined us for the first time; we hope you enjoy your first term with us. There are quite a few reminders in this week's newsletter; please take time to read them in order to refresh your memory after the holidays.

Best Wishes, Mrs A Smart, Head teacher

### Achievement Awards

Congratulations, you are all Superstars!



**Otters:** Charlie Parker, Oliver Carter-Lilley, Joshua Davies, Frankie Horne, Kasper Roberts-Clack

**Squirrels:** Louis Unsted, Ellie Thompson, Dan Whitmore, Sienna Billet

**Owls:** Luca McMullan, Harry Baker, Isobel Hesketh, Alivia Scrase, Harry Thomas

**Kingfishers:** Eddy Wilson, Frank Matthews, Riley Tolhurst, Domonic Delahey

### Best Attendance of the week

Golden Pencil Award... could you be the first?



Our Pupil Privacy Notice has been updated:

<https://www.wellswaymat.com/assets/uploads/files/statutory-information/Privacy-Notice-For-Pupils.pdf>

\*Please note that the fort, train, climbing wall and timber trail are for use during school hours only. Please do not use before or after school. This included Junior and pre-school children.  
Thank you

Dates for terms 1 and 2 2018,19 (PTA Events to be confirmed at AGM)	
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher Year 2, 3pm
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher Year 1, 3pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception Phonics information session for parents. 9.10am - 9.40am
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>PTA: AGM</b> in school hall, 7pm. All welcome.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Assembly 10.10am – children only. See below for information.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 Phonics Information session for parents, 9.10am -9.40am
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Y2 Phonics Information session for parents, 9.10am -9.40am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Parents' Evening 1, 3.40 – 6.30pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Parents' Evening 2, 3.40-6.30pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual School Photographs
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA Cake Sale after school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term 1 – PTA Mufti?
Term 2	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	WMAT Conference School closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Term 2 starts for all pupils
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA: Firework Night
tbc	Flu vaccine for Reception pupils
W/C 12 <sup>th</sup> November	National Anti-bullying week 'Choose Respect'
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christmas Craft morning – parents/grandparents welcome
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Rainbow Theatre Group visiting school. 'Snow White'
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA: Christmas Fair after school
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception and Parents' Christmas lunch (details nearer the time)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1 and 2 Christmas lunch
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 Christmas Performances 9.15am and 2.15pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 Performances 1 9.15am and 2.15pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Performances 9.15am and 2.15pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas parties, all year groups Last day of term

## Our term dates for 2018, 19

<https://www.chandaginantschool.org.uk/term-dates>

Please check these carefully when booking holidays, as holidays booked during time will only be authorised in *exceptional* circumstances. Family birthdays or anniversaries are not classed as exceptional circumstances. Expected attendance for our Trust is 100%. **NB: Our holiday dates are different from the generic dates on the B&NES website.**

## Inhalers in School

If your child has an inhaler in school, please ensure that you have provided an 'in date' inhaler and signed and dated the Care Plan and existing medical form. Parents with children who have an inhaler for the first time can collect a medical form from our school office. Please note that it is your responsibility to inform external club leaders of your child's medical needs.

## Harvest

Children are invited to bring in the following produce for Keynsham Food Bank on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September: savoury biscuits, wrapped sweets, pasta sauces, custard, long life milk, toilet rolls, nappies, squash, tinned carrots, washing up liquid, soap powder and ladies' deodorant. Please do not send tinned soup, beans or dried pasta as they have plenty of these. Fruit and vegetables may also be donated, as this will be shared with the residents of Homeavon, an independent living development on Bath Road.

## Car Park

For any parents new to our school, you will notice that our car park is very small, with little room to turn. For this reason, parking, either at the Infant or Junior site is for members of staff only. This includes collection times from after school clubs. Parking off site and walking down to school also ensures the safety of all children leaving school.

## Staffing updates

Welcome to Mrs Evans, Mrs Lewis, Miss Williams and Miss Willington, who have all joined us as permanent members of staff. We hope they will enjoy their new roles and are very pleased that they have joined us.

## Before and after school

We would appreciate it if you could ensure that children, including junior age children do not play with resources, climb on equipment or bang on the classroom windows or doors when waiting in the playground areas. This ensures a calm start and end to the day for all concerned. Thank you

## End of day routines

As teachers are getting to know parents, carers and childminders, please wave to your child and make eye contact with them when they are at the front of the line. This will help teachers to identify you more easily. If different adults are collecting your child, the teacher must be told in advance, or in an emergency only – via a phone call to the school office by 3pm. There is a white board in each classroom on which to write pick up information if there are any changes to the norm. If there is a regular pattern of different adults collecting, please inform the class teacher (if you have not done so already). Please note that siblings collecting must be a minimum of 14 years old and that we require your written permission for this in advance. Also, for safeguarding reasons, we have to be very strict about dismissing all children, before allowing anyone back in to class to collect belongings such as water bottles or book bags. Please support teachers in this.

## Water Bottles

Please send your child to school **each day** with a full, named water bottle. Children are encouraged to drink water and have free access to their water bottles throughout the day.

### School Uniform/ Health and Safety

We are already starting to fill the Lost Property bin, which is located in the school hall. Please, please, please, permanently name all of your child's clothing so that we can easily return items to their owners.

A few other reminders which are always helpful to read at the start of the school year:

**Long hair** – this must be tied back for school to avoid becoming entangled or pulled and also to help prevent the spread of head lice which is very common in young children.

**Nail varnish**, temporary **tattoos**, temporary or permanent **hair colouring** should be removed for school

**Earrings** – one plain pair of studs may be worn, but these must be removed at home on PE days. If within a 10 week period following piercing, children must bring their own surgical tape to cover earrings for PE.

**Nuts** – **we are a 'nut free' school** and do have one child with a serious nut allergy this year. Please do not send your child with nut products; this includes Nutella and some cereal bars.

**Birthdays** – please do not send sweets for the class on your child's birthday. As a 'Healthy School', we are not able to distribute sweets. If you would like to donate a book to the class on your child's birthday, this can be shared with the children and enjoyed by all.

**Packed Lunches** – Please do not send sweets or chocolate bars in lunch boxes.

Thank you

### Meet the Teacher – Years 1 and 2

Information has been sent out about this meeting and is also displayed outside your child's class. Please pop in if you can, as this is an opportunity to hear about routines and expectations for the year, as well as time to ask questions. Year 2 – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, Year 1, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, both at 3pm.

### Phonics Information Sessions for Parents

As shown in the dates section above, we are offering demonstration lessons and teacher presentations on how to support your child at home with phonics, which is essential learning for all children. Please book your place through Parent mail Events from next Monday.

### Special Mufti (non – uniform day)

There is a Mufti Day planned for **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September** which is being held to help out the family of two of our pupils. Rebecca Matthews (mum to Frank in Kingfishers and Albie in Hedgehogs) suffers from a debilitating illness called Multiple Sclerosis and needs to raise funds for a potentially life-changing treatment not available on the NHS. Chandag Infants and Chandag Junior School are coming together to support Rebecca by raising funds for a treatment known as Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) that could halt the progression of the disease and lessen her symptoms. Unfortunately, due to the postcode lottery and NHS cuts, she did not make the grade required in order to access this treatment in this country, which was devastating news. Therefore, her only option now is to pay for the treatment privately in Mexico at a cost of £48,000.00. We would be grateful if you could donate a minimum of £1 to this worthy cause on 28<sup>th</sup> September and help change the lives of a local family. If you would like more information, please see the link below for Rebecca's Facebook page and her Go Fund me campaign. <https://www.facebook.com/Rebeccas-HSCT-Plea-447344389102036>

We are proud to announce that we have now achieved the Director of Public Health Award, which is awarded to schools that achieve both the Healthy Schools and Health Outcomes certificates. Your support with the Sugar Smart campaign and Clean Air Day/Walk to School Day last year have both contributed towards this. Mrs Seal will be presented with our Award at an Awards Ceremony later this month.



Congratulations to Mrs Bancroft, all staff and children, who have been successful in qualifying for the Sing Up Gold Award. This award recognises the work that we do to encourage and improve singing in our school. The standard and quality of evidence that it required in order to reach Gold level is significant and includes submission of videos, planning, assessment, pupil voice, photographs, evidence of working with the wider community and many other elements of singing that are embedded in our school, so I am very proud that our work has been recognised in this way.

### PTA News

We hope that everyone has had a lovely summer break and are ready for the year ahead. We also want to say a special welcome to the parents and carers of the new children starting at the school this year; it's a lovely school and we're looking forward to meeting with you soon.

**Thank you to everyone that supported us in Tesco this summer.** As many of you will know, we were one of the three charities taking part in their Bags of Help scheme over the summer break. Voting closed at the end of August so we're keeping our fingers crossed for some positive news soon. If we are lucky enough to have won the vote, then we'll have the funds to install the new all-weather surface in the Reception garden during October half-term.

Hopefully, many of you will have seen the **new path** that we had installed in the large playground over the summer break (photo attached). This has been well received by both the children and the staff and means that the path can now be used in all weather. This was only possible thanks to the support of everyone over the last school year, and the generous grant of £2,000 that we were given by the St John's Foundation in Bath - thank you! In the coming weeks you will see the new **outdoor classroom** being installed in the large playground which the children be able to enjoy soon.



There's a lot of fundraising needed by the school this coming year and we'll be talking about this at our AGM on the 2nd October (see below). To help us make the most of our fundraising efforts we'd be very grateful if people could take a moment to complete the **PTA survey** that we launched over the summer. The survey can be found at this link - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LPZPZYK> - and the results will be used to help us to shape our events this year.

We will be holding our **Annual General Meeting** on **Tuesday 2nd October at 7pm** in the school hall where we will be reviewing the finances of the 2017/18 school year and **voting in committee members for this school year**. More information, including position nomination forms, will be coming out in the next few weeks but you can also register your interest through our PTA mailbox at [pta@chandaginantschool.org.uk](mailto:pta@chandaginantschool.org.uk). The **first PTA meeting** of the year will follow on from the AGM and this will be the opportunity to set out our priorities and activities for the year ahead.

Another important date for your diary is our **Family Fireworks night on Friday 9th November**. This has traditionally been an extremely popular event which sells out fast. More details, including how to purchase your tickets, will be released next month.

Finally, please make sure to *like* and *follow* our 'Chandag Infant School PTA' Facebook page to keep up to date with our events and news.

Thank you

The PTA Team

### Requests for leave of absence

**Our 2018, 19 term dates are DIFFERENT FROM THE DATES ON THE BANES WEBSITE.**

**No leave of absence will be granted where our individual school term dates have not been followed.**

There is a clear correlation between good attendance and good outcomes at school. Children need to be at school in order to have the relevant teaching in order that they will be ready for their next stage in learning. I will be meeting termly with our Children Missing Education Officer (CMEO) regarding attendance at our school. We, along with other local schools, follow BANES policy on holiday requests. **Any child who has attendance below 90% is considered by the government to be a persistent absentee** (supported evidence of chronic illness of course is taken into account and would not be counted) and requests for holidays in term time will not be granted unless there are **very exceptional circumstances**. This means that they are "rare, significant, unavoidable and short." (National Association of Head Teachers) **The expected attendance for all children in Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust Schools is 100%. The headteacher makes the decision whether or not to authorise absence, including sickness absence.**

- All applications for leave of absence must be made **in advance** by the parent(s), carer(s) or corporate parent that the pupil normally resides with.

- Where a request for leave of absence has been made by one parent only, any estranged parent with parental responsibility<sup>1</sup> will be advised of the request for leave. The school will not become involved in disputes between parents over permissions surrounding the request. If the parent on receipt of the notification does not agree with the absence then he/she may put in writing to the headteacher notification to that effect. This will be given consideration should a Penalty Notice be issued for the absence. “<sup>1</sup> Except where there has been an order made by a court restricting the sharing of information with that parent. In such cases it is the responsibility of the parent to provide documentary evidence of the order.
- **Illness:** If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please either visit or phone Mrs Weeks in the school office rather than leaving a message with the Class Teacher, who may have lots of messages to remember. In this way, we can ensure that all absences are recorded correctly. Our school answerphone has a dedicated line to report illness if outside of the office opening hours (8.30am -5pm, but 4.30pm on Fridays).
- **Please note that if your child is absent from school and we do not receive a message or are unable to reach you on the phone, we may be obliged to follow up with a home visit to check on your child's safety.**
- Please ring us on each day of absence, unless by prior arrangement with the office, e.g. in the case of chickenpox or sickness, where a set number of days at home may be required. Mrs Weeks will be in the office from 8.30am each day.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN MUST BE 48 HOURS CLEAR OF SICKNESS OR DIARRHOEA BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.

Trust

Respect

Kindness

Cooperation

Courage

Creativity