



# Newsletter



**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week is a busy week in school, with Safer Internet Day and Chinese New Year activities taking place. Mrs Evans is leading a **Chinese New Year Assembly on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – children can wear red**. On Wednesday, Miss Willington has shared a variety of activities that the children will be working on, following a launch in the morning. Watch for Facebook updates on both of these and more next week.

Meanwhile, enjoy the snow but stay safe!

Best Wishes, Mrs Smart, *Headteacher*

## Achievement Awards



- Badgers:** Bethany Suter, Karter Grubb
- Hedgehogs:** Albie Matthews, Aaron Matthews
- Otters:** Kasper Roberts-Clack, Lowri Morris
- Squirrels:** Alaina Baxter, Rex Parsons
- Owls:** Abbie Coombes, Lucas Raymond
- Kingfishers:** Frank Matthews, Rhys Howarth-Hill

**Golden Pencil** – Max O-Sullivan, Iris Bevan, Joseph Hartman, Olivia Stephenson, Seth Perriman, Sammy Knowles

**Best Attendance of the last week** – Otters

**Reading Rocketeers** – Badgers

#WorldBookDay



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character.

**Please remind them to bring a copy of their favourite book in to school that day too!**

## Dates for the year

Assembly dates for parents: Kingfishers 15.3.19, Otters 22.3.19, Owls 29.3.19, Hedgehogs 28.6.19, Squirrels 5.7.19, Badgers 12.7.19

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	PTA Adult Quiz Night, 7pm POSTPONED DUE TO SNOW
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Chinese New Year - may wear red</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Information session for Year 1 parents re National Phonics Check, 6pm. <b>Please attend if you can.</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	We are celebrating Safer Internet Day today.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Valentines' Cake Sale.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February PTA Mufti-Day	Y2 Writing Workshop for dads, uncles, grandads or other male role models. 9.10am
<b>18th - 22nd February</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>INSET DAY 4 – closed to pupils</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 SATs meeting for parents, 6pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Themed Lunch for World Book Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Kingfishers' Assembly, 9.10am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Otters' Assembly, 9.10
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Owls' Assembly, 9.10am

### Front door Safety

Please do not be offended if staff do not open the front door to you at the start or end of the school day. The reason for this is that it is paramount that Mrs Weeks knows who is in the building and can then see clearly, the children who are being collected. If collecting a child from the main office, please ensure that Mrs Weeks has seen you before you leave the building with your child. Thank you

### A few requests or reminders...

#### ***Backpacks***

As you will see in the picture below, we are struggling to accommodate backpacks in classrooms. The space that the children have is very small and each peg can only take one coat and one PE bag. **Please leave back packs at home from Monday.** We developed the new design of book bag last year so that it can be worn across the body, leaving hands free for a water bottle and if necessary, a lunch box. PE kits should remain in school for a half term please, unless they need washing before this.



#### ***Smiggle bottles***

Smiggle bottles are flexible, pliable and easily knocked over on to children's work. Please keep these bottles for home use. A simple, firm bottle with a sports top opening is all that is needed. Any wider style of openings are liable to spill easily when knocked on a desk or carpet.

#### ***Nail varnish***

This needs to be removed for school please.

#### ***Earrings***

If your child wears earrings, (small, plain, silver or gold studs only) they **MUST be removed on PE days**, unless within a 10 week window from piercing. Children should bring surgical tape to cover earrings during PE in those first 10 weeks.

### Reminders continued:



Last year, we asked for all hair bows to be left at home. We need to add hairbands with bows, ears, unicorn horns or any other adornment to this please. These are distracting from learning and can cause upset when lost.

#### **Last one!**

Sorry, but we cannot allow any type or age of dog through the school gates. This includes puppies being carried and/or wrapped in blankets.



This term **Year 2** are enjoying their guided reading through a new strategy called 'reading VIPERS'. These lessons take place four times a week with the whole class. Each lesson, children enjoy exploring texts with their peers and are provided with the opportunity to practise a range of reading skills. Each session we focus on one or more of these core reading skills:

**V**ocabulary **I**nference **P**redict **E**xplain **R**etrieve **S**equence

During these lessons, children benefit from careful modelling of reading skills from the teacher and contribute to in-depth conversations about vocabulary. They also communicate their comprehension of ideas and themes within the text. More information can be found on <https://www.literacyshedblog.com/blog/reading-vipers>

You may notice a decrease in the number of times your child's class teacher writes comments in the reading record this term. However, your child will be receiving quality verbal feedback with regards to their reading on a **more** frequent basis as part of reading VIPERS. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher with any questions, as they will be more than happy to discuss this with you.

Please continue to support your child with their regular reading practice at home and ask them to explain this new concept to you, as every little helps. Miss Willington

NB, **Year 1** are starting **Group** Guided Reading using the VIPERS strategies. This will be in full flow next term.

## PTA News

Thank you to all the Hedgehogs and Badgers that came along to our **Reception disco** last week. We had some great feedback and it seems that everyone enjoyed the magic and fun provided by Disco Steve. Thank you to all the school staff who came along and helped on the night. We are pleased to say that we **raised a total of £650** which will be put towards the transformation of the school library.

Thank you also to the parents who came along to help at the **Year 1 entertainment night**. The children enjoyed watching Wallace and Gromit 'A matter of loaf and death' whilst feasting on popcorn and doing some themed crafts. The event **raised a total of £78.41**.

We are very excited to confirm that we have signed up to take part in the **Your School Lottery scheme** and our **first draw will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March**. This is a super easy way for you to raise money for the school whilst being in with a chance of winning a weekly cash prize. Parents, grandparents and the wider community can sign-up to be entered into a weekly lottery for just £1 a week. That ticket will give you the **chance of winning a national cash prize of £25,000 as well as the chance of being the weekly winner from our school**. The amount that the weekly school winner will receive depends on how many are taking part, but as an example 50 people would generate a weekly prize of £15. As well as regular winners, 50 people signed up each week for a year would generate £1,000 of income for the school to put towards valuable resources for the children. There's a guaranteed local prize of £20 for the first draw so please sign up to take part at this link - <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/chandag-infant-school> .

Our **Valentines' Cake Sale** is being held straight after school on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February** and this time as well as the normal cakes for sale, they'll also be a chance to 'Guess the name of the bear' and to visit our special valentine tattoo bar. We **need 9 volunteers** to help at this event so if you can come along from 3-3.45pm then please either speak to your class rep or e-mail us at [pta@chandaginfantschool.org.uk](mailto:pta@chandaginfantschool.org.uk). We would also be extremely grateful for all **cake donations** which can be dropped off the morning of the sale and left in the Butterfly Room. Please label your containers and we will make sure that they are available for you to collect at the end of the day. Mrs Smart or Miss Willington will be judging the cake contributions received and awarding prizes to three lucky winners, so please get baking and remember that we're a **nut free school**.

We'll be holding a **mufti-day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** which is the last day of the school term. Children are invited to wear their own clothes (including any PTA tattoos from the cake sale) on the day in exchange for a **£1 donation**.

Finally, thanks to all those who have entered a team into our PTA Quiz Night. Although **CANCELLED THIS EVENING DUE TO SNOW AND SCHOOL CLOSURES, WE HOPE TO REARRANGE A DATE SOON**.

## Requests for leave of absence

Our term dates are **DIFFERENT FROM THE DATES ON THE BANES WEBSITE. 2018,19 and 2019,20 dates are now available.**

**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.**

