



CHAGFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has flown by, and I am incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning, the progress they are making, and the positive attitudes they demonstrate each day. Thank you for your continued support in helping make our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Halloween Disco

We are excited for our Halloween Disco on Thursday 22nd October. Please see the posters for full details or contact the school office if you have any questions.

A huge thank you to our PTFA for all their hard work in organising this event. We are very grateful for their continued support, which helps provide valuable experiences for our children.

Supporting Positive Drop-Offs

We know that school drop-offs can sometimes be challenging, and for some children, separating from parents and carers can be upsetting. If your child is finding morning drop-offs difficult, please speak to your child's teacher. We are here to help and support both children and families.

It is important that we work in partnership to ensure children feel confident coming into school and that positive routines are established and maintained.

Parking Review

The Parish Council is currently reviewing the parking situation outside the front of the school. Once we are informed of any outcomes or proposed actions, we will share these with families and explain any changes that may be introduced.

Additional Music Assembly

We are delighted that Anna Goudge is now supporting the school with an additional music assembly every Tuesday. This fantastic opportunity has been funded by our PTFA and is already proving very popular with the children.

It has been lovely to hear a range of songs being shared across the school, and we are extremely grateful to the PTFA for making this possible.

School Gates

Work is still required on our school gates to ensure they are fully functional. Once this work has been completed, we will resume locking the front gates during the school day to further enhance site security.

Dry River Children Charity

We are pleased to have established links with the Dry River Children's Charity, a locally based organisation supporting Ntilal School in Kenya.

The charity is currently helping the school secure funding to build a borehole, which would provide both the school and the local community with access to fresh water.

To support this important project, we will be holding a Blue-Themed Non-Uniform Day on Monday 19th October. We invite children to wear something blue, and all donations will go directly towards this worthwhile cause.

Ofsted Update

We are still awaiting our next Ofsted inspection, which is currently expected to take place towards the end of the Autumn Term.

I am looking forward to showcasing the many positive changes that have been implemented across the school and celebrating the hard work of our pupils, staff, governors and wider school community. Your support and engagement with the school will be an important part of this process.

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve.

School Priorities for 2026-27

This year, our key priorities are:

- Increasing pupil numbers and promoting the excellent opportunities available at Chagford Primary School.
- Further improving outcomes for our vulnerable pupils, including those eligible for Pupil Premium funding and pupils with SEND.
- Continuing to develop high-quality professional development and training opportunities for all staff.
- Improving attendance, particularly for vulnerable pupils, to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

These priorities will help us continue our journey of school improvement and ensure all children receive the very best education and support.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Green



Tales from the Woodland

As the weeks tick by the pupils of Chagford become ever more outdoors confident and competent. They can be really proud of themselves for learning some essential survival skills over the last two weeks. Last week Mr. Frewin showed them how to rig a tarp using two dependable knots - the secure timber hitch and the tensioning trucker's hitch. Check out the photos to see how well they did. I would feel very comfortable out in the wild sheltering under one of these constructions.

After 6 weeks of watching Mr Frewin struggle lighting fires it was their turn to have a go. They meticulously collected just about the right amount of fuel to keep their fires going. This part of the fire building process is always the part that catches everyone out, you need a lot more fuel than you realise to light and keep a fire going. They collected fuel in different sizes using the rule of mice tails, rat's tails and cat's tails to choose the correct size stick. They then added them in that order before moving onto lions tails to keep the fire warm and bright for longer.

They should all be so proud of themselves for lighting a fire with a ferro rod and keeping it going long enough to roast marsh mellow- excellent job.

Notable projects were also completed this week.

The members of Oak class created beautiful fairy houses, Paddy and Leo finished making a saw horse for future classes to use and much ash was processed ready for burning.

Next week we will be cooking sausages over the fire for lunch. If you could spare a packet of chipolatas for us to share please send them in on Tuesday for our cook out!

Mr Frewin





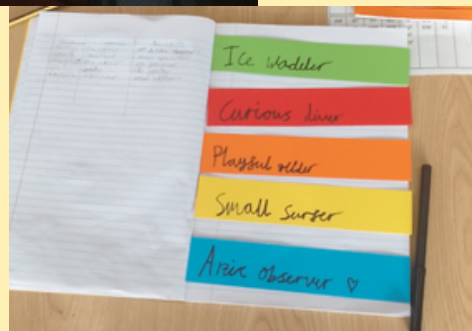
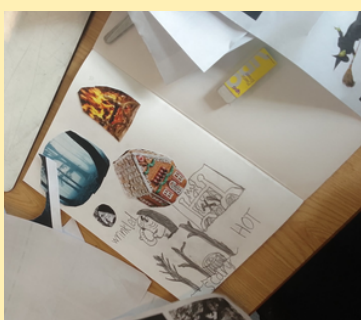
Birch Year 4/5

The past two weeks have been another exciting and busy period in Birch Class, culminating in our first Marble Party of the year. It was a wonderful celebration of the challenge, care and sense of community that the children demonstrate every day.

In English, the children have been writing imaginative and descriptive kenning poems based on a mystery animal of their choice. They have thoroughly enjoyed transforming verbs into nouns to create creative two-word phrases that describe an animal without ever naming it, producing some fantastic and highly original poetry. The children explored moving their kennings into different orders to see which had the greatest impact. They then performed them to Beech class, to see if they could work out which animal they had written about. Next week, we will take this further, by exploring rhyming string poetry.

In Art, the children have been exploring how graphic novelists create tone and atmosphere. They have studied and imitated the work of two different artists: one who uses only black and white pen illustrations, and another who creates tone through careful shading. The children will soon choose their preferred style to create their own graphic novel adaptation of Hansel and Gretel. This week, they began the planning process by creating mood boards, selecting supporting images and experimenting with tone to help convey the story's mood and events.

On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a well-deserved Marble Party. After choosing a carousel of activities, including colouring and drawing, computer time, games, and 'snack and chat', it was lovely to see so many positive interactions and friendships on display. It was a fantastic afternoon and a fitting reward for all of the children's hard work and commitment this term so far.

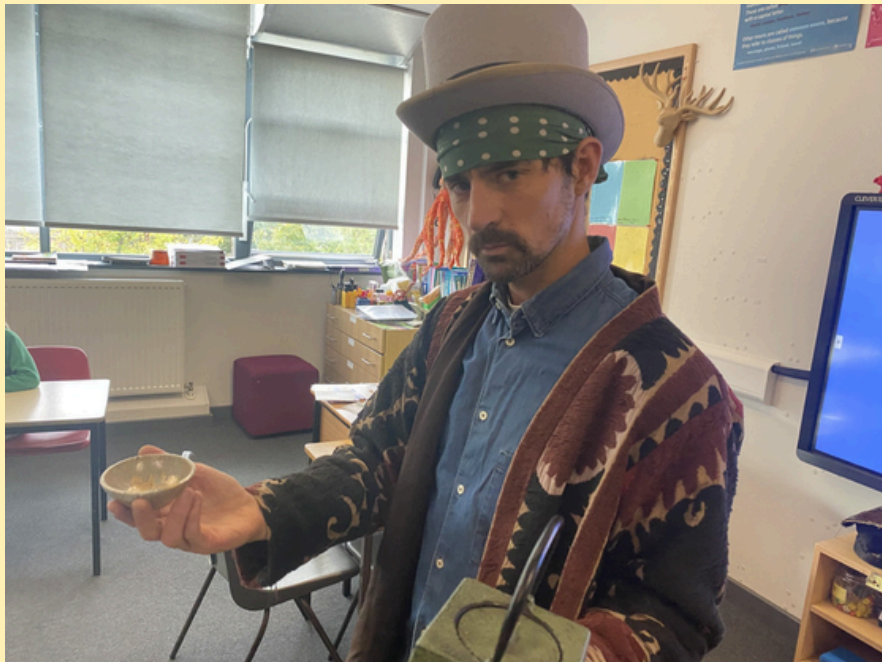


Oak Year 3/4



This week in Oak Class, we have begun our new maths topic of addition and subtraction. This is such an important area of maths and provides the foundations for so much of the children's future learning. It has been wonderful to see the children making a fantastic start already, working hard and growing in confidence. To keep building on this at home, we would really encourage everyone to keep going with Numbots and practise our Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs).

Our new class book for this half term is *Cloud Tea Monkeys*, a wonderful story about a girl called Tashi who works on a tea plantation collecting tea leaves. To bring our learning to life, we were very lucky to receive a visit from a rather distinguished tea taster, who took some time out of his very busy schedule to join Oak Class! The children had a brilliant morning tasting a selection of teas, thinking carefully about their different flavours and aromas, and using their experiences to write some fantastic descriptions. It was a lovely way to immerse ourselves in our new book, and the children produced some wonderful writing.





Ash Reception/Year 1

It has been a wonderfully busy couple of weeks in Ash Class! In maths, we have been developing our careful counting skills and becoming increasingly familiar and confident with numbers to 5 and 10. We have also been working hard in phonics, learning new sounds while continuing to revisit those we already know. It has been fantastic to see the children becoming quicker and more confident at recognising these sounds, as well as practising how to form them in their handwriting. These important skills are helping to build strong foundations for their journey as readers and writers.

As we continue to explore our theme of belonging, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Nick into our Religion and World Views lesson last week to show us what happens during a Christian infant baptism. It was a really special experience for the children and helped us to think about how a baby is welcomed into a Christian family. We then explored the different ways that we all belong, whether that is with our grown-ups and families or as part of other special groups and communities.

What a fantastic couple of weeks it has been. We are so proud of how enthusiastically the children have embraced their learning!



Beech Year 1/2



This week, Beech Class put their detective skills to the test solving the mystery of some very strange footprints that appeared on Monday morning in the corridor. Following clues, and with the assistance of an animal identification booklet, it seems as if there were an orangutang, an elephant, a panda and polar bear roaming the school at the weekend... we are hoping that this drama will lead to some inspiring writing!

In PSHE, as part of our topic this half-term 'Me and my relationships', we have been identifying different feelings and emotions. This week during circle time, we played a game, 'pass the smile' which certainly generated a great deal of happiness and laughter!

Beech Class have been enjoying studying plants in Science, especially creating our own large deciduous tree using leaves, feathers and lichen from the playground - complete with a nest! In Geography, the class have mastered their left and right, and used this skill to direct toy cars around a map.

The children have made a fantastic start to using the tag rugby equipment in PE, showing fast footwork and respect for each other's space. They have also continued to impress us with their ability to share and collaborate as a team - what a lovely term.



Maple Year 5/6

In English we have been planning our own fairy tales, including magical beings, talking animals, royalty, and of course, fairy tale endings. The children have created some wonderful characters and brilliant plots, and I can't wait to read their creative writing next week. We have also been reading 'The invention of Hugo Cabret' – a story told through words and images. The children have been focussing on developing the core skills of summarizing, predicting and inferring meaning.

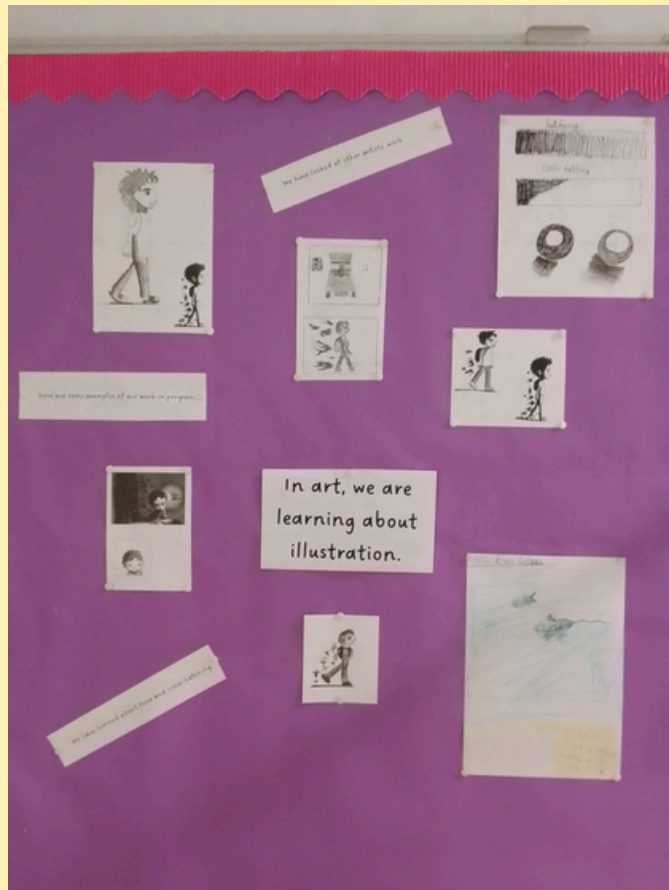
In maths, we have started working on addition and subtraction, and next week we will move onto multiplication and division. Their timestable knowledge is really central to their ability to complete maths challenges now, so I have been encouraging them to chant them, and write them out at home. We are doing lots of timestable practice in class too. Please do support them with this important work!

In PE we are coming to the end of our Parkour module, where the children have been jumping, balancing, vaulting and practicing their plyos. We are beginning are put these skills together into sequences.

In art, we have continued the fairy tale theme, building up to creating a story board of a Grimm's tale. The children have been looking at the work of graphic artists, and learning about tone, and techniques like hatching and cross-hatching to create depth and contrast in their work.

As ever, they have engaged brilliantly and creatively with everything asked of them and they are sharing their beautiful ideas with each other.

Well done Maple class!



Adventures at Preschool

Week 5 – Harvest

The Hungry Caterpillar

During Week 5, our theme was Harvest, inspired by the much-loved story The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children enjoyed talking about Harvest Festival and exploring the different fruits and vegetables associated with this special time of year. Some of the children had also attended the Harvest Service at church, which gave us lots to talk about together during our circle time activities.

Using our story as inspiration, we explored the fascinating life cycle of a butterfly and how a tiny caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly. The children got creative by painting green cardboard tubes to make their very own hungry caterpillars. They also experimented with sponge painting to create some fantastic butterfly patterns, exploring colours, shapes and textures along the way.

Alongside our themed activities, we have continued to enjoy our listening games, helping the children develop their concentration and listening skills in a fun and engaging way. We are so proud of their enthusiasm, creativity and growing confidence!

Week 6 – Our Families

Owl Babies

This week, our theme has been Our Families, inspired by the beautiful story Owl Babies. We have been celebrating the special people in our lives, including mums, dads, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, cousins and even our much-loved family pets! Which leads us onto our pets theme next week

The children have been absolutely amazing during our Cushion Corner discussions, confidently and enthusiastically sharing stories about their families with both adults and their friends. It has been wonderful to hear about the people and pets who are special to them. These conversations have supported the children's communication skills, confidence and understanding of the different families that make each of us unique.

Our learning has continued through lots of exciting, hands-on activities. The children explored families in the sand and practised counting how many people were in their own families. They also used Play-Dough to create little people and families, developing their creativity and fine motor skills.

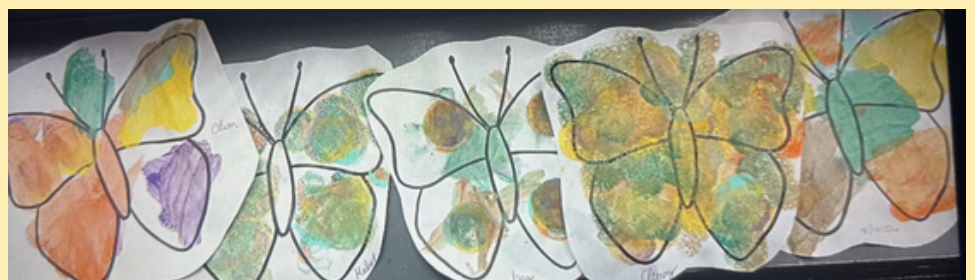
We have been busy making and decorating our own family photo frames, with the children drawing pictures of their families to go inside. We also created our very own Owl Babies! The children used forks dipped in paint to make the owls' feathers, and this proved to be a fantastic activity. They loved experimenting with a different painting tool and discovering the wonderful textures and patterns they could create.

We extend our learning by making family pictures using different 2D shapes. This will help the children begin to recognise, name and explore shapes while creating their very own unique family pictures. We had very special visitors who came to the back of our pre-school which were the Dartmoor ponies they children showed great excitement to watch them eating the grass

Looking Ahead – Week 7

Next week, our theme will be Our Pets! We will be talking about our favourite animals, sharing our experiences of caring for pets whilst exploring the important role they play in our families. We will also be introducing some exciting pumpkin-themed sensory activities, giving the children opportunities to investigate, explore and learn through their senses.

We look forward to another wonderful week full of fun, discovery and learning in Preschool! Thank you to all our families for your continued support. It is a pleasure to see the children growing in confidence, sharing their experiences and learning so much through play every



After-school Club

Our After-School Club runs every day from 3.25pm to 5.45pm and is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. Led by Michelle Oughton, the club provides a safe, friendly and engaging environment where children can unwind, socialise and enjoy a wide range of activities after the school day has finished.

Based in the classroom next to the school office, children are offered a healthy snack and can take part in a variety of structured activities including arts and crafts, construction play, board games, drama, sensory activities, creative writing, mindfulness sessions and games in the hall.

As well as being a convenient childcare option for families, After-School Club gives children the opportunity to build friendships, develop new interests and have fun in a relaxed setting.

£10 per child per session – great value for over 2 hours!

Book via the School Gateway App by 11:00am on the day.

We would love to see more children making use of this fantastic provision, whether regularly or just when families need a little extra flexibility.



Chagford C of E Primary School
PTFA Fundraiser



Monster Bash



Thursday
22nd October
5pm to 7pm



Fancydress Disco
Fireside
Storytelling
BBQ & Drinks



£3 entry on the door
Children must be accompanied by an adult

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's SchoolTime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, BBC, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 3 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

**Libraries
Unlimited**



**Green
Libraries
Week**

TOY REPAIR WORKSHOP WITH PROPER JOB

CHAGFORD LIBRARY

24TH OCTOBER

10.15 OR 11.30

LIBRARY MEMBERS £3, NON-MEMBERS £5

FOR AGES 8-11



AUTUMN LITTER PICK

CHAGFORD



Sunday 25th October 10.00AM - 1.00PM

HALLoWEEN FANcY DREss OPtIoNAL



Meet at Endecott House for the Health & Safety Briefing.
Equipment will be provided / All ages are welcome.
Refreshments will be available for all pickers



PLASTIC FREE
CHAGFORD
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

PROPER JOB
RECLAIM • REUSE • RECYCLE

 **COMMUNITY**
FUND

PAY WHAT
YOU FEEL



HALLOWEEN FAMILY CRAFTING & BAKING



TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2PM - 4PM

JUBILEE HALL, CHAGFORD



THE SPOOKIEST THING ABOUT HALLOWEEN IS THE WASTE!

Come along and make some Halloween decorations from things that might otherwise be thrown away. A fun family crafting session, with home-baked Halloween treats too!

Experience Halloween without the waste!

Trick or treat at Chagford Library afterwards!



to book go to www.proper-job.org/events





CHAGFORD YFC HALLOWEEN DISCO

When: Friday 30th October 2026

Where: The White Hart
Moretonhampstead

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Age: 10 yrs and younger

£5 per child on entry

 Fancy dress competition

 Games and prizes

 Disco dancing

 Snacks and spooky treats

DRESS
UP
GET
DOWN!
♥

SPOOKY
VIBES

GOOD
TIMES!

CHAGFORD YFC BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS



BONFIRE



FIREWORK
DISPLAY



MOORHOUSE
BURGERS



AND A
BAR

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2026

CASH
ONLY

ADULT: £5.00
CHILD: £3.00
FAMILY: £15.00

6:30PM
GATES OPEN
7:00
FIREWORKS



WHAT3WORDS:
///goodbyes.dice.listed
(NORTH BOVEY)



LOTS OF
PARKING TOO!



Pupil Absence Reporting

If your child is absent from school, please notify us before the start of the school day.

Email is the best way of doing this:

admin@chagfordprimary.org.uk

or you can call us on:

01647 432412

THANK YOU



School Lunch Bookings

Please remember to book your child's school lunch by 9:30am each day, or send them in with a packed lunch. Missing bookings make it tricky for our kitchen team to plan and prepare meals. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly!



COMMUNITY, CHALLENGE, CARE

'Let us consider how we can spur each other on to love and good works'
Hebrews 10:24