



CHAGFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

18th September 2026

What a brilliant start to the term we have had at Chagford! It has been wonderful to see our pupils settle so confidently into their new classes. They have embraced new routines, expectations and learning with real enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Celebrating Our 2026 Assessment Results

We are delighted to share the outcomes of last summer's statutory assessments. These results reflect the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff and the fantastic support provided by families at home.

Statutory Assessment	Chagford	National
EYFS Good Level of Development (GLD)	82%	68%
Year 1 Phonics	85%	80%
Year 4 Multiplication Check: average score	21.7 / 25	21.0 / 25
Year 4 Multiplication Check: 25/25	64%	37%
Year 6 Reading, Writing & Maths combined: expected standard	81%	63%
Year 6 Reading, Writing & Maths combined: greater depth	13%	9%

A fantastic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of our children. Across these key statutory assessment points, Chagford pupils have achieved some very strong outcomes.

While assessment results are only one measure of a child's success, these outcomes give us much to celebrate. Most importantly, they reflect children who have worked hard, persevered and demonstrated our school values throughout their learning.

Forest School

We are very excited to begin our Forest School sessions with Mr Frewin. Pupils from Years 1 to 6 will take part in half-termly sessions in our new and improved Forest School area. This is a fantastic addition to our curriculum and will give children further opportunities to learn outdoors, develop confidence, work together and enjoy everything our wonderful environment has to offer. We cannot wait to see the children making the most of this space throughout the year.

Celebrating our musicians

A huge well done to our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who took part in the Whiddon Autumn Music Festival and performed in Moretonhampstead alongside a professional choir. They did an amazing job and represented our school brilliantly. Performing alongside professional musicians is a fantastic experience, and we are extremely proud of the confidence, commitment and enthusiasm our children showed.

Attendance

Attendance will remain an important focus for us this year as we work to ensure that our pupils have the best possible opportunity to learn, thrive and achieve, while ensuring that the school meets national expectations.

We know that there can be many reasons why families experience difficulties with attendance or punctuality. If you are worried about your child's attendance, are finding it difficult to get your child into school, or are struggling to arrive on time, please reach out and talk to us.

We are here to support you. Working together, as families and as a school, is always the best approach to supporting our children.

Parking and road safety

We have received a number of enquiries from families about parking arrangements outside the school, with several parents asking about measures such as zig-zag markings or designated drop-off areas.

We completely understand these concerns and share everyone's desire to make the area around our school as safe as possible. However, the school does not have the authority to make or enforce changes to the public highway outside our site. We would therefore strongly encourage parents and residents who have concerns or suggestions to raise these directly with the local council.

During the summer term, I requested an assessment of the arrangements outside the school, and we will continue to raise concerns and support appropriate improvements wherever we can. I am yet to hear back about the results of this assessment so I will follow this up with Devon Highways.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and I am really excited about everything the year ahead holds for our children and our school community.

Mr Green

Headteacher



Key Instant Recall Facts - KIRFs

We are introducing a new approach to maths home learning through KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts). These are key maths facts that children need to know and recall quickly to support their learning and build confidence with numbers. Each half term, children will focus on a new set of KIRFs, with short, regular practice helping these facts become embedded in long-term memory. Thank you for supporting your child with this important learning. For more information about KIRFs, including year group specific expectations and resources, please visit our website using this link:

<https://chagford.greenhousecms.co.uk/Mathematics-Key-Instant-Recall-Facts-KIRFs/>

Mr Bevan-Smith will also be holding a parent workshop on **Monday 28th September at 3:00pm** to explain the approach in more detail. Please do come along!

PTFA Annual General Meeting – Friday 25th September

We would like to warmly invite all parents and carers to attend our PTFA AGM on Friday 25th September from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, straight after school. Children are very welcome to come along with their parents. We would love to see as many families as possible attend and find out more about the fantastic work our PTFA does for the school community. Through their fundraising efforts, the PTFA helps to enhance our extra-curricular opportunities, provides valuable resources for pupils, and organises fun events that everyone can enjoy. Your support and involvement make a real difference, and we hope to see you there!

Forest School with Mr Frewin

We are delighted to launch our new Forest School provision, led by Mr Frewin. Each half term, different classes will take part in a series of outdoor learning sessions designed to help children develop confidence, resilience, independence and a deeper connection with the natural world. This half term, Oak Class and Maple Class will be taking part.

Forest School provides child-centred, hands-on learning experiences in our wonderful woodland environment. Through play, exploration and problem-solving activities, children have opportunities to build social skills, take managed risks, develop physical coordination and work collaboratively with others.

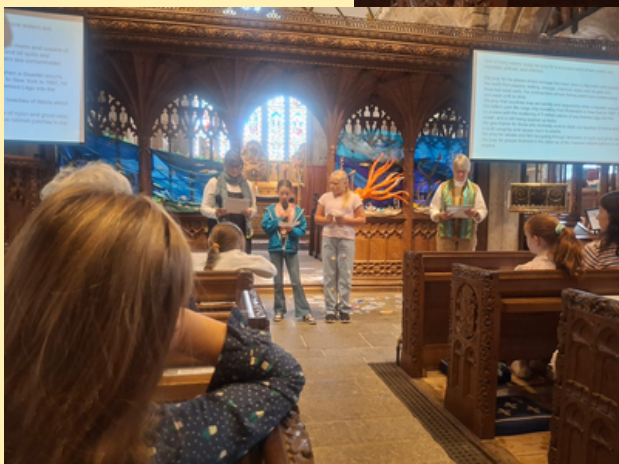
Although we are fortunate to be located in the heart of Dartmoor, we recognise that many children have fewer opportunities to engage with nature due to increased screen time and increasingly busy lifestyles. Our Forest School programme aims to redress this balance, helping children connect with the outdoors, experience a sense of awe and wonder, and enjoy the many benefits that learning in nature can bring. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our PTFA for helping to fund this exciting new provision, and to Proper Job, particularly Alison Salis, for their invaluable support in sourcing and providing materials and assisting with grant applications. We would also like to thank Mr Frewin for his enthusiasm, dedication and hard work in preparing the Forest School area and ensuring that the activities and learning experiences are ready for our children to enjoy.

We are excited to see our pupils grow, learn and thrive through this valuable new opportunity. We look forward to sharing more about Forest School with you.



Creation Season Service

Last week's Creation Season Service at Chagford Church was a really special occasion, and we were so proud of our children, who all did brilliantly. Their creativity and enthusiasm shone through in the wonderful water-themed project, which included artwork, music, readings, photography and symbols of hope. It was lovely to see so many pupils confidently taking part and sharing their work with the wider community. A huge thank you to Reverend Edwina Fennemore, Philippa O'Brien, and everyone who came along to support the service and celebrate the children's achievements.





Birch Year 4/5

What a fantastic start to the term we have had in Birch Class! I have been incredibly impressed with how quickly the children have settled into their new environment, and I am confident that we have a wonderful year ahead of us.

During our first week, the children took part in a range of activities designed to help them feel at home in Birch Class. They thoroughly enjoyed creating vibrant name posters, which now form a colourful classroom mural and help make the space feel truly our own. We also designed personalised birthday cards that will be given out throughout the year and completed our 'All About Me' octagons, which are proudly displayed outside the classroom.

As part of a whole-school project, we were delighted to welcome Edwina to school. The project culminated in Sunday's church service, and I was extremely proud of the children who represented Birch Class, the school, and our wider community so positively.

This week, we have begun to move into our more formal learning routines. Once again, the children have impressed me with their positive attitudes, enthusiasm, and inquisitive approach to learning. We are all looking forward to the exciting experiences and opportunities that this year will bring.



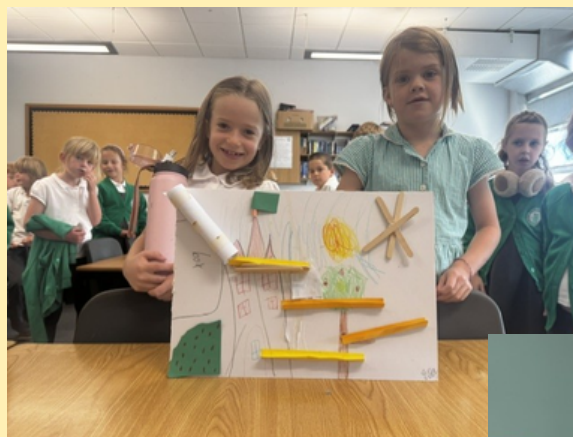
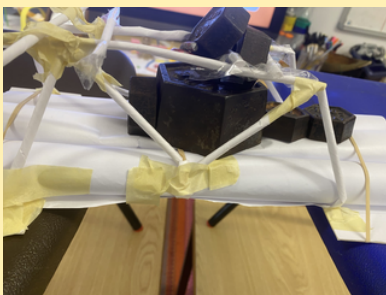
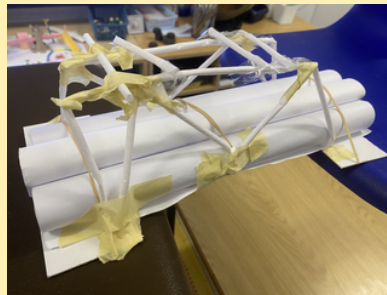
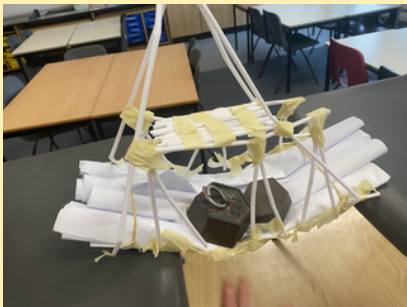
Oak Year 3/4



Wow! What a fantastic start to the term for Oak class. We took on some incredible science projects, seen some exciting results and had so much fun doing them. During the first week back, the children were challenged to create a paper bridge that would remain stable and strong under increasing weight. When designing these, we discovered the power of the triangle and how its rigidity can make improve the stability of a structure. We were immensely excited when we saw 3 teams succeed in building a paper bridge that could hold over 1kg. One team's bridge held a whopping 1700g before it broke.

The next day was full of even more scientific discoveries and excellent teamwork as the children explored in groups how they could stop an egg from cracking when dropped from the classroom window. We discussed how we could utilise air resistance and crumple zones to protect the egg on impact. Again, we saw a lot of success as 4 groups managed to protect their eggs from cracking by creating a working parachute and a well-designed crumple zone cradle.

We have some serious future scientists here in Oak class!





Maple Year 6

What a start to the year we've had in Maple class! I would like to commend the whole class on their attitude, their learning behaviours and their wonderful good nature! We dived straight into baseline assessments last week and the class showed courage and resilience throughout. We made it as fun and light as possible, however they still rose the challenge with a brilliant attitude.

This week has really been about the music. Whiddon Autumn music festival have been in and run singing workshops and given a performance especially to the class. The children went over to Moretonhampstead for a workshop and a performance. What a great opportunity to get involved in, and appreciate live music.

In English we are listening to Grimm's tales, with the goal of writing our own tale at the end of the unit. I really appreciate the way they have embraced this, sharing their own ideas, things they've heard and listening brilliantly.

In maths, we are working on 'place value' - recognising and writing large numbers up to 10,000,000 and learning how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. In science, we learning about electrical circuits and how to create accurate circuit diagrams. The children had a Forest School adventure this week with Mr Frewin, and it was wonderful to see them come back with their nature-based creations, and some with warrior paint on their faces! This will be a weekly adventure on a Tuesday morning, so please do pack their waterproofs and wellies as the weather gets more Autumnal.

A start to be proud of - well done everyone in Maple class!



Ash Reception/Year 1

Welcome, Ash Class families! What a great start to school your children have had. We have been truly impressed by how the class as a whole have settled into routines, tackled brand new challenges together and in general gelled well as a class. It makes the EYFS team feel very excited for the rest of the year and the fun things we will be able to do together!

So far, Ash Class have begun learning to read and write, explored the school library and forest area, had a go at Show and Tell, and learnt some games that have involved good communication, cooperation and listening – Grandmother's Footsteps and Sticky Glue have been favourites! We have also started to think about our 'Marvellous Me' theme and some children have shared pictures of themselves or family members, and explained why these people are important to them. Please keep these coming in, or your child may prefer to make an 'All About Me' poster for our classroom wall! It's been a great couple of weeks of getting to know each other and this will continue throughout the term

Thank you for helping your children arrive at school 'ready to learn'. Everybody has been very punctual and dressed for the weather, fantastic! As the weather changes on us, please do remember a waterproof, even if the morning is sunny. I will be in touch if there is a need for wellies on a particular day. Please remember to pack your child an afternoon snack and a bottle of water each day – we will never let a child go hungry but may not be able to provide a snack of choice. This also has a knock-on effect on our food supplies over time. A bottle of water is important so your child can easily and independently have a drink at any point in the day, including PE, without spilling it.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at next Tuesday's maths workshop at 2.55pm in the classroom. The following Tuesday will be focusing on teaching your child to write, also at 2.55pm. We also look forward to meeting you all at parents' evening next week. Please do get in touch before then if you have any questions, on erobertson@chagfordprimary.org.uk.

NB: We will be hosting some Early Years 'open day' sessions at Chagford Primary School in the near future – watch this space! Please do mention these to anyone you know with children aged 1 – 5. We will be inviting prospective families to come for a morning of fun at our wonderful school so we can share what makes us such a lovely place to be. Details to follow.

Have a lovely, restful weekend!
Best wishes
Mrs Robertson



Beech Year 1/2



We are delighted with how well the children in Beech Class have adapted to their new classroom routines and learning environment. It has been wonderful to see them arriving each morning with growing independence, organising their belongings, and showing such enthusiasm to learn.

The first few weeks are all about creating routines that support successful learning. We have spent time discussing classroom expectations, learning behaviours, and the importance of being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. Through collaborative activities, classroom games, and group learning opportunities, the children have been building upon important social skills such as sharing, listening, kindness, and teamwork. Our classroom community is already a very happy, kind and supportive place!

The children have enthusiastically begun exploring our curriculum topics and have shown curiosity and excitement. In English, we have been developing speaking and listening skills, sharing stories, and building confidence in expressing ideas. We are about to embark on a literary adventure with Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke.

In Mathematics, the children have been developing key fluency skills such as counting, forwards and backwards and subitising, as well as their digit formation. In Science, we have begun exploring the world of plants, and in Geography begun our topic "Where I Am?" by identifying our town, county, country and planet.

We are very much looking forward to this year's learning journey as a class.

Drum Lessons
Now offered
at school.

For more info contact Ben at:
devondrumschool@gmail.com
Tel:
07966-488481

A detailed image of a blue and silver drum kit, including a bass drum, snare drum, toms, and cymbals, set against a white background.

Adventures at Preschool

Welcome to the Autumn Term!

A very warm welcome to all our new families joining Chagford Preschool. We have been delighted to see how positively all our new starters have engaged during their three-day settling-in sessions. It has been lovely getting to know our new children and their families, and we are very much looking forward to sharing many adventures with you throughout their Preschool journey at Chagford Primary School.

Our older children have shown incredible kindness and care towards our new starters. They have been helping them settle into our routines and boundaries, showing them where our toys and resources belong, and making sure they feel welcomed and part of our Pre-school family, we are incredibly proud of them.

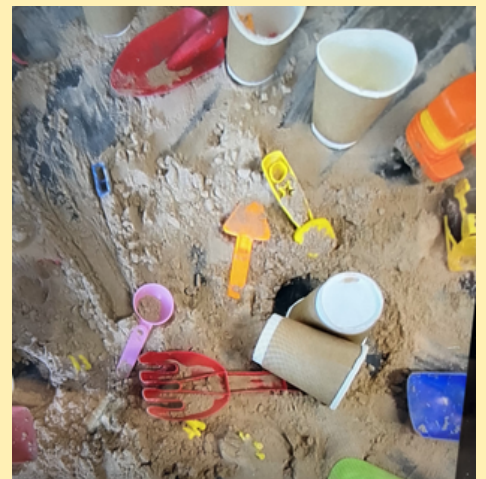
During the last two weeks, the children have been learning about and becoming familiar with important parts of our Preschool day, including hand washing, circle time, listening activities, story time, snack time and lunchtime.

The children have also enjoyed an exciting learning walk around the whole school. This has given them the opportunity to visit the hall, Mr Green office, and to walk upstairs to see the rest of the school, plus they got to meet other members of staff and some of our older pupils. The older children were very happy to stop and talk to our Preschool children, reassuring them about school and sharing how wonderful Chagford Primary School is.

This term, our theme is "It Is Good to Be Me." We will be exploring this through a range of fun and meaningful activities alongside adult-led experiences and opportunities for independent learning.

We are excited for a wonderful term filled with learning, friendships, discovery and adventures.

We Wish all our Pre-school families a wonderful weekend filled with happy moments making memories with your family and friends





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