

# Chagford C of E Primary School



Weekly Newsletter 23rd July 2021

# Thank You!

Well! We made it everyone! This is just to say a huge thankyou to everyone at the end of what must have been our most challenging year ever and to say how very proud I am of this school, the wonderful people—adults and children—who make it unique and special and the the community without which it wouldn't exist.

Firstly, I have to say 'thank you' to all the parents and carers who have supported their children through lockdown and bubbles and all the other strange things that have made school life so very different and difficult this year. Equally, your support for the school and for the sometimes difficult decisions that we have had to make has meant that we felt supported and confident to do the very best that we can. Thank you.

Next I have to say a big thank you to all the people who work at our school—that's cleaners and admin, teaching assistants and cooks, teachers and site manager and so many more. Working out how to operate within covid restrictions, keeping everyone and everything safe, ensuring that learning is continuing, you are all awesome—every single one of you. I am deeply proud to lead this team and I love the commitment and love I see every day. When I walk around the school and see the engaged learning going on in every class I glow with pride.

A massive thank you goes to those people in our community who give time and energy to make this school unique and special—I'm thinking of the PTFA, the gardening group, the lunchtime helpers, the adult library volunteers, the people who help us walk the children to the pool for their swimming lessons—the list of names would be too long to include but believe me—we couldn't do it without you.

Lastly, but certainly no least of all, we have to say the biggest thank you of all to the children of Chagford Primary. You make us so proud to be your teachers. The good manners, the humour, the affection and the individuality you show are infectious. This school just feels special when you walk in the door. Thank you children—I'm proud to be your Principal.

Have a wonderful summer everyone—see you in September for our best year yet.

## Welcome to our New Teachers

### **Alison Armstrong—Year Six Teacher and Deputy Principal**

I am delighted to be joining Chagford Primary School.

I have lived and worked locally for many years during which time I have forged a passion for teaching English. Music has also played an important part in my life: I play the violin and the piano and have sung in several choirs. I have also been known to swap my violin bow for an archer's bow!

I am mother to two sons who are now grown and forging their own paths but we all share a love of Dartmoor and hiking.

I am hugely looking forward to meeting you all.



### **Judith Simpson—Year Five and Six Teacher**

Hi there! My name is Miss Simpson and I'll be teaching Year 5 in the mornings and 5 and 6 in the afternoons starting in September. I'm originally from Northern Ireland but I've moved around a bit. I love music, drama and reading. I'm really excited to join Chagford CE Primary School, it's going to be an exciting year!



### **Felicity Paddon—Year Three Teacher**

Hello everyone, my name is Miss Paddon and I'll be teaching year three in September. I've lived in Devon all my life and I'm really excited to get to know Chagford community and the children in the school. I love to get outdoors and play different sports like netball and running. I'm excited to get going and can't wait to see you all in September.



Also joining us in September is the wonderful Christine Wignal. Christine, who lives in Chagford, is a very experienced teaching assistant—we have lots and lots to learn from her and we just can't wait to welcome her on board. Exciting times!

# Year Six Awards

Our Year Six leavers have a tradition of giving each other awards at the end of their last term to remember their special qualities—best reader, maths whizz, funniest person, person with the best memory... everyone makes an award and everyone gets to vote—and everyone gets an award for something. It's a lovely window into how the children perceive each other and a beautiful way to celebrate friends. Here's a little gallery of some of the award holders—sorry there isn't room for everyone.





## Hawthorn Class 'School Fete' for Greenpeace

Hawthorn Class had been learning about the destruction of the rainforest—particularly the role played by the farming of palm oil for our chocolate, shampoo and—seemingly almost everything else. They wanted to take action by raising funds for Greenpeace who campaign against environmental destruction. They made a summer fete from and raised lots of money—they had a whole lot of fun too! Well done Hawthorn Class and a massive well done to Miss Robertson and Mr Dray who ensured it all went ahead. Thanks also to all the children who came along and took part. It was a really lovely event.



What a beautiful day—well done children. And thank you to Mrs Dunnage for these lovely photographs.



## **PTFA Raffle**

The PTFA Summer Raffle made an amazing £645! Such a brilliant result! A few PTFA members met on Tuesday for the draw and we are now in the process of contacting all the prize winners. Thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets, and to Black's Delicatessen and Chagford Pharmacy for selling tickets on our behalf. Huge thanks too of course to the generous donors who make it all possible: Chagford Swimming Pool, Chagstock, Gidleigh Park Hotel, Aileen's Little Kitchen, Oaklands Riding Stables, Miniature Pony Centre, Astor's Bookshop, The Beehive, Philippa de Burlet, Black's Delicatessen, Stone Lane Gardens, Dartmoor Bike Hire, Amy's Flowers, the d'Apice family, Dartmoor Beef and Lamb, Drakes Farm and Oinkers Farm Shop.

## **Farewell**

Yesterday we said a sad farewell to three colleagues who we love and value very much.

We wanted to thank Sara, Lee and Pam for all the important and wonderful things they had done over their time at the school and to wish them all the very best for their next steps along the world.

The children had made cards and we clubbed together to buy some gifts. We got together to sing specially written songs to say goodbye. We made absolutely sure that these people knew how much we valued them and cared for them and respected how much they had put into our school and the community..

Pam Dunnage has been an exemplary teaching assistant for years and years. She is always calm, kind and patient. She has been just as supportive to her colleagues as she has been to the very many children she has worked with over the years. Whether it's been working with whole classes, supporting groups of children or supporting one to one where necessary, Pam has always done what was needed and modelled professionalism.

Lee Billingham has led in sports and maths, he has shepherded year after year of Year Sixes through their last few months at the school with kindness and humour. He has organised fixtures and made sure swimming happened and set up our annual sports day directed plays and edited movies and too many other roles to mention. Northlew School are getting a diamond

Sara Halsey has supported almost every child that has passed through our school, we love her dedication to the children, her love for the school and her wicked sense of humour. Everyone you speak to has either fond memory or a funny story to tell you about Sara. She isn't leaving the community so we know we will still see her around but we will miss her presence in the Foundation Stage Unit. She is a very special person.

Sara, Lee and Pam—we will miss you. Do keep in touch.





**SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST 2021**

**CHAGFORD WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS, TQ13 8AS**

**RACE STARTS AT 11.30 AM**

**How to Enter:** Online Entry Only is via the website: [www.twohillsrace.co.uk](http://www.twohillsrace.co.uk)

**Pre-Race Registration:** Closes Midday on Friday 27th August or before if race is full

Race distance approx 5.5k

**EARLY BIRD ENTRIES  
UNTIL END OF JULY**

Adults £10.00

Juniors £5.00

**ENTRIES IN AUGUST**

Adults £12.00

Juniors £6.00

**A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL AGES**

Bouncy Castle, Refreshments, Children's Races,  
Stalls, Vintage Ice Cream Seller, Music