

Chagford C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter 2nd July 2021



It has been lovely to be back at Chagford after my week away on Jury Duty. There has been a beautiful atmosphere around the school this week, I am moved and impressed every day by the great team here at the school. It has been a long and difficult school year with lots of disruption and lots of challenges and I know that all of us—parents and cares too, not just school staff—are super tired. You wouldn't know it to look around the school which is absolutely buzzing with love, life and learning at the moment.

The gardens are at the peak of their powers and I'm spending a few minutes to enjoy them every morning—I'm moved by the love and dedication that has made them so special—thank you to the gardening committee. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who have been coming in to school at lunch times to help us to supervise the children while our cook, Marie, is out of action.

We enjoyed our visit from Michael of the Young Christian's Climate Network who popped is part of the epic relay from the G7 in Cornwall up to #COP26 in Scotland later this year.



Staffing in Early Years

As many of you will know already, our dear colleague Sara Halsey is leaving us at the end of the year.

Sara has been at Chagford for many years and has led a happy and productive early years unit with kindness, generosity and always with a sense of humour. We are so sorry to lose her but we respect her choices and we know that parents and carers will respect her choices too. She's not intending to move far so we will still see Sara and she will always be part of the family at the school as well as, of course, an important person in the community. We will give her a proper Chagford goodbye when the time comes.

From September another key member of our Chagford family, Lisa Rowe, will take over leading the early years provision with support from Mr Finch. We will have to work hard and smart to live up to the great work Sara has done over many years but we will do our best. Thank you again Sara for everything you have done and what an exciting new challenge for Ms Rowe and Mr Finch.

Chagford School PTFA Grand Summer Raffle!

Each child should have had a book of 5 raffle tickets coming home in their bags this week. If you are able to buy (or sell to Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles etc!) your book please return the ticket stubs and cash in an envelope to reception. If you feel like buying/selling more tickets they can be picked up in reception. The draw will be held at school on Tuesday 20th July. Thanks to some very kind donors there are some fantastic prizes to be won...

Chagford Swimming Pool, Pool Party Voucher, Chagstock Family Ticket, £50 cash prize thanks to Aileen's Little Kitchen, Miniature Pony Centre Adult Season Ticket, Luxury Men's Cashmere Jumper, Philippa de Burlet Vase, Astor's Bookshop £20 voucher, The Beehive £20 voucher, Black's Delicatessen Prize, Gidleigh Park Hotel Afternoon Tea for two, Oaklands Riding Stables £30 voucher, Stone Lane Gardens family ticket, Amy's Flower £10 voucher, Dartmoor Beef and Lamb, Drakes Farm Cafe £10 voucher, Oinkers Farm Shop £20 voucher and more!

Proper Job Fundraising Weekend

Our brilliant friends at Proper Job have pledged to donate half of all their takings tomorrow, Saturday 3rd July, to Chagford Primary School. This is incredibly generous of them and we are really moved. We hope they have a super, bumper weekend and that they'll make us a nice lot of money! Proper Job run the big recycling store down at the bottom end of the town as well as the more 'boutique' Proper Job Uptown in the square. Both places are well worth a look so, if you are on the loose tomorrow, do, please, pop in and take a look. If you've never been before you might be really surprised by what you can get there!



#ChagfordChampions!

Our Year Sixes took a team to a Cricket Competition run by the Saints on Wednesday this week. The children had SUCH a great time and came back to school absolutely beaming—it was absolutely the loveliest thing and a moving marker of things returning to something a bit more like normal.

It is almost beside the point but I will mention anyway that, after a closely fought match, the boys and girls from Chagford won their match by a whisker and came back with some more silverware for the cabinet.

Well done boys and girls and a huge thank you to Saints for organising the competition and to Mr B and to Betsy for taking them along and making sure everything was done safely. #Chagford Champions every one!

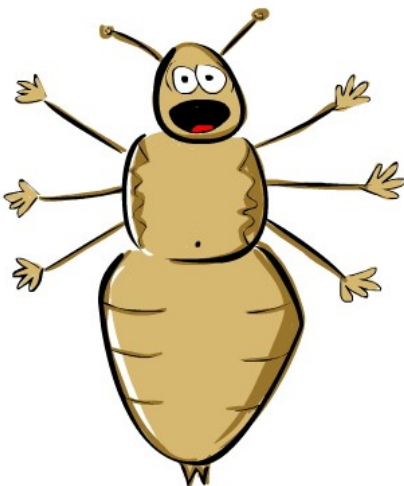


School Photographs

We're excited to announce that Tempest Photographers will be in school with us for the day on Wednesday 7th July, to take both individual and class photos of all school age children.

We hope you'll agree this is great news, after restrictions meant that our 2020 Autumn term photos couldn't go ahead as usual.

Please note, as the end of term is now drawing closer, all school photo orders will need to be placed directly via Tempest's website, rather than with school. We will share the link for that as soon as the photos are done. You will have received an email asking for permission for these photos to be taken in order to be compliant with GDPR.



Head lice

They're back and they're making children's lives itchy and uncomfortable! Do check your children's heads for the little eggs (nits) and the lice themselves. If you find them do please deal with them thoroughly asap. If you don't find any eggs or lice you can keep them at bay by combing through with a drop of conditioner on the comb every day. Mr Finch claims that tea tree shampoo keeps them away as well but that is purely anecdotal.

Sports Day

Our school sports day will be taking place on Friday 16th July this year.

Sadly the situation just won't let us allow parents in to enjoy the day with us. We will make a little highlight reel and share it with you I hope. Mr B has been working very hard and I'm sure it will be a fantastic day. for the pupils.

Mr Finch's Brilliant Books

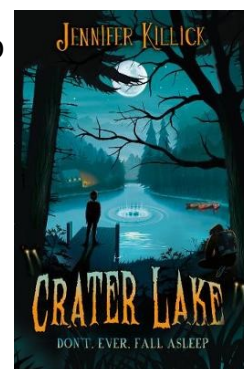


This week Mr Finch has mostly been reading **'The Midnight Guardians' by Ross Montgomery**. It was only published a couple of years ago but it feels like a proper old fashioned children's book with lots of adventure, real jeopardy and great characters including a talking Badger and a Tiger who can change her size.

I think this book would be great for a child in Year Five or Six who is a newly confident reader and starting to enjoy bigger and more challenging books.

It would make a brilliant story to share chapter by chapter at bedtime. Why not ask for it at the library and take a look? Narnia fans will be interested to think about the links and clues to The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe that Ross has cleverly threaded into the book.

Our Year Sixes are loving **'Crater Lake' by Jennifer Killick**—the follow up 'Crater lake Evolution' is now available and might make a great—but scary—summer read for the nascent Year Seven in your life.



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

As of this term, every school is required to have a policy that lays out their approach to relationships and sex education. This is not 'the birds and the bees' but a whole programme setting out how we talk about relationships, how we ensure children learn to maintain healthy friendships and what to do when friendships go wrong, how different families can have different forms and how that's ok and so on. This policy does also say how we will teach about our changing bodies, about puberty and about how babies are made. The new policy doesn't indicate a change in practice, just a clarification of what we do.

I have emailed every parent and carer on my system with a copy of the draft policy and an invitation to a virtual meeting to consult on it. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have a comment to make do email me or drop a message in at reception. We will ensure that all voices are heard before we finalise and publish the policy.