

Chagford C of E Primary School

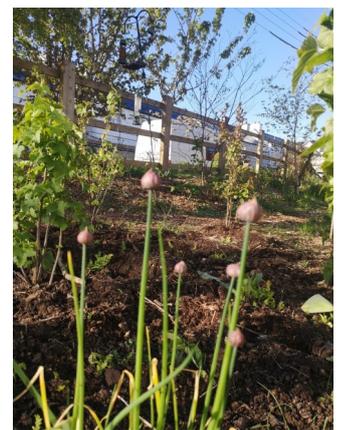
Weekly Newsletter 7th May 2021



Welcome to your weekly newsletter—it's been a busy busy week here at the school with a happy sense of purpose and pride. I hope your young people have been coming home buzzing with talk about what they have been learning and what they have been doing.

The PTFA committee met earlier in the week and are coming up with some plans for a brilliant event to raise money and welcome us all back into the school when restrictions are lifted. I'll let them tell you about it next week but suffice to say—I'm very excited!

As ever the work done by our gardening committee to create the space at the front of the school gives me daily pleasure. The last of the tulips are going over now but I can see alliums springing up to take their place— today I especially noticed the fennel and the mint which delight the sense of smell as much as the eye. A huge thank you to the gardening committee and all the volunteers—especially the muck barrowing workforce!



'Here Comes the Sun' Video

It's back! Thanks enormously to Steve Price who re-shot and re-edited in double quick time and to Lisa Rowe who made the whole thing possible. The video is back up on the website—do share and enjoy. You can find the video on the front page of the school website. We really love the spirit of the children we see in the video—we're proud of every one of them. Well done everybody.



Displays

As it hasn't been possible to welcome parents and carers into the school building for so many months I thought you might like to see some of the displays of children's work that are currently up around the school. I personally love the insight these displays can give me into the children's passion, their writing and artwork and their pride in their own work. Well done Chagford Champions



George The Pony

I wonder if all parents are aware that Chagford Primary School has its very own pony? George doesn't live at the school of course but he is nonetheless a member of our community. George is sponsored for the school through the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust. George visits us once in a while but hasn't been able to come during the coronavirus pandemic—we are very hopeful that he might come for a visit after half term and that we'll be able to make a fuss of him. Do take a look at the Heritage trust's website—there's some stunning photography on there. [The Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust - Supporting the Dartmoor Pony \(dpht.co.uk\)](https://www.dpht.co.uk/)



Magical Vanishing Act

I don't know who it was so I can't thank them by name but some kind soul did a vanishing act on the pile of rubbish that had been sitting at the front of the school. I came in on Monday expecting to order a skip and the pile had gone. If it was you, thank you very much indeed. I would add a picture of the absence of pile but that would seem very odd!

Developing the Outdoor Areas

When I have the privilege of showing people around the school—prospective parents, tradesmen or colleagues from Dartmoor MAT mostly—I always take a moment to point out the view from the school field. It's beautiful and balm for the soul. Oddly enough I don't often see the children gazing out that way—their uses for the school field are more social and more play based. At the moment our school outdoor areas are great for children who want to kick a football about but there isn't a great deal more than that to do—and when children don't have very much to do, that's when niggles can turn into arguments.

What did you like to do when you were a child? Did you like to climb? To jump from what felt like high heights? Did you like to make up stories with friends or to act out scenes?

People who research children's play have identified and named sixteen different kinds of play each playing a distinct role in developing children's confidence and aptitudes.—as we develop our school grounds and develop our play offer we'll be trying to make sure that we make provision for all different types of play so we can help support the development of healthy, happy, confident young people.

Chagford Champions

Last week I asked for photos and information about any of your children who have achieved a new goal or done something that took real grit and determination. Just a reminder that we really are keen to see these. Has your child got a new belt in karate or got a new distance badge in the swimming pool? Have they passed a grade on the piano or learned to play their first tune on the fiddle? Have they conquered their hundredth tor or taken their first ride on a pony? Learning that any success takes grit and determination and a dose of hard work is vital for our children and you can help them learn by letting us all know about your amazing Chagford Champions.



Breakfast Club

We are able to start our breakfast club offer from next Monday—10th May. This will be a very simple offer. Children will sit at tables according to which ‘bubble’ they are in and will be offered some table top activities. Children will be given a cereal bar and a drink of squash or water. Children can arrive from eight a.m.—no earlier please. All sessions must be booked and paid for in advance. Huge thanks to the TAs who have offered to run this for us. Bookings must be booked and paid for in advance, there is strictly no turn up on the day I’m afraid as we need to be super confident of our numbers.

Sports Coaching

It was a great joy to see the cricket coach from Chagford Cricket Club working with our Year Six pupils this week. Andy the coach did a terrific job and the children had a great time.

Craig has been continuing his football coaching through fair weather and foul—he is a brilliant, dedicated member of the community and we are lucky to have him—the children really appreciate what he does for us.

We are SO excited to get back to our swimming lessons after half term—we’ve been missing them a lot and we know the children will love getting that bit of their lives back.