

Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Newsletter 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Term 3 has been so busy that I wanted to share news and give some important reminders:

Goodbye – At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Caspell. He has been the class teaching assistant for Herons since September and has been a real asset to our team. We all wish him every success and happiness in his new job as he embarks on his career as a class teacher. Congratulations Mr Caspell!

Cross Country Event at Kent College – last Saturday, 28th January, we had a group of children across all classes competing at the cross country event at Kent College. As always, our children competed with such enthusiasm and good spirit that it really was a pleasure to be there to support them. These events are open to all children, giving them a chance to compete against others from a range of schools, not only improving their fitness and stamina but supporting them to develop their competitive skills. The next event is on Saturday 4th March.

RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch – We really had a wonderful morning last Friday 27th January when we spent time in the grounds of Chilham Castle taking part in the RSPB Schools' Birdwatch. The children thoroughly enjoyed being science citizens, collecting important data that we have now sent off to the RSPB. Taking time to walk around the lake, pausing to look at and identify the birds as well as enjoying the early signs of spring, really was a wonderful tonic that made us all feel better! The flock of greylag geese that flew overhead was particularly impressive.

Circo Rum Ba Ba – We had a great day on Tuesday 31st January when we welcomed Circo Rum Ba Ba to school with their Shadow Shoots show! This was certainly a highly entertaining show combining shadow puppets, acrobatics, singing and story telling all wrapped up in the form of an environmental conference for each class. Every class received a gift of a seed bomb making kit – so be prepared for a seed bomb to come home for your garden 😊

Safer Internet Day – Next week (Tuesday 7th February) is Safer Internet Day and we have planned a range of activities for each class around this year's theme: **'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'**. Don't forget, we subscribe to the National Online Safety resource which has a wealth of information for parents and carers to enable you to feel informed and confident to support your children online - just follow the link: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/chilham-st-mary-s-c-of-e-primary-school> to set yourself up.

PTA AGM Meeting – Please can I urge as many of you as possible to come along to the PTA meeting on Tuesday 7th February at 4:15pm in the school hall – a letter did come out about this a couple of weeks ago. Our PTA has been such an asset to our school in so many ways – not just for raising vital funds for the school but in bringing the whole community together with activities and events that really make a

difference – discos, cream tea gift boxes, refreshments at the village car boot sales – to name just a few. It is a commitment and it is hard work but if enough people are willing to make that commitment then the workload is considerably less and the benefits of being part of such a supportive team are so worthwhile. **If new parents and carers don't come forward to volunteer to be on the committee, we will lose our PTA as members of the current committee are standing down after such long service.**

Pupil Wellbeing – Starting next term, we will be introducing the 'Feelit Programme', a resource from the Happy Confident Company, to all classes. This is a programme to help children better understand, express and regulate their feelings, increase self-awareness and build stronger connections with others. We will build this into our curriculum to ensure regular time is given to explore and discuss the resources with the children. We are really looking forward to seeing the positive impact this will have to support the overall wellbeing of our children.

Dates:

- PTA AGM Tuesday 7th February at 4:15pm
- Last day of Term 3 is Friday 10th February
- Term 4 starts on Monday 20th February
- Kent College Cross Country Event – Saturday 4th March
- World Book Day – **we will celebrate this on Friday 3rd March** so that it doesn't clash with Martins Class swimming. (Pyjama Day)
- Science Week – 13th – 17th March
- Easter Service – Tuesday 28th March at 2:00pm in St Mary's Church – parents and carers welcome to attend
- Last day Term 4 – Friday 31st March

I do hope you all have a lovely weekend. I have been inspired by one of our children in Herons class who is going on a litter pick this weekend around his local area – so I plan to do the same! Let's hope we both make a difference ☺

Kind regards

Delia Cooper

