



CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP



CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

29th September 2023

Dear Parents,

We are very keen to share insights into how the school works and answer queries and questions that come up from time to time.

Please feel free to catch me at any point or email the office and of course, class teachers are very willing to discuss any queries you may have.

The Parent in Partnership (PIP) is one way for us to share information and we are very keen for parents to suggest themes for these events. Today we have shared the school vision for our onward journey from Good to Outstanding.

However, we also want to start a semi-regular section in the newsletter on topics of interest. So, if you have a question, or in the parent WhatsApp something comes up, please come and ask or let me know if information on this topic would be helpful for all parents.

Pupil exercise and national concerns about pupil health

Nationally, post-covid children are not as active as they had been. This is an area of concern and has serious issues for the health of children.

At Chilmark we are aware that the recommended 2 hours per week physical exercise is not enough so have made several changes. Firstly, from year 2 onwards we do not use the 2 hours of PE time to get changed, this means we do not waste any time unnecessarily. We also offer more than the expected hours over the year; Wendy delivers additional PE time to each class with a focus on Dance/gymnastics for one extra term.

Our PE team have been challenged to offer inter school events, with a focus on events that are suitable for all pupils regardless of expertise. They also offer excellent mentoring sessions to build engagement with pupils who traditionally would not have enjoyed PE.

After school clubs are offered at a set price regardless of the actual cost to the school. This is so that we have equity of offer which can let more pupils try more physical activity. If club costs are a worry please speak to me or Mrs Rennard.



The Street, Chilmark, Salisbury, SP3 5AR
01722 716348
admin@chilmarkfonthillbishop.wilts.sch.uk
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Loss of break

Pupils do not often have shortened break times but this does happen occasionally. This is limited to situations where behaviour or learning requires this. We do this only when necessary and pupils are given time, help and support to meet the expectations before this happens. Sometimes pupils do not accept this help and the consequence is a loss of break time. Schools are only required to make sure that they have toilet breaks and a lunch, but we strongly believe that playtime is a very important part of the social and physical development children need to grow.

This is why we have developed the playground over the last few years, also training staff on promoting play and student play leaders. Pupils feel that this has made play better for all and value the changes we have made.

Flu Immunisation

The school nurse team will be here on Thursday morning to deliver the flu immunisation. The link has been sent to you via Ping and it is important you complete this by the end of the day on Monday otherwise your child will not receive the immunisation. Mrs Rennard has sent a reminder today.

Have a great weekend.

Mr. Smith

House Captains



Our Year 6 House Captains have now been elected . They all put together excellent presentations persuading their Elm class mates to vote for them. We look forward to them being young ambassadors for the school and preparing for their onward journeys to secondary school.



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Football Tournament



The Year 4, 5 and 6 boys played in a football tournament against Wylve Valley Primary School, Sutton Veny Primary School, Crockerton Primary School and Horningsham Primary School.

There were some great performances and it was a super experience for those who had not participated in a tournament before. A special mention to Chilmark A Team who came second overall.

Watch Us Grow – Hedgehog News



We have some exciting news which Oak Class would like to share with you all.

Last week, in Watch Us Grow, Oak Class set up a footprint tunnel and infrared camera to see if we could capture or identify any wildlife in our beautiful school grounds.

We placed the footprint tunnel next to all our bug and hedgehog houses which were built as part of homework last year and left the camera to run over the weekend.

On Monday, Mrs Farrant had some very excited children come and ask if we could look at the camera. With a huddle of children Mrs Farrant started looking through the images. The children could identify a squirrel and a robin which had set off our camera but then we looked later into the evening at the alerts. We are very excited to announce that Chilmark School has hedgehogs 🦔 on the premises!



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We could identify their footprints in the tunnel from the oil and charcoal paste pad we put in place and it looks as if we have more than one hedgehog visitor per night. This week, we had one around 10pm and the other 2am. We have checked the camera daily and lo and behold they have visited every evening!



Before Hattie left last year, she kindly donated a bag of hedgehog food to Watch Us Grow as she was passionate about the new accreditation, we are working towards. We have been feeding the hedgehogs daily, along with all the bugs from our nature corridor and putting out water and they are looking very healthy.

It is amazing to capture our wildlife at school before hibernation at the end of November.

In November we will be having a 'Hedgehog assembly' and coin collection to support the preservation in hedgehogs.

Watch this space for more information.

SAFEGUARDING

We take the safeguarding of our children very seriously. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr. Smith and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Hale & Miss Murphy. Our safeguarding governor is Caroline Marking.

If you have any concerns about a child, please speak directly to either Mr Smith or Mrs Hale or you can ring MASH on 0300 456 0108



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DIARY DATES 2023/24

Tuesday 3rd October – Bristol Trip (Elm & Sycamore)

Full Governing Body meeting

Thursday 5th October – Flu immunisation

Friday 6th October – Village Treasure Trail 3pm

Friday 13th October – Elm Assembly 2.30 p.m. (all welcome)

Tuesday 17th October – Harvest Assembly

Wednesday 18th October – School photos (individual & whole school group)

Friday 20th October – Open morning for prospective parents

Friends' Halloween Disco

Half Term – Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October (inclusive)

Friday 3rd November – Community lunch

Monday 6th November – Air Ambulance first aid talks (all in age appropriate groups)

Wednesday 8th November – Hedgehog assembly & coin collection

Tuesday 28th November – Whole school trip to pantomime at Salisbury Playhouse

Tuesday 5th December – Oak & Sycamore Nativity performance – 5.30 p.m.

Thursday 7th December – Elm performance – 5.30 p.m.

Friday 8th December – Sycamore Assembly – 2.30 p.m. (all welcome)

Wednesday 13th December – Carol Singing 5.00 p.m.

Friday 15th December – Carol Service at Church

Break up for Christmas Holidays

Wednesday 3rd January – All children back in school

Friday 2nd February - Oak Assembly – 2.30 p.m. (all welcome)

Half Term – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February (inclusive)

Thursday 28th March - Break up for Easter Holidays

Monday 15th April - All children back in school

Half Term – Monday 27th – Friday 31st May (inclusive)

Friday 19th July - Break up for Summer Holidays



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