



**Cheddington Combined School**

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# Newsletter

Friday, 15 July 2016



## SCHOOL NEWS

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This will be the last full newsletter of the school year – it hardly seems a moment since last September when I was welcoming everyone back for the start of the year! This school year has been such a full one, with so many learning opportunities for the children, Ofsted and other visitors – all of which have made 2015 – 16 a positive time for our school.

I am sure that those of you with children in KS2 who were able to attend one of the performances of Ye-Ha! would agree that it was a fabulous production. The children were amazing and so enjoyed their moment in the spotlight. Huge thanks to all the staff team who supported the children in creating such magic for us all; and especially to the children for their talents and enthusiasm.

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful day at Chessington World of Adventures yesterday as their end of school 'treat'. The weather was particularly kind to us – which aided drying after the various rides on which water played a part! Next Wednesday morning will be their Leavers assembly to which all Year 6 parents are invited. We will not only be saying goodbye to them, but also to one or two children in other year groups, and to Mrs James who is retiring after twenty nine years of service to the school. We will miss you all but wish you well for the future.

Our special stars of the week this week are: from YR Jack Brown and April Waller; from Y1 – Georgie Long and Ted Sladden; from Y2 – Charlotte Audoire and Betty Taylor; from Y3 – Beth Anker and Logan Mancz; from Y4 – Kate Ford and Oscar Johnston; from Y5 – Frankie Tolan-Pope and Lauren Wood; and from Y6 – All of Mr Hickey's helpers! Congratulations children and well done!

Last Tuesday was our annual transfer day when the children spent the morning with their new class teacher and HLTA for September. Just in case they have not told you our staff teams for September are:

YR – Mrs Laidaw (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs Lowe (Thursday and Friday) with Mrs Davies;  
Y1 – Mrs Beach with Mrs McLeman;  
Y2 – Mrs Williams with Mrs Ayling;  
Y3 – Mr Reid with Mrs Craft;  
Y4 – Mr Fowler with Mrs Gregory;  
Y5 – Mrs Reid with Mrs Miles;  
Y6 – Mr Hickey with Mrs Webber.

We are delighted that Mrs Brimmel and Mrs Dryburgh will continue to support children across the school; and Mrs Knight and Mrs Mandry will be supporting particular children too.

Please may I remind those parents who wish to order hot meals for the start of the autumn term, the deadline is the end of the day on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Tomorrow morning is our last Garden Work morning of this school year. It would be lovely if you are able to join us to help tidy the garden before the summer break. Our next date will be 10<sup>th</sup> September, when we will not doubt have to 'excavate' the plants from the excesses of summer growth. I know I have said this before, but many hands really do make light work, and the more the merrier. I do hope to see some of you tomorrow.

Mrs K. Tamlyn  
Head Teacher

### **Ye-Ha**

Thank you to everyone who has paid for their extra production programmes. If you have not, could you please send in your payment before the end of term. Thank you.

### **Cycle Consent Forms - Year 4**

If you have not yet returned your Cycle Consent Form, please do so as soon as possible and please let me know if you need to borrow a bike. Thank you, Mrs Dance

### **Year 6 Leaver Photographs**

I am so sorry for the delay in sending out the proof photographs. This is due to a delivery error. Please return any orders by Monday, 18th July and these will be processed at the beginning of the holidays. We will send a Joinos message when the orders arrive back to school, advising when the school will be open for you to collect them.

## GOVERNOR NEWS

I would like to thank all the parents that completed the Governors parents survey as well as the Ofsted Parent View survey ahead of the Inspectors visit last term. We also appreciate the time taken by parents to leave comments on our survey about various aspects of school life which we have found very useful. The number of replies to our survey was lower than previous years but off the back of the Ofsted survey it was understandable. We have therefore used the results from both surveys to determine those areas when we need to following up and understand better and those areas where the school can be rightly proud of itself. There has been a lot of data to digest this year and as a result this reply is later than planned.

We are very pleased to see that the school continues to score very highly in the areas concerning your children's enjoyment and well being at school. These included the questions concerning

- My child is happy
- My child enjoys school
- My child feels safe
- My child is taught to have respect for others
- My child is well looked after
- Children are well behaved

It was noted at the Ofsted visit that you did not think that the school dealt effectively with bullying and this was backed up by your replies to the relevant question in both our survey and Ofsted. I have reported back to you in this area before but I wanted to confirm that we as a Governing Body have spoken to the school on a number of occasions and the procedures and processes that are in place are robust and consistently applied when necessary. We consider that perhaps the problem is that it is not always clear to parents when the school starts a process and due to confidentiality, the school cannot disclose the outcomes. What we do appreciate from the survey results is that even though some parents disagreed with the systems or the process those same parents were able to score the school highly in the questions regarding the enjoyment and safety of their children. This suggests that the procedures and processes that the school applies albeit, perhaps invisibly, were effective and issues were resolved.

Communication is a big area where you feel the school can do better. This was shown in the answers to questions regarding

- I receive valuable information about my child's progress
- Staff explain how I can continue my child's education at home
- The school communicates with parents well
- The school encourages parents to play an active role

The replies received for communication questions were not all bad but they did divide opinion amongst the parent body with a wide range of results from strongly agree to strongly disagree. There were a sufficient mix of replies to highlight this as a focus area for the Governing Body and we are discussing this in earnest with the school. We are looking at the Joinos system of communicating with you as we know it could be better. We also are aware that short notice communication could be significantly better and the school is looking at various ways that this could be improved. As a Governing Body we have a Marketing and Communications Committee which is tasked with working with the school in this area. I am hopeful that we will see improvements in this area in the near future.

We found the comments left on our survey very useful and they highlight other areas where communication is key. Comments were made concerning the emotional well being of pupils. This initially surprised us as we know from our school visits that there are a number of lessons geared around confidence and emotional wellbeing and associated matters. We think that as parents you may not be fully aware of what the school does during various lessons and special focus events to help children in this area. Certainly all children have lessons around confidence and well being. Hopefully this is one of the reasons you were able to score the children so highly on the questions about behaviour and respect for others. We are also aware that help is available for any pupils that need further assistance in these areas so please contact your child's teacher if you want to discuss this further.

Lastly I would like to comment on your interest for out of school clubs. We have spoke to the school regarding this. Certain clubs are currently run by the staff in their own time after school. There is no scope for the staff to run further clubs. The school office have previously made enquiries of outside businesses that were interested in running clubs however their charges and requirements were deemed to be prohibitive or un-workable. I have asked the school to keep this under review and we have considered it as part of the planning for next year. If any of you know of any groups or individuals that are able to run after-school clubs or breakfast clubs then feel free to let the school know.

I would like to finish by thanking you all again and may I encourage you to complete our next survey when it comes out in the spring as it is a very useful way to measure how we are doing. In the meantime if any parent wishes to be more involved there are regular Representative Parent Group meetings at which members of the school leadership team and the Governing Body are present to discuss new ideas and report back on proposed and potential changes.

## PTA NEWS

### PTA News

What a great year we have had. We are an official team of 15 mums and dads but we have our loyal helpers who always turn up at our fundraising events to help out. I would like to thank you all.

We held our ever growing Christmas Market which raised the most amount so far. Our next one will be on Saturday 26 November so if you or anyone you know would like a stall please do get in touch.

Our Discos are held at the end of each term and again raise a brilliant amount. Thanks so much to Scott our local DJ. The children love these evenings.

I hope you have enjoyed your Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day gifts this year. It is always difficult to find new things for the children to make or purchase. If you have any good ideas for next year let me know.

The Summer Fete was moved from The Green to The School this year due to the bad weather. This is a joint effort with the Scout Group and St Giles Church. I think the most fun was had between family and friends throwing the wet sponges! Thank you to the School Choir and Mrs Johnston for their excellent singing. Also thanks to Mr & Mrs Walker for bringing along their wonderful Steam Engine and making the announcements.

We are continuing to fundraise for the replacement of the adventure playground as it has become unsafe now. The children really do love this area and so we would like to raise these funds as quickly as we can. This will be on top of the bits and pieces we already pay for during the school year.

We will be holding our AGM in October and it would be great to see some new faces with new ideas and enthusiasm. If you would like to contact us please email us at [Cheddingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:Cheddingtonpta@gmail.com)

I hope you have a sunny and enjoyable summer holidays.

Tammy Eeley  
Chairperson of the PTA