



Friday, 21 July 2017

Head Teacher's Remarks

Stars of the Week

Letter from Chair of
Governors

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Thank you from PTA

Date for the Diary

This is the last newsletter of this academic year – a year which has presented a number of challenges for our school. However, we end the year on a high note with super outcomes for the children. We are now ready to embark on the next round of improvements to the school as work commences on Monday to upgrade the boilers! Mr Aulton, our Chair of Governors, has written an end of year message to you all which is later in this newsletter. Do take a moment to read it please.

It was lovely to listen yesterday morning to Y6's memories of their time here at Cheddington. It hardly seems five minutes since they were taking their first steps into Reception, and they are now ready to continue their education at their new schools with confidence and a strong skill set. Good luck to all of you – do keep in touch.

It was also a real pleasure to welcome a number of you to our Achievement Assembly yesterday afternoon. It is always a difficult decision for the staff (involving considerable heated debate) to select the recipients. We consider every child in our school to be special and important; but it is important to recognise key achievements. Congratulations to all those who received an award.

Orchard won the overall House Cup this year with a most impressive total of just under 10,000 House Points. Well done to Orchard House! They were closely followed by Tower, Windmill and Beacon. Our behaviour totals for the last half term show 96% of the children receiving a certificate in recognition of their good choices (89% of the school attained gold). This is a testament to the overall high standard of behaviour in our school. Well done children.

We would like to cordially invite you to 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September. All meetings are from 2:45pm and give you the opportunity to see your child's new classroom and meet with their teacher. The dates are:

Friday 8th September – Y6
Monday 11th September – Y1
Tuesday 12th September – Y5
Wednesday 13th September – Y4
Thursday 14th September - Y2
Friday 15th September – Y3

If you are having a sort out over the summer and have Jenga, Frustration or Connect 4 games which you no longer wish to keep, then the children would welcome them as an addition to our lunchtime play provision.

We sadly say goodbye to Mr Hickey and to Mr Reid, as well as a number of children not in Y6 who are moving on to different schools. We wish you all every success.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone for another incredible year at Cheddington School. Together we create wonderful memories and learning experiences for the children – and as we look forward to September we thank you in anticipation for your continued support. I do hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer and are able to spend some time with your children. We look forward to welcoming them back on Wednesday 6th September.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Congratulations to our special stars this week who are:

- from YR: - The Whole Class for a fabulous week
- from Y1: - Sebastian Craft and Oliver Hine
- from Y2: - Poppy Poulson and Constance Thompson
- from Y3: - Phoebe Campling, Pippa Coulston and Max Lacey
- from Y4: - Toria Daly and Arnau Jimenez Sobrevals
- from Y5: - Charlie Hazelden and Oscar Johnston
- from Y6: - Olivia Moss and Frankie Tolan-Pope

We are celebrating our Special Stars this year by each child having a gold star badge to wear during the following week. These badges should be worn with pride, and returned to their class teacher on the Friday morning ready to be given to the next child. Thank you for your help and support with this.

We have come to the end of the school year and as always we enter a period of change. In September we will welcome new children and teachers and this month we say goodbye to year 6 and some members of the team.

Both Mr Reid and Mr Hickey will be missed (as Mrs Reid has already been missed). They all joined our school at the start of their careers and are now moving on to new exciting roles that are great steps forward for their careers. It is a real testimony to them, and the school, that they have both been snapped up by their new schools; and we thank them both for their dedication and service to Cheddington School over so many years. So many good teachers change school much more frequently and their dedication has provided a strong and stable teaching team for our children. Our thanks go out to them all and we wish them all the success in the world with their new roles. With new teachers joining us; Mrs van de Linde, Miss Gillman; and with Mrs White continuing with Year 5, next year looks like being a very exciting year for the school. With so many teaching roles being unfilled in the county, it's really great that new staff want to come and join us.

We also say goodbye to Year 6 who go off to their new schools from September. I've seen them grow up through the school and seeing them today, they are just so ready to move on. They have achieved amazing things over their 7 years at Cheddington and their SATs results have justly shown how brilliant they are. For the second year running (and only the second year of the system) our school has scored above average for the UK and is one of very few schools to exceed the government's targets. Thank you year 6 you've been fab, enjoy your new schools. As governors we are interested in getting feedback on how well prepared Y6 are for secondary school. We will be speaking to some Y7 parents in January to see how the current Y6 are getting on. If you would like to be a part of this please let us know. Goodbye year 6 and good luck.

We've also analysed the results of the parents survey. Thank you to all who contributed, twice as many of you as last year responded. In the main, you told us that the school is performing similarly to last year.

You raised some of the difficulties that school has had to overcome this year: a new curriculum, new methods for monitoring progress, cuts to education funding, staff illnesses, ongoing building work the list seems to go on this year! As your governing body, we have been closely monitoring these all year and have a robust plan in place to try and address the various issues you raised as we go into next year. Absence, for example, has been high across Buckinghamshire this year and ours has been especially challenging. We are looking to establish baseline figures for similar schools to allow us to agree earlier trigger points to support the management of staff absence. This will be industry leading as there are currently no figures for this sort of support in education.

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You also told us that you are concerned about bullying. We are too and have been keeping a close eye on all accusations of bullying, racism and radicalisation. The whole governing body has received training on how to spot and manage such issues to ensure that all governors are sensitive to these concerns. We will not accept bullying, racism nor radicalisation in any form. If you feel that your child may be experiencing bullying behaviours, please do encourage them to speak to their teacher or Mrs Tamlyn. It is worth being aware that bullying has a particular definition, (you can find out more from our information sheet on the website). We have had only a few cases of bullying reported this year; however, there are always disagreements between children, which is to be expected as the children develop and friendships change. Such incidents are not classed as bullying, nonetheless we take them seriously, recognising that they can be distressing for the children involved and they are dealt with swiftly by the teaching staff.

Finally, you told us you don't know exactly what the governing body does. It's a good question and one which we are always only too happy to talk to you about, although you would probably prefer to have a look at the website! We recognise that you would like to know more and we welcome the opportunity to tell you about us, so we are planning to update our biographies on the website for the start of next term and during next year let you know a little more about what we are doing by putting governor updates in the Newsletter periodically. We will also be looking to recruit new governors in September as people are leaving us so please do consider over the holiday if you would like to become a governor. Mrs Tamlyn has some literature which you may find helpful.

We were encouraged that more of you feel your child is enjoying school, which is great to hear. We were also pleased that you recognise the work done to help all children make healthy choices, we aim to continue promoting healthy schools and to encourage greater use of the outdoor classroom. There are clearly improvements in communications between school and the parent body allowing you to play an active part in the life of the school. We plan to build on this as we feel there is still room for improvement with communication, even though we are grateful for your positive feedback.

In all it has been a tough year for the school and this makes the outcomes that have been achieved by the teaching staff all the more impressive. I'm sure we are all now looking forward to a well deserved break and an exciting new school year in September.

S Aulton
Chair of Governors

The PTA would like to thank everyone who has helped them over the past year and hope you all have a lovely summer break.

School returns on Wednesday, 6th September 2017