

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents,

Yesterday was a special day in school, especially for children in Y3 and Y6, as it marked a next step towards what we would want our school to feel like as we move beyond the pandemic period - we welcomed 'the History Man' into school. Y3 enjoyed a fantastic session on the Iron Age, and Y6 explored Ancient Greeks. The artefacts and learning offered were amazing, and I am sure the children will have shared their excitement with you if you have a child in either of those year groups. It was so good to welcome 'the History Man' back after a two-year gap due to the pandemic; and we are delighted that he will be on-site again next week to work with Y5.

The children have been sharing some super work with me, and I am sure you will look forward to seeing this at Parent Consultation Meetings after half term. Booking for these will open next week with further details being sent to you in a separate message in the coming days. Given the gradual lifting of restrictions nationally, we are optimistic that we will be able to hold these discussions face to face in the Hall as we did historically. You are invited to come ten minutes prior to your appointment time so that you can look at the work your children have been completing; and we are delighted to have a Book Fair that week to offer the children the opportunity to choose a new book. The Governors will be serving tea or coffee and I draw your attention to a short message from them at the end of this newsletter. We are looking forward to meeting with you.

The Government have already announced their intention of ending the Coronavirus restrictions in the coming month. Once the Department for Education issue the ending of the Guidance for Schools document we will be reviewing our access and egress arrangements, and the invitation to adults to be involved in hearing readers etc on a weekly basis. I will keep you informed in a timely manner once the picture is clear. Thank you to all parents who have supported us throughout this very difficult two years as we have done everything we can to keep everyone as safe as possible; and to those who have already offered to come in to support the learning once we are able to welcome you back.

It has been brought to my attention that some families are facing increasing difficulty regarding child care arrangements after school due to some of the child-minders no longer offering care. We have considered this provision in the past, but there has not been sufficient demand for it to be viable. However, if there is now a need, I would certainly explore options to see if the school would be able to offer this. If we were to consider offering care after school it would be arranged with an external provider whom we trust. The proposal would probably be to offer an hour after school (until 4:15pm) during term-times, which would be booked on a termly basis with a term's notice required. Obviously the cost will be determined by the provider and will depend on demand, but we anticipate this could be in the ball park of £6 per session. (This is comparable with our MAC provision currently in place for before school.) If this is something in which you would be interested, then please email [admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk) with the header AFTER SCHOOL CARE by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February to register your probable participation. Dependent upon the number of responses, I will then take this matter further. Thank you.

I will be speaking with the children in assembly tomorrow regarding crossing the High Street. I am very concerned that a number of children are choosing to try to cross independently of Mr Frankum. Please could you also speak with your children if they walk to school, or leave independently, to remind them of the importance of crossing with Mr

Frankum (as our Crossing Patrol Person he can stop the traffic) and not risking a serious accident by attempting to cross elsewhere.

The PTA have organised a Valentine cake sale for next Wednesday – I know that the children are already looking forward to this. Thank you in advance for your support of the PTA. Last term you were very generous in your cake donations, and if that is the case again then cakes will be offered on the other two days prior to half term.

I would like to give you advance notice about World Book Day, which this year is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We will be inviting the children to come to school dressed to represent a word. This theme was very popular with the children last time, as they really enjoyed guessing the words their friends represented, and indeed learning new vocabulary. We hope that this will be relatively easy for the children to participate with, and will not entail families having to purchase anything special in these difficult times. The children will be receiving a book token which can be spent commercially as well as at the Book Fair in school; and they will be participating in special reading events during the week of 28<sup>th</sup> February. Happy reading, and happy choosing of a word!

I do hope you and your children will be able to enjoy some time together at half-term; hopefully with some spring like weather.

Mrs K Tamlyn  
Head Teacher

Please note this letter from the Governors:

Dear Parents

It has been a tumultuous 23 months for everyone, and we know that we have all been isolated from each other during the COVID restrictions. For this reason the Governing Board are pleased to be re-instating coffee and tea service at this term's Parent Consultation Meeting sessions.

Whether it is introducing yourselves to some of our newer governors or speaking to us about the role of governors at Cheddington School, both during the pandemic and in moving the school forward in 2022 – please do take the time to say hello over a cup of tea or coffee.

We look forward to meeting you!

The Governors.