

# Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

## Newsletter 22nd July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another school year, we can reflect back and be proud of all that we have achieved, as a school and as individuals. When we had our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in November, the inspector noted in his report that, '**Chilham St Mary's is a school where all are welcome, made to feel special and treated with kindness. It lives out an embedded Christian vision with thoughtfulness and purpose.**' I hope that in whatever capacity you have been part of our school this year – as a parent, carer, pupil, member of staff, governor or visitor – that you have been made to feel welcome, made to feel special and treated with kindness.

### Goodbyes

- Our Year 6 children had a great send-off with their Leavers' Service on Friday and then a last day of shirt signing, laughter, fun and games – we will all miss them and wish them every success and happiness for the future.
- We are saying goodbye to Mrs Murphy, one of our teaching assistants, who joined us earlier this year and who has been a highly valued member of our staff team.
- Mrs Wendy Settle, our Clerk to Governors, will be leaving us at the end of this term – she has been the clerk at Chilham for 15 years and although most of you probably haven't met her due to the nature of her role, she has played such an important part in the life of the school, clerking for the full governing body meetings and ensuring everything runs smoothly and is in place in terms of school governance. I have learnt so much from Wendy and have valued her advice and support during the time I have been at Chilham. A really big thank you to her for her service and commitment to the school.
- Dr Jennie Litten-Brown is resigning from her role as Chair of Governors at the end of this academic year. Jennie has been on the governing board of the school for almost 10 years and she has been Chair of Governors for 6 years. Jennie has worked so hard for the school, supporting us through 2 Ofsted inspections, 2 SIAMS inspections and 2 Headteacher recruitments! Thank you so much Jennie for everything you have done and for your unwavering dedication and support.

We wish all our leavers - pupils, staff, governors and families - our very best wishes and thank them for their positive contributions to the life of the school – THANK YOU!

### Sports Day

Thank goodness we had great weather for our second attempt at this event! Congratulations to Badgers who were the overall winners and thank you all for coming along to support the children.

## PTA

To the wonderful committee (past and present) and team of volunteers - thank you so much for all the hard work this year! Incredible fundraising efforts – refreshments provided at school events; early morning car boot sale refreshments; uniform sales; pop-up coffee shops; Elfridges; discos; Christmas cards; raffles; and so much more.

## THANK YOU!

The funds raised by the PTA this year have:

- Significantly reduced the costs of all class trips and outings by subsidising the transport costs at £10 per child
- Ensured every child had a Christmas cracker and a gift at Christmas
- Purchased the Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies
- Paid for minibuses to sporting events
- Contributed to the fund for a playground shelter/canopy

## Thinking ahead for the new academic year:

### School lunches

The price of a school meal for pupils in Years 3-6 will be **increased to £2.85** from September, Caterlink is the external provider for our school meals and the company is very clear that **accounts must not go into debt**, therefore please note, the lunch register is taken at 9:00am each day and all accounts must have sufficient funds to pay for your child's meal for that day.

### Morning and After School Clubs

Morning club will continue from 8:00am each day at a cost of £3.00 per child per session.

After school club will continue to 4:30pm each day at a cost of £3.50 per child per session.

Clubs can be booked online.

## Key Dates for Term 1:

- Staff Development Days– Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- Term 1 starts for children in Years 1-6 – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September
- Kent Test (Year 6 only) – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Wrens (Year R) start part mornings only – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September
- Wrens start full time – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September
- Individual photos (all children) with Sarah Prescott – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September
- Last day of Term 1 – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Staff Development Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October
- Half Term Week – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Key dates for the rest of the academic year 2024-2025 will be circulated in September.

I wish you all a happy summer break and hope that you have time to relax, recharge and spend time with your families and friends. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year and for your generosity – we really do appreciate it.

Kindest regards

*Delia Cooper*