



Chenies School

'a caring place to learn'

Welcome to the New School Year

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer holidays and the children are enthusiastic to be returning to school. It is an exciting new start this September with the new co-headship, new staff and new children and families joining Chenies School.

The PTA are hosting a Meet and Greet Coffee session in the school hall on Tuesday 8th September at 3.15pm. This is a great opportunity for both parents and teachers to meet. We hope you can make it!

Can we remind parents of the importance of keeping us informed of any changes which may affect your child while they are with us during the school day, for example, a change of who is collecting them after school; a parent being away; or sickness or bereavement in the family. Change often affects children in many different ways and it is helpful if we are aware of these changes in advance.

Please note these key dates for **September**:

Tuesday 8th September: PTA Meet and Greet 3.15pm school hall

Wednesday 9th September: PTA meeting 8pm Red Lion – all welcome

Monday 14th September : Guided Reading Training 9am School Hall

Monday 14th September: Home Learning Tasks issued for Year 1-6

Monday 14th September: Tempest Photography for individual and siblings

Wednesday 16th September: Parent Forum – Parent Survey Results 9am school hall

Last day to submit photographs and entry forms for Chenies & Latimer Produce Show

Saturday 19th September: Chenies and Latimer Produce Show

Monday 21st September: Guided Reading Starts 9am

Please check the Diary Dates below for further information and specific dates for individual classes.

Important Reminders:

- Children should be in the playground lined up with their class by 8.55am. Children arriving in the playground after the bell has gone constitutes as being late. Children should **not** arrive any earlier than 8.45am as they will not be supervised and therefore not covered by our insurance.
- Parents arriving for collection should not be on the playground before 3.10pm and should leave the school premises promptly once they have collected their child. Sprite parents should collect their child from the ramp into the hall building. Pegasus parents should collect their child from the area in front of the school office window. Please ensure you are at the correct area so your child's class teacher can see you to hand over your child.
- Please be aware that staff are not responsible for children once they have been collected by their parent or carer, however, school rules still apply whilst on the premises.
- Children are told to return to their classroom or the School Office if no adult is there to meet them after school, please reiterate this message to your child. If you are running late for collection, please call the School Office asap.
- To support the organisation of the School Office, please can parents send correspondence into school with their child via their book bag, email or use the post box on the playground. All correspondence should be sent in an envelope – clearly marked with child's name, class and what it is for.
- Please ensure **ALL** your child's uniform is clearly named, including their coat and PE kit. Teachers will be doing spot checks.

The school promotes the use of email as a means of communication. This reduces the time and cost incurred to produce paper copies of correspondence, as well as limiting the impact of environmental waste. However, if you would like paper copies, please contact the School Office for a request form.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any queries or concerns, so that they can be resolved efficiently and effectively. Please email the School Office to make an appointment; alternatively, put it in writing via your child's book bag or the post box.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Burnett & Kay Gobby

Co-Headteachers

New Staff and Changes to Staff Arrangements

We have four new members of staff joining us this year. Mrs Kay Gobby is the new co-Headteacher, working alongside Mrs Burnett. Mrs Bal Sahotay will be teaching in Sprite Class. Mrs Claire Bull will be teaching in Phoenix Class. Mrs Rachel Wilson will be teaching in Griffin Class, job-sharing with Mrs Peters. We are certain they will be welcomed by the whole school community.

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond anyone's control, Mrs Peters will now be working Monday to Wednesday; and Mrs Wilson will be working Thursday and Friday. However, to ensure consistency and best support Year 6 through the 11+, Mrs Peters worked Thursday and Friday last week, and will be working on Thursday 10th September when the 11+ exam takes place. Both Mrs Peters and Mrs Wilson worked together today to establish routines for the children.

Mrs Board (Monday, Tuesday) and Miss Bolton (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) will be working in Phoenix Class to support the children's learning. Mrs Board will also be working in the School Office on Friday afternoons.

Mrs Gobby will be in school Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Burnett will be in school Wednesday to Friday. This allows a day together for smooth transition time and for strategic direction to continually teaching and learning within the school.

The New Library

The children will have noticed that the library is in the process of being moved to the 'middle room' (between Pegasus and Griffin class); this was decided so that the library is in a more central area and given a high priority in the school. Our thanks go to all staff who spent a number of hours during the holiday moving and sorting the books. The bookshelves should be delivered next week, after which we can begin the process of organising books onto shelves.

Building Work

We are currently having a new heating system installed. The work was due to be completed during the summer holidays, but due to unforeseen circumstances the work has been delayed; it is expected to be completed by the end of September. The children will not be playing on the back playground. Please be assured the children's safety and wellbeing is paramount.

Home Learning

New Home Learning tasks (HLT) and Medal Maths packs will be available from Monday 14th September on the VLE for Years 1-6. Teachers will issue your child's new username and password on this date. If you have any difficulties accessing the site, please contact your child's class teacher.

The children are still expected to read every night, and children in Years 2-6 are expected to complete 30 minutes on Maths Whizz during the week.

If you would like paper copies of Home Learning resources please ensure the School Office is aware of this.

Mrs Burnett will be running a Home Learning workshop for parents new to Home Learning in the School Hall on Friday 18th September at 9am.

Reading

Having reviewed the reading record books in the summer term, it showed the majority of children and parents are not engaging with them. Children, of all ages and ability, are expected to read and discuss their reading book every night with an adult and the adult should be completing their child's reading record book. Children should also be writing a comment on the Book Band list of reading books (Sprite and Phoenix parents may write this for their child). Children will not be permitted to change their book unless this has been completed. If parents would like guidance on types of questions to ask your child about their reading book please contact your child's class teacher.

Children will be given their first reading record book and will have it replaced once it has been completed. There will be a charge of 50p to replace lost reading record books or those falling.

Healthy Lunches

We would like to encourage children to take up the opportunity of having a hot dinner each day. Hot meals cost £2.80; it includes a hot main meal, side salad, bread roll and dessert.

From September 2014, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal. However, we would like to make parents aware the government funding for Reception and Key Stage 1 children is £2.30 per meal per day. We require 65 children to have a meal at the cost of £2.80 for us to be able to cover all our costs and it not cause a detriment to their education. We are very concerned about the financial impact on the school and anticipate that the school budget will be taking a hard hit as we have to employ more staff and increase our running costs with less income from children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Therefore to support this shortfall, we are asking parents, if they are able, to donate the difference in government funding and the actual cost of providing a meal at Chenies School. This is 50p a day – £2.50 a week.

Free school meals are also available to children in Year 3-6 whose parents receive certain benefits. Please contact the School Office if you believe you may qualify, your enquiry will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity. We would also urge Reception and Key Stage 1 parents who believe they may qualify to also complete this form as it brings in additional funding (Pupil Premium) into the school to support your child's academic achievement.

Currently our school guidelines for packed lunches are as follows:

A packed lunch should contain sandwiches and a piece of fruit, as well as other such items as a yoghurt, cereal bar etc. Sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks are not allowed. No items must contain nuts. A named lunch box must be used.

Items which are not in accordance to this will be removed from the lunchbox and will be given to the child's parent or carer at the end of the day. No child will be allowed to go hungry as a result of this – a healthy alternative will be given to them.

Help in School

As a small school on a restricted budget, we are heavily reliant on parent support. If you have any spare time to offer to the school it would be gratefully received. There are many ways in which you can help:

Guided Reading

Guided reading has had a huge impact on reading standards and we are very keen to continue our whole school approach. This can only happen with a lot of adult support. Guided reading is listening and talking to the children about a shared book each Monday at 9-9.35am. We will begin on Monday 21st September. If you are able to come in each week and work with a group, please contact Mrs Brecht who will be co-ordinating the timetable or leave a message with the School Office.

On Monday 14th September, Mrs Brecht will provide a training session for parents 9-10am. She will explain what is involved in leading a guided reading session and provide supporting material, as well as answering any questions. Please come along to find out more.

1-2-1 reading

In addition to Guided reading, one to one reading also has a huge impact on reading standards and children's progress. The times and duration for this are very flexible. Please contact Co-Headteachers or your child's Class teacher if you are available to help.

Lunchtime

In previous years, a number of parents offered their support at lunchtime. This had a dramatic impact on children's behaviour, the games they were able to play and the space they could have access to. If you are able to offer any lunchtime support (12.15-1.15), please contact the School Office.

Travelling to and from swimming on the coach

Pegasus Class require an additional adult to travel to and from the swimming pool each Tuesday 10.30-12.00. In previous years, one parent has volunteered to do this, but there is no reason why a rota couldn't be organised. If parents are unable to volunteer we have to send a teaching assistant; this has an impact on other classes learning support.

If you have any other offers of help for the school, please contact the School Office.

Stationery and Pen Licences for Pegasus & Griffin

We will be having a huge drive to improve the quality of children's presentation and handwriting skills this year. All children in Key Stage 2 will need to earn their 'Pen Licences' before they can write with a handwriting pen. We will present these licences in our celebration assembly. During our Inset day, staff discussed a new handwriting scheme which will begin this term. More details to follow.

We expect children in Key Stage 2 to arrive at school fully equipped to work. Please can you ensure that your child has the following in school:

A **small** pencil case (large pencil cases take up too much space on the desks and will be returned home by your child's class teacher with an expectation of it being replaced the following week)

A HB pencil

A **30cm** ruler with millimetres included (not a 'bendy' ruler)

A **small** rubber

A **small** pencil sharpener

A set of colouring pencils (a choice of 10 colours is more than adequate)

Once your child has their pen licence:

A **Handwriting** Pen (ask class teachers for the most appropriate brand for your child)



Tissues

We request for each child to bring in a box of tissues for their class. Each child will be rewarded with a respect token for their contribution as a thank you.

Diary Dates

Please ensure that you have made notes of the dates that affect you and your child.

We request that parents do not book holidays and take their children out of school during Assessment Weeks; and insist that Year 6 Parents do not take their children out of school during SATs week or the weeks leading up to it.

Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day
Thursday 3rd September	School Opens
Tuesday 8 th September	11+ Preparation Tests PTA Meet and Greet the teachers School Hall 3.15pm
Wednesday 9 th September	PTA meeting Red Lion Pub, Chenies, 8pm
Thursday 10 th September	11+ Tests
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th September	Sprite 121 meetings with Mrs Sahotay
Monday 14 th September	Tempest Photography, Individuals & siblings, Staff, Governors and PTA Home Learning Issued for Years 1-6 Guided Reading Training School Hall 9-10am
Wednesday 16 th September	Parent Forum: Parent Survey School Hall 9am Last day to submit photographs and entry forms for Chenies & Latimer Produce Show
Thursday 17 th September	EYFS Curriculum & Writing workshop for Sprite Parents School Hall 1.15-2.15
Friday 18 th September	Home Learning workshop for new parents School Hall 9am
<i>Saturday 19th September</i>	<i>Chenies & Latimer Produce Show</i>
Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th September	RE Week: Islam – Eid Ul Adha
Monday 21 st September	Guided Reading starts 9am
Tuesday 22 nd September	EYFS Phonic / Reading workshop for Sprite Parents School Hall 1.15-2.15 Swimming Lessons commence for Pegasus Class
Friday 25 th September	Pegasus – Capture the Flag tournament Amersham School 9.30-12.00 approx. cost £4
Monday 28 th September	Sprite children start full time
Tuesday 29 th September	EYFS Maths workshop for Sprite Parents School Hall 1.15-2.15
Saturday 3 rd October	PTA Race Night

Tuesday 6 th October	Griffin – Football & Netball tournament Chiltern Hills Academy, Chesham 1.00-3.00pm approx. cost £4
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th October	Assessment Week – Reading, Writing, Maths & Science
Wednesday 14 th October	PTA AGM School Hall 8pm
Friday 16 th October	Griffin – Visit to the V&A Museum of Childhood approx. cost £3 TBC
Wednesday 21 st October	Harvest Assembly School Hall 9am – all welcome PTA meeting Red Lion Pub, 8pm
Thursday 22nd October	HLP Celebration for Years 1-6 School Closes 3.15pm
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
Monday 3rd November	School Opens
Tuesday 10 th November	Parent Consultations School Hall 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Service School Hall 10.30am
Thursday 12 th November	Parent Consultations School Hall 5.00-8.00pm
Saturday 21 st November	PTA Christmas Fair 3-6pm
Monday 30 th November – Friday 4 th December	RE Week: Christianity - Christmas
Tuesday 8 th December	Griffin and Pegasus Christmas Service Rehearsal St Michael's Church 2pm Griffin and Pegasus Christmas Service St Michael's Church 7pm – refreshments in the School Hall afterwards
Thursday 10 th December	Phoenix & Sprite Nativity Rehearsal School Hall 9.30am
Friday 11 th December	Phoenix & Sprite Nativity School Hall 9.30am
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th December	Christmas Craft Week
Tuesday 15 th December	Phoenix & Sprite Christmas Party
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 th December	Griffin and Pegasus Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	School Closes 1.30pm
Monday 4th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January	School Opens
Friday 12th February	School Closes 3.15pm
Monday 22nd February	School Opens
Friday 4 th March	Mums in School Day TBC
Thursday 24th March	School Closes 1.30pm
Monday 11th April	Inset Day
Tuesday 12th April	School Opens
Monday 9 th - Friday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs
Friday 27th May	School Closes 3.15pm
Monday 6th June	School Opens
Friday 17th June	INSET Day
Thursday 21st July	School Closes

Please note further letters will follow for specific events nearer the time.