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13th June 2017

Dear Parents,

It's not quite time for a full newsletter just yet, but here are a few updates that I wanted to inform you about.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Some of you may be aware that both Mrs Simpson and Miss Mansfield are moving on to train as teachers in the next academic year.

Kerry (Mrs Simpson) will leave us at the end of this term, before starting her PGCE course at Oxford Brookes in September.

Hannah (Miss Mansfield) is training through the Associate Teacher (work-based) route – based at The Cherwell School – and has actually begun the first stages of her course this week. She will remain with us on a Wednesday and a Thursday for Term 6, before starting her training full time in September. I am pleased to say that, as with Miss Nixey in the last academic year, we have been able to offer Hannah the possibility to complete the majority of her training at Chesterton and she will be working with one of our classes next year.

We will give them a proper send off at the end of this academic year, but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their significant contributions to the life of the school over the last two years and wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

I am happy to report that we have successfully recruited a new Teaching Assistant to (re)join our team, as Mrs Donna Rotherham (mum of Will – Year 5) was appointed following interviews before half-term. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Donna 'home' and I hope it goes without saying that we feel that she will fit seamlessly back into our team.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Since my arrival at Chesterton, I have had a number of discussions with parents – both current and prospective – regarding 'wrap-around' provision. Our Breakfast Club is obviously popular and successful and we have always been aware that there is some level of demand for a regular after-school club to cater for working families at the other end of the school day. However, our major barrier has been lack of space after school as the hall (our Breakfast Club home) is in use for a number of other purposes at the end of the school day – Rainbows, gymnastics, school sports clubs etc.

The proposed expansion of the school, although not finally confirmed at this point, gives us the option of finding a different location for an after school club. Depending on current demand, the Governors and I may well be able to look into an interim solution until the new building is completed. Therefore, we will be writing to you shortly to find out how many families would be interested in this potential offer of regular after-school provision.

OPEN CLASSROOMS

Following some parental feedback from last year's questionnaire, we have arranged to give parents the opportunity in the Summer Term to visit their child's classroom to look at some of the work that they have been doing since the last parents' evening. We have decided to do this by opening our doors after school on Wednesday 21st June for you to pop in and have a look at work in your child's class – either in their books or as part of some of the fantastic displays on show around school. If you are unable to make it next Wednesday, then please feel free to ask your child's teacher if you can pop in after school on a different day.

WEBSITE

I'd like to draw your attention to some of the recent additions on the school website. Following an action packed end to last half-term, there are new photos, turning books and videos for May Day and Walk to School week. There are also new photos for Sewing Club, our Prayer Space, the Eco Council planting and many more. Please click on the link below.

http://www.chestertonprimaryschool.org.uk/classes_00.php

In other recent news, Chesterton had a very successful day at the Bicester Kwik Cricket event last Wednesday. Despite being the smallest school in attendance, we entered five teams, all of whom played really well against tough opposition. To put the icing on the cake of a great day, both our girls' and boys' A teams came away as champions, having won 5 out of 5 matches each. Full report to follow in the next newsletter.

I hope that your children have had an enjoyable start to the last half-term of this academic year and that you are all looking forward to the many exciting events that are on the way before we break up for the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I. Horner (Headteacher)

