



Having left it far too long to write my first headteacher's newsletter of the academic year, I am pledging to do better in 2019! To that end, here is another edition after only another 7 weeks in school! Although this update isn't as lengthy as its pre-Christmas counterpart, there has still been plenty happening at Chesterton. The weather may have been a bit dreary (until recently at least!), but life in school certainly hasn't. From forensic science in Upper School, to a crash landed spaceship in the Maple Class outside area, the pupils have definitely had an exciting start to 2019.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY : ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 – 2019 (see School Website for further dates)

SPECIFIC SPRING TERM DATES

Term 4: February to April 2019

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Friday 1st March (was 1st Feb) | Apple Class Sharing Worship, 2.30pm |
| Monday 4th March | Book Week |
| Friday 8th March | School Association Film Night |
| Monday 11th March | Science Week |
| Friday 15th March | Comic Relief |
| Monday 18th March | Children Singing for Children Concert |
| Friday 22nd March | Ash Class Sharing Worship |
| Friday 22nd March | School Association Quiz Night |
| Monday 25th March | Prayer Space Week |
| Wednesday 27th/ Thursday 28th March | Parents' Evenings |
| Friday 29th March | Beech Class Sharing Worship |
| Wednesday 3rd April | Easter Church Service (9.30am) |
| Thursday 4th April | School Association Dress Down Day |

Further ahead

Term 5: April to May 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Monday 22nd April | Easter Monday (School Closed) |
| Thursday 25th April | Sportshall Showdown |
| Monday 6th May | May Bank Holiday (School Closed) |
| Monday 13th May | KS2 SATS Week |
| Wednesday 15th May | Condoover Residential Parents' Meeting Y2/3 |

Monday 20th May

KS1 SATs Week

Thursday 23rd May (pm)

May Day

MAPLE ARE TOP OF THE ATTENDANCE TREE

Attendance for this academic year so far is 96.54%. There have been a few nasty bugs around this winter, so let's hope for a healthy spring and summer at school.

The top two classes for attendance so far in the Spring Term are as follows:

Maple Class – 97.96%

Beech Class – 97.51%

Congratulations to Mrs Leonard and the resilient children in Maple Class – it's very impressive that the youngest children have been able to achieve such a high level of attendance.

Term 3 House Attendance:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Squire: 97.36% | 20 points |
| Penrose: 95.83% | 15 points |
| Jersey: 95.69% | 10 points |
| Buckle: 95.34% | 5 points |

Remember: House Points are available for any children who achieve 100% attendance for a whole term and this starts afresh for the Spring Term.

Notification of Absence

Please can we remind parents to notify the school office at the earliest opportunity if a child is unable to attend school for any reason. You should inform the office via email or telephone by 9am on the first day of absence and give some indication of the expected day of return.

We recognise that there will be occasions when children are too unwell to attend school, but ask that parents do not keep children off unnecessarily. Remember, if your child is too unwell during the school day, we will always contact you.

If you are planning to take holiday during school time, please notify the school office and class teacher of the dates at the earliest opportunity. Whilst we cannot officially authorise the absence, we appreciate honesty from parents and letting us know avoids any unnecessary 'chasing up' or awkward conversations with pupils. If you are thinking about a holiday during term time, please consider avoiding particular times of the year (e.g. starts to terms, major school events, assessments). Class teachers or the school office will be able to advise on these if necessary.

SNOW DAY

On Friday 1st February, Chesterton managed to stay open despite the wintry conditions. The children (and their teachers!) enjoyed the extra break time and had a great time out in the snow, building enormous snow creations. We understand that, on days of wintry weather, that not all families are able to make it to school safely, but we always try to open, if safe to do so. It was nice to hear from a number of parents that our efforts on this occasion were appreciated, and I would like to thank the staff for their support in making it possible.



PARENT GOVERNOR

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Laura Evans, parent of Oliver in Ash class, has been appointed as Parent Governor with effect from 25th February 2019. As there was only one nominee for this vacancy, an election was not necessary.

Laura will be a member of the Performance & Standards Committee. We have already welcomed her to the Governing Body at our committee meeting on the 26th February.

Yours sincerely, Mr Terry Smith Chair of Governors

WHO'S THE HOUSE TO BEAT?

Our house competition has again been keenly contested throughout the start to the Spring Term, with over 1000 points already gained through pupils being awarded a range of certificates, earning points from our class 'Going For Gold' charts, attendance, enthusiastic running and through excellent reading at home. There has been a big turnaround since Christmas with **Jersey** surging from last place in Term 2, to the top of the table at one point in Term 3. However, they couldn't quite hang on to the number one spot and were pipped by **Squire**, thanks to Manasvi's Headteacher's Award (see below).



The final Term 3 leaderboard was:

- 1st: **Squire (Chris Meek / Mrs Salter) 379 points**
- 2nd: **Jersey (Charlie Newbery / Ms Bailey) 372 points**
- 3rd: **Penrose (Angelina Cerato / Mrs Leonard) 307 points**
- 4th: **Buckle (Jessie Ward / Miss Barrett) 304 points**

Points for the second half of the Spring Term are reset to zero, so everything is to play for in the run up to Easter. Remember that you can keep up to date on the House Points page on the school website.

The overall 2018-19 leaderboard is:

- 1st: **Buckle (Jessie Ward / Miss Barrett) 1210 points**
- 2nd: **Squire (Chris Meek / Mrs Salter) 1158 points**
- 3rd: **Penrose (Angelina Cerato / Mrs Leonard) 1137 points**
- 4th: **Jersey (Charlie Newbery / Ms Bailey) 1124 points**



AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS

Our gold certificates, which are awarded for outstanding effort, are given out at the end of each term. Two children were chosen per class and received their certificates just before Christmas. Each gold certificate winner earns 5 points for their house. Our chosen few in Term 2 were:

Maple Class: Freddie Nunn-Reeve & Lily Simmen

Beech Class: Lily Geenes & Haiqa Khan

Ash Class: Hallie Malin & Meriel Woodrow

Apple Class: Beccy Ellacott & Edward Dallas

Oak Class: Harry Leach & Jack Happell

We also awarded ten more at the last celebration worship before half-term, and the 50 points up for grabs could have made all the difference to the destination of the house cup!

Our chosen few gold certificate winners in Term 3 were:

Maple Class: **Michael Tingey-Taylor** & **Alexander Holmes**

Beech Class: **Frank Ryan** & **Louis Hornby**

Ash Class: **Billy Brelsford** & **Clemmie Watson**

Apple Class: **Benji Blakey** & **Anabelle Meek**

Oak Class: **Angelina Cerato** & **Carissa Murfitt**



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Our ultimate certificate, which is awarded for: outstanding pieces of work; extraordinary effort over a period of time; other reasons where a pupil has performed significantly above expectations. These awards certainly don't come along too often and there have only been two lucky winners so far this academic year.

The second winner of 2018-19, who scores 10 points for their house, was: **Manasvi Abhilash** – Ash

“Manasvi is a pleasure to teach in Ash Class. She works hard and challenges herself in all of her lessons. As well as this, she is an excellent role model to her peers. Overall, she is just a good egg!”

STUNNING SHELDONIAN

In January, the choir were lucky enough to have a trip to the stunning Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford to watch a concert by the Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra. The orchestra played a wide range of pieces from The Greatest Showman to the Cockaigne Overture by Elgar. The children really enjoyed seeing the parts that all the sections of the orchestra played in creating the sound – especially during a performance of How To Train Your Dragon. Caitlin Tingey was even lucky enough to be chosen to stand in amongst the French horns to really experience the sound up close! It was hopefully a very inspiring morning and a fitting reward for all the hard work and commitment that those children have put into choir rehearsals and performances.



FRESH AIR AND FREEDOM AT FOREST SCHOOL

Before half-term, children in Ash Class have braved the elements, including the snow and freezing temperatures to take part in Forest School sessions run by me and Mrs Meaney. We would like to thank all the parent volunteers who gave up their time to accompany us during these sessions.

During these sessions, the children took part in a range of activities in a local woodland, which we are kindly allowed to use by the Lane Fox family. The children have enjoyed really exploring the woodland environment and experiencing all the wonders that nature has to offer. The children have worked on their teamwork during these sessions and have come together to learn new skills such as tying knots and using tools including bows and loppers. They put these new skills into practice when making some fabulous dream catchers, mobiles, and wind chimes to hang around the site. The children also put their teamwork skills to the test when constructing rope swings, dens out of natural materials and shelters using ropes and tarpaulins.

One of the highlights of the whole experience was having a camp fire and toasting marshmallows in the final session. **Mr Craven**

(See photos on the next page)

FOREST SCHOOL PHOTOS – JANUARY 2019





HEAD LICE

We have been made aware of a case of head lice in school. We would be grateful if every parent would check their child's head and, if necessary, carry out the appropriate treatment.

As a reminder, please ensure that your child's hair is tied back if appropriate. This ensures safety and uniformity, but also helps to minimise the spread of head lice.

The school nurse team has advised us to direct parents to the NHS choices website, if you require any further advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



SPORT

Despite the cold and dark weather in January and early February, there were still a number of sporting opportunities for our pupils. The outstanding performance recently came at the Bicester Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics, where, despite being one of the smallest schools and fielding the youngest team in the competition (including a Year 2, a Year 3 and multiple Year 4s), we only just missed out on qualification for the district final. The future certainly looks bright from an athletics point of view.

| Date | Event | Year/s | No. of teams | No. of Chesterton teams | Results | Certificate Winners |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 30 th Jan 2019 | Bicester Sportshall Athletics | Year 5/6 | 8 teams | 1 team | Joint 3 rd Place | Anabelle Meek Benjamin Isaac (Self Belief) |
| 13 th Feb 2019 | Bicester Multi-Skills | Year 1/2 | N/A | N/A | Non-competitive | |
| 27 th Feb 2019 | Bicester Netball Tournament | Year 5/6 | | 2 teams | B Team – 4 th Place | Finn Gauld Kyle Kernan (Teamwork) |
| 28 th Feb 2019 | Girls On The Ball Tournament | Year 5/6 | 12 teams | 1 team | Reached playoffs for 3 rd /4 th place teams | Amelia Hawes (Player of the Tournament) |

Football Fixtures

Both our Bicester Schools' Football League campaigns are now underway and have begun with some tough matches (see results below). However, the next fixtures are coming thick and fast so there will be plenty of chances to get some points on the board.

| Date | Competition | Home | Goals | Away | Goals | Chesterton Scorers | Player/s Of The Match |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 21 st Jan | League | Fritwell | 1 | Chesterton | 0 | - | Josh Cresswell |
| 5 th Feb | Girls' League | Longfields Girls | 4 | Chesterton Lionesses | 2 | H. Woodrow, Cerato | Angelina Cerato |
| 11 th Feb | Girls' League | Chesterton Lionesses | 0 | Fritwell Girls | 3 | - | Amelia Hawes |



AMAZING ACTIVITIES, LIVELY LESSONS AND VARIOUS VISITS!

Here are some fantastic photos from across the school.

MAPLE CLASS



BEECH CLASS



A fantastic day out at the National Space Centre, Leicester

ASH CLASS



Investigating a mysterious alien craft that had landed at school!

APPLE CLASS



A wonderful 'wow day' with Science Oxford

OAK CLASS



Learning how to stay safe in a range of emergency scenarios at Junior Citizen

Best wishes,

Mr. I. Horner (Headteacher)

**This newsletter will also be available on the school website:
www.chestertonprimaryschool.org.uk**