

Cheselbourne Village School
Cheselbourne
Dorchester
Dorset
DT2 7NT
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01258 837306



14 September 2018

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy time in Butterfly Class and thanks to your support the children have settled very well. We have been so impressed with how confidently our new Reception cohort have entered school each morning. I have lots of information to share with you (sorry!) and thought it might be useful to have it all in one place.

House Points, Stickers and Awards

If your child tries their best in a particular area e.g. writing, maths or is observed keeping our 'Class Charter' they could win a house point. (Our class rules are Be Kind, Sit Still and Listen, Look after our Toys, Walk in the classroom.) Children can also earn house points for coming in nicely in the morning, having good manners and sitting nicely on the carpet. Extra house points are awarded for children who have read at home or have brought in work they have undertaken themselves at home. In Butterfly Class the house points are tracked by building four different coloured towers out of multi-link cubes, which is a really visual way to see which house is in the lead.

We are giving stickers out to the Reception children (as well as house points) for work done while in the Pod or in the outside area, these can be added to their butterfly sticker card in the pod and once a Reception child has 10 stickers on their butterfly, they can take it home to share their achievement with their family.

Home Reading

All the children should now have a reading book and record in their book bags. Please get into the habit of reading regularly at home as it makes a huge difference to your child's confidence and progress in reading. Books will be changed when your child can confidently read (not recite) the words and talk about the story and characters. **Please remember that re-reading a book is one of the most effective ways to recognise common words and build a good sight vocabulary, particularly in early reading.**

At the moment, Reception children will have either very simple reading books (possibly without words) or picture books. We would like you to encourage your child to 'read' the book by telling the story by looking at the pictures. You might need to demonstrate to your child how to do this the first time. Once they have learned some phonic sounds they will move on to books with very simple words that they can sound out to read. Please remember to record all reading (even non-word books) in their reading record.

Phonics

All the children are starting phonics on Monday. Reception will be learning their single letter sounds, Year 1 will be learning some new digraphs and Year 2 will be working on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar rules (SPAG) as well as recapping any phonic work that is needed.

On **Wednesday 26th September at 9am** there is going to be a Macmillan coffee morning in the Village Hall which you are welcome to attend and at the same time we will be running 'workshops' explaining the fundamentals of how we teach phonics and reading at CVS. It would be hugely beneficial to you and your child if at least one member of your family could attend. For Butterfly class we will be covering the phonemes, digraphs and trigraphs that your child needs to know, how to tackle big words and how to overcome common hurdles in reading.



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Spellings and Homework for Years 1 and 2

Both spellings and homework will now be sent out every Friday. **Could the homework be completed and returned by Wednesday please, so I have time to prepare the next week's work.** The children will have 10 spellings a week as we are following a new spelling scheme. Please do not be alarmed by this; the words will all follow the same spelling rule (with maybe one or two exceptions that they need to know) so it is much easier. The children will also be practising their spellings each day with their phonics groups and during handwriting as well. Their grasp of the spellings will then be assessed at the end of the week on Friday and the new set given out. We will periodically be returning to old spellings to check the children have retained them.

Tapestry

We now have a Tapestry account for every member of Butterfly class so please make sure you have the app on your mobile phone. Feel free to 'like' photos, add comments or ask questions when we upload observations. The children love it when photos of learning undertaken outside school are uploaded and we will be sharing and celebrating these with the class at the end of the day during Show and Tell. If you are new to Tapestry then I have sent an activated link to your email address. If you'd like to add another relative to your Tapestry account or you have forgotten your password please email me at j.mowlam@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk and I can sort it out for you.

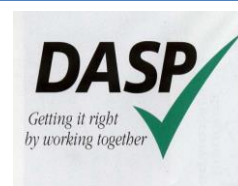
Show and Tell

This is an opportunity for your child to bring in a toy, object, photo or anything that is special to them to share with the rest of the class. If it is small enough it is to stay in their book bag until Show and Tell, if it is too big for that I will put it in a safe place for them. Some weeks I might specify a theme for the Show and Tell; if I do I will let you know.

At Cheselbourne, we allocate each child a Show and Tell day so that each session doesn't go on for too long. (For the younger children we do give some leeway if they have forgotten to bring something in for their day but for Years 1 and 2 we do expect them to organise themselves and stick to their day!) If they haven't brought something in to 'show' then they can 'tell' us some news instead. You can also upload photos to Tapestry for your child to use for their Show and Tell.

This is a really good opportunity for your child to develop their speaking and listening skills. It might help to discuss with your child what they want to tell the class and to practise speaking clearly. Each child will be allocated up to two minutes and be allowed to choose two children to ask a question about their object.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
William Mackenzie Katie Harrison	Mabli Sophie Evan Gabriel	Harriet Harry Oscar Rowan	Connor Cameron Emily Alicia	Amelia Archie Emma Jake



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Acting Headteacher:
Mrs Mary See

Our School Library

We were very busy over the summer holidays transforming our intervention room into a school library. Each child has been given a 'library card' and a 'library record' and will go to the library to change their library book once a week. As the room will still be used for interventions at times your child might have to wait until the library is available, or if they are very young, an adult is able to support them. The children seem really pleased with their new library and we hope they enjoy reading our books at home.

Spare clothes

We do have spare school uniform and underwear in school but some children feel uncomfortable about this and prefer to wear their own. If your child is still prone to the occasional accident, it sometimes helps to keep a spare pair of underwear in their book bag.

'Drop Off- Drop In'

On **Tuesday 18th September** we warmly welcome you to come into the school with your children at the start of the day to see what changes we have made to the school over the holidays, find out more about our classrooms and to meet all our staff. We look forward to seeing those of you who can make it.

Hopefully this has clarified some things for you. Thank you for your support and please remember that if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to catch me at the end of school or make an appointment via Mrs White.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mowlam

