



CHARLTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2017/18 Issue 1

October 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Aliens landing in the playground, Year 2 Superhero Day, Junior Citizenship, teachers dressed as chimney sweeps, Cross Country events, Forest School, Tag Rugby competitions and No Pens Wednesday (to name just a few) - the Autumn term is in full swing !

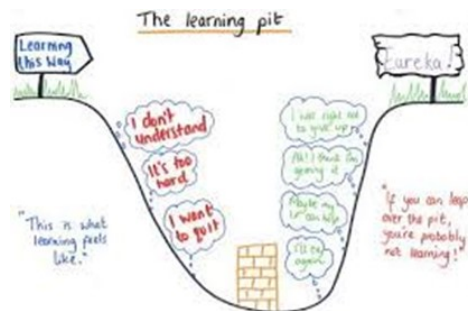
Charlton's pupils are happy pupils. Of all the pieces of feedback we received last year, the one which made us most proud was derived from our large scale parental survey which confirmed that 98% of parents report their child to be happy at school with 100% of respondents saying their child is well taught.

Our school values:

Be happy **Be kind**
Be responsible

The school year has started on a real high as we reflect on wonderful attainment from statutory assessments at EYFS, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Our results show that Charlton continues to go from strength to strength. By the end of Year Six pupils typically make better progress at Charlton than they would at similar schools. We are looking to build on this further and have set ourselves aspirational targets for the end of 2018. To support this, Tuesdays and Thursdays after school remain reserved for staff training and our focuses this year include developing Mastery in Maths, using Learning Journeys and extending the professional development offer for support staff.

Another initiative this year is to continue the 'Growth Mindset' approach. Teachers and staff agree that this has had a real impact on learning resilience and being able to work through the 'Learning Dip'.



Forest school helpers needed -If you enjoy the outdoors, like children (quite important, really!) and could commit to a regular two hours a week, or more, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning then I'd really appreciate you getting in touch with me so I can explain a bit more about what Forest School is all about and how you can make a huge difference.

As ever please do not hesitate to see either Mrs Rooke or myself should you have any worries or concerns. We will always listen and be there to help with any issue or problem that may arise.

Reminder: School opens at 8:40am and please don't forget that key dates for the year are listed on the school website as well as page 5 of this newsletter.

Mr Rose

CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Foundation: Foundation has had a very busy and exciting start to the year, and we are all settling well into life at Charlton. We have enjoyed our topic, "Magical Me" which has allowed us to share about ourselves and our families. We have also learnt lots



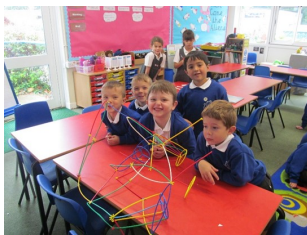
Birch Class.

about the body and what our bodies can do! We have been enjoying exploring the Foundation Stage environment and the school grounds, including Forest School. We are looking forward to all the adventures and learning ahead.



Cherry Class.

Year One: Year One got off to a very busy start this term with an alien space craft landing in our playground! We loved going on an alien hunt around the school, and have been



Working on a way to fix the ship!



The space craft!

thinking of different ways to fix the spaceship, and help the aliens return home. We have enjoyed communicating with the aliens and have written some fantastic letters which the aliens have enjoyed responding to.

Year Two: Year Two have had a 'super' start to the year. We started off our superhero topic with our fantastic superhero day! We made our own supertatoes, investigated how to make our paper superheroes fly and ended with 'super' challenges on the playground.



Superhero day.

We have also been down to the woods getting very muddy and stuck in at Forest School. We have had opportunities to play in the mud kitchen, build bridges, play on the rope swing and enjoy a warming hot chocolate! We have been very lucky to have Mr Campbell, a music specialist, joining us this term for our music lessons. We have been creating pieces of music linked to the animals in the story 'Polar Bear Polar Bear, What do you hear?'



At Forest School.

Year Three: Year Three took a trip to the Vale and Downland Museum in our first full week back at school - we had a great time and we all looked fantastic in our Victorian outfits. We also had a visit from a chimney sweep named Charlie! He told us a story about his life as a chimney sweep in the Victorian times and mapped it out. We then had the opportunity to



Victorian schoolwork.

have a go at cleaning a chimney, which involved being shut inside a box and pushing the brush out of the top - no children were harmed in the making! Children then had a go at being Charlie in the hot seat. In maths we have been learning about place value and counting on - we've played games to help us with our learning.



Mrs Whitaker and the sweep.

Year Four: On Tuesday 10th October Year Four all took part in Greek Day. Over the course of Term One Oak and Maple Classes have been looking at who the Greeks were, where they lived and what their everyday life was like. We had great fun on Greek Day



Oak class on Greek Day.



Maple Class on Greek Day.

making pots out of clay, taking part in the Olympics and tasting some delicious Greek food, although not everyone liked it! The costumes looked amazing; thank you to all parents and carers who helped to make Year Four look so brilliant!

Year Five: Year Five have been performing some interesting science observations this term, including some fun with fire - we used tea-lights to safely try heating and burning different materials. We have also



Year Fives demonstrating their gymnastics moves.

been lucky enough to have Mr Chadwick involved in our PE lessons, and we have learnt a lot about gymnastics this term.

Year Six: As part of our “999 Emergency!” topic, we have been learning about how to stay safe and lead a healthy lifestyle. We enjoyed our visit to Oxford Fire Station, where we visited different rooms where different scenarios had been set up, including discovering a casualty in the road, finding dangers in the home, learning about the recovery position and internet safety. We had to work together to discuss and demonstrate how overcome the



Fun at Oxford Fire Station.

problems.



Mr Shann speaking to Acacia Class.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Jamie’s dad, who spoke to us about his work as a volunteer Community First Responder. He showed us all of the equipment he carries to emergency situations, including oxygen and oxygen masks. He

explained when you might have to do CPR to keep someone alive and showed us the dummies that are used to teach people how to perform CPR. Some of us had a go at the chest compressions and found that it was much harder than it looks!

Another part of this topic has involved learning about the human body. We have learnt about the heart, the circulatory system and the digestive system. In order to demonstrate how the digestive system works, we created a working replica using a pair of tights, some Weetabix, a banana, lots of plastic bags and a funnel! We made a lot of mess but also had a lot of fun. Once we had finished exploring how food is digested, we wrote diary entries from the point of view of a piece of food that had been eaten and digested. Below is an extract from Primrose’s diary entry.



Evie and Kieran demonstrating intestines.

“A Day in the Life of a Persimmon fruit.

Today I was just sitting in the fruit bowl, then someone thinks it’s ok to pick me up and start throwing me around the kitchen! After that, I went into a dark cave. I believe it is called a mouth. Next, the giant started to throw me around viciously with his tongue and starts chewing me vigorously with his sharp teeth. Just when I thought it couldn’t get any worse, this thick liquid inside the mouth started dripping and oozing on me. It was the saliva.”

SPORTS

Cross Country Qualifiers: On 22nd September Years Three, Four, Five and Six boys and girls from Charlton competed against other local primary schools at Wantage Park. All of our Group A teams made it through to the next stage.



All of our Cross Country competitors.

Cross Country Event: On 10th October at Busoct Park, our Group A teams ran the Cross Country. Our Year Three and Four girls came third with Isla McDowell notably coming fourth in her race. Our Year Five and Six girls came first, with Freja Nielsen coming second out of 45, meaning they go through to the finals at Tilsley Park in March next year.

Tag Rugby: On 9th October Mr Rose took two teams to the local sports partnership Year Six Tag Rugby competition. For many our pupils it was their first time at an event like this and they did themselves (and the school) proud. Both Charlton teams finished in the top four of their group. Mr Rose said “There was some excellent talent on display this afternoon. The children have been practicing hard and have benefitted from extra sessions on Thursday morning.”

No Pens Wednesday: ‘No Pens Wednesday’ is an initiative introduced by The Communication Trust, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication and how it impacts on teaching and learning in schools. Once again, Charlton joined over 5000 schools across the country in putting down their pens to encourage over one and a half million school children to find other ways to record their learning and to use their speaking and



Drama.



Decorating the willow domes.

listening skills.

Teachers and teaching assistants were extremely imaginative in their lesson planning and preparation and it was lovely to see children experimenting with different ways of learning. We saw some very creative teaching methods, including physical number lines and cut out letters for spellings.

All in all, a very productive day was had with some excellent speaking and listening taking place.



Finding different ways of recording results.



School Council

It's a new school year and that means school council elections! The children who were interested in standing for school council have each made presentations to their class, the votes have been cast and counted, and we have our new school council!

Acting Chair: Megan Spencer

Secretary: Jamie Shann

Class Representatives

Year Two: Harry Raimbach, Madeleine Monnery and Mariella Francis

Year Three: Esme Boulton and Harlen Anns

Year Four: Yazmin Hyams and Morgan Ayres

Year Five: Talia Clark and Felix Potter

Year Six: Henry Dobson and Freddie Rose



The new school council with Mr Rose.

We spoke to Jamie Shann, the School Council Secretary, to find out more...

What is school council?

We decide on ways to make the school better. We go to meetings with Mr Rose and the class reps pass on any issues their class has raised. After each meeting we report back to our class on what has been discussed, and the class have a chance to tell

us anything that they would like to be discussed in the next meeting. We also discuss and help plan school events.

What does the role of secretary involve?

JS: I alert the other members of the council when there are meetings, as well as taking minutes at the meetings. I am the organiser of the group. At the moment I am second-in-command, until the new council have our first meeting and we decide roles for everyone.

Why did you want to be on the school council?

JS: I thought I'd be good at it! I am a confident public speaker, and quite organised. I like being involved in decisions and having meetings.

Do you think being on the school council has benefitted you?

JS: I think it has improved my organisational skills, and I do like being part of the team.

Eco Council

We have also elected a new Eco Council - meet the team! Our Eco Council advise on green and Eco-friendly initiatives around the school/



Our Eco Council reps - Bobby Ludlam, Primrose Hobin, Sam Silliphant, Jack England, Josh Hamblin, Millie Derow, George Walker, Fynn Tilbury.

Dates for your



Thursday 19th October: Sponsored Walk

Thursday 19th October: School finishes at 3:15pm

Tuesday 31st October: School starts

Friday 3rd November: Swimming starts for Year Three

Monday 6th November: Flu vaccinations

Wednesday 8th November: Individual photos

Tuesday 14th November: Travelling Book Fair arrives

Tuesday 14th November: Discussion Evening 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursday 16th November: Discussion Evening 5:00pm - 7:00pm (Foundation 4:00 - 6:00)

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Day

Monday 20th November: BeSpace Event begins

Tuesday 5th December: Year One Nativity 2:00pm

Wednesday 6th December: Year One Nativity 6:00pm

Wednesday 13th December: Christmas Carol Concert Years Four to Six

Friday 15th December: Sparkle Day for Hampers

Monday 18th December: Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 18th December: Christmas lunch

Tuesday 19th December: School finishes at 12:00pm



BBC

Children in Need

Once again, Charlton will be supporting Children In Need. From 15th October, round pound coins will be going out of circulation. There are still millions to be found, so have a hunt around and check your jam jars, money boxes and down the back of the sofa to see how many you can find.

We will have a box in the Reception area and our lovely office ladies will be delighted to take any coins you discover!



Individual and sibling photos are on Wednesday 8th November. If you wish your child to have their photo taken with siblings in school, please make sure your children know this. If you want a photo of your child with a sibling not at Charlton, these will be taken between 8:30am and 9:00am.



Rosie with her phoenix art.

Rosie Harmsworth, in Mrs Dunn and Mrs Rose's class, was inspired by the Greek Gods topic to make this amazing piece of art. Rosie learned that Greek gods often have animals associated with them, so she created this colourful phoenix to be Apollo's fiery animal! Well done, Rosie!

Around the World Club - a message from Mrs Kent.

This term I have started a new club with the idea that a member of our school community (child, parent, grandparent, member of staff) can come along on an arranged Wednesday afternoon between 3.30 and 4pm and shares with the children photos, artefacts, pictures or perhaps a story from a country they either come from or know well. We would also love to learn a few words of the language spoken in that country and I would like to provide a snack from that part of the world if possible. The children in the group also have some questions to ask if time allows. If you come from another country or know another one very well we would LOVE to welcome you to the group - please could you send me an email and we can arrange a date. It is a very friendly group and the children are so interested to learn about other countries and cultures. I look forward to hearing from you! Jane Kent (JKent@charlton.vale-academy.org)

WINTER BUGS AND INFECTIONS

We would like to remind parents that advice from Public Health England is that a child should remain at

home until 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea. To ensure that we don't perpetuate bugs around the class and school, we would kindly ask you to adhere to this advice when your child is poorly. As we have

staff and parents who are expecting, we would also ask parents to advise us as soon as it has been confirmed that your child has chickenpox, slapped cheek or another such potentially infectious rash.



FOREST SCHOOL

What's been happening in the woods?

Forest School was gifted a generous sum of money by our hard-working PTA before the end of the last school year. Using two-thirds of this we have now kitted out each year group with their own supply of waterproof trousers, and dungarees for foundation. This is a huge investment into ensuring each child is correctly dressed to enjoy their time at Forest School.

With the remaining money, we looked to solve the issue of "Where to change?" Getting kitted up and down for Forest School has always been a bit tricky, as space in school is so tight. Plus, the added mud we always bring back with us! With the help of some amazing volunteers and a local tradesman, during the holiday we have been able to turn this:



Into this:



With the help of these lovely people:



We now have our own purpose built changing shed within the woodland. This term the children have had the chance to use it and it has been amazing! Not only does it provide a changing area but also an undercover outdoor space providing us with endless other opportunities for use.

To our band of volunteers, we would like to say a huge thank you for all their hard work at the end of the summer term to get us ready for local tradespeople, SB General Building Services Ltd, who built the shelter over the holidays.

Our final thanks are sent out to the PTA and all the parents and families that attend their numerous fundraising events, for providing the funds for these amazing gifts, they are already being used and are making our children's experiences richer, watch this space for more adventures!



Enjoying Forest School.

Forest School: Our biggest classroom without walls!

Here at Charlton School we are exceptionally fortunate to have access to our own woodland. Over the last 10 years Forest School has been an experience that predominately the younger year groups have experienced. Over the last two years we have increased the number of children and year groups that have attended Forest School sessions. This year, we intend to increase this further.

Whilst our sessions are run by our FSA (Forest School Association) trained staff, they rely on the generous support of regular volunteers. These volunteers are key to adding enrichment to your child's experience during their session. Last summer we were exceptionally blessed with three regular volunteers during the Year Six sessions. This enabled the Forest School Leader to follow the children's interests more deeply, in turn providing a more enriched programme.

In extending the sessions this year we are seeking further regular support.

If you enjoy the outdoors, like to share your free time with children and could commit to a regular two hours a week (or more!) then I'd really appreciate you getting in touch with me so I can explain a bit more about what Forest School is all about and how you can make a huge difference.

Oh, just in case you think this is only a call to parents, it's not. We currently have three grandparents and two parents as volunteers. Please ask all family members and friends as there is no age limit on playing in the woods!

Please drop in or email your details to the office and I will be in touch with more information on how two hours a week can make such a huge difference to so many.

With appreciation
Nicky Barnes
Forest School
Leader



Children enjoying the new shelter.

Library News

The new Junior Librarians (Autumn and Winter Team) have really had their work cut out. At the time of writing we are five weeks into term and this fabulous team have already scanned, sorted and shelved over 900 books that the pupils in Years Four, Five and Six have borrowed and returned. What great effort and dedication they are showing.



Top row: Bobby Ludlum, Jamie Shann, Bethan Harper, Molly Jenkins, Primrose Hobin. Middle row: Daisy Game, Jessica Barnett, Maddie Gore, Eleanor Staples, Summer Oliver, Millie Derow. Bottom row: Eleanor Savage, Isabelle Bruffell, Joshua Hamblin, Evelyn Fultman
Not pictured: Ruby Hummel, Rosie Harmsworth and Evie Belcher



The **Travelling Book Fair** is visiting Charlton from 14th - 16th November. There are **over 200 titles** for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from **only £2.99**, there's sure to be a book for everyone. If you can't make it to the Book Fair, try the **discounted Gift Vouchers** available at travellingbooks.co.uk/parents. They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school library.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL

Please note that parents should not drive on to school property at drop off and pick up time (8:30 - 9:00am and 3:00 - 3:30pm). This is for the safety of all our children. **Be aware, also, that the day centre require constant vehicular access to their property and they have asked us to remind parents that it is not acceptable to use their car park for drop offs and pick ups.** Adults and children are also reminded that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on school property - we ask you to please dismount at the gate and wheel your bike or scooter with you. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



LOCAL INFORMATION

NETBALL: Challow Netball Club are looking for new players in school years Five and Six. We play in the Oxfordshire Junior Netball League and have about 8 matches a season, all held on a Sunday. Training is every term time Wednesday, 5.25pm to 6.25pm, at Wantage Leisure Centre. It's lots of fun, with a combination of fun games, fitness and match play. Email: yolandaowen@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

RUGBY: Mini and Junior Rugby at Grove RFC, Sundays at 10am, free to try. For boys and girls from 5 years old upward. No experience necessary. For more information, go to www.groverfc.co.uk or email playrugby@groverfc.co.uk.

BASKETBALL: Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club are based at in the Sports Hall at Abingdon & Witney College, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. They train on a Saturday morning in the following groups: 09.00 - 10.00 - Mini Basketball (From 6-10), 10.00 -11.30 - Girls Basketball (all ages) and beginners, 11.30 - 13.00 - Open session - mixed age groups. All the coaches are England Basketball Level 1 or Level 2 coaches. All children from 6 years and above are very welcome and can be absolute beginners. Pay as you play, £4.00 per session and the first session is free.

CHILDCARE: Half-Term Childcare Karibuni is open at Hanney Primary School during half term from Friday 20 October to Friday 27 October. (But not Monday 30 October) Sessions run from 8.30am-12.30pm, 12-5pm, or 8.30am-5pm and cost £16, £20 or £32. A hot lunch is included, as are healthy morning and afternoon snacks. To book contact Ruth on 07948 293034 or bookings@karibuni.cc.

A Letter From the PTA

Dear Parents,

Just a quick update from the PTA. This is one of our busiest times as a team, so below is a round up of all things Charlton PTA.

A huge thank you to all the families who came to our first film night. It was a roaring success and due to all the positive feedback we are holding another one on 2nd December. So if you missed your chance last time or just want to experience the fun again, do keep the date free. There will of course be a Christmas theme to our chosen film.

You may have noticed that we have not had a disco yet this term! Due to DJ Carl's popularity we were not able to book him for our usual first term dance night. However, do not despair, we have managed to squeeze in a disco next term, so another date for the diary is 24th November. Look out for our posters and the PTA team who will be selling tickets nearer the time.

Some children may have come home this week telling you they have been designing Christmas cards. These designs will be back soon, so keep an eye out for the order form and accompanying letter telling you how to purchase items and when return dates are.

We will also soon be selling tickets for another Christmas special. Our wonderful treat-laden hampers are a fabulous addition to any Christmas holiday and it is so simple to support. Details will be sent soon, so don't miss out.

Another date for the diary is January 19th 2018! We will be holding another quiz night. We ran one last year and it was very well received, so if you fancy a fun night out with friends and family, keep the date free and more details will follow next term.

We hope to see at one of our events next term and thank you all for your continued support. Without all our fantastic families and children's participation, we could not provide the funds that we do. So we appreciate everything that you do.

Kind Regards, Rachel Hobin, Chair

Star of the Week Photos





Charlton Primary School

Teaching Assistant

Job Start Date: Tuesday 31st October 2017

Contract/Hours: Temporary, full-time

Salary Type: Grade 4, term time only

Location of Role: Charlton Primary School

Contact e-mail address: office@charlton.vale-academy.org

Charlton Primary School are seeking appoint a Teaching Assistant to play a full part in our enthusiastic and friendly team.

Our successful candidate will be a committed and dedicated Teaching Assistant, who is flexible and shares in our ethos of putting the children at the centre of all we do. The position will be based mainly within a class in lower key stage 1, although all our TAs work across other classes from time to time when the need arises.

The successful applicant will be sensitive to children's varying needs and be able to work under the guidance of the SENCo and our teaching team.

Hours will be between 8.30am and 3.15pm Monday to Friday.

Closing date: Monday 30th October 2017

Interviews: Friday 3rd November 2017

Charlton Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Be happy Be kind
Be responsible

