



1. **Weekly Attendance Awards – All - Information**
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Upcoming key dates for the diary (please see diary for extensive list):

Monday 16th January – Clubs commence

Wednesday 18th January – Celebration of learning

Monday 23rd January – Class photographs

Tuesday 31st January & Thursday 2nd February – Parents evening

1. Weekly Attendance Awards – All - Information

Bright Sparks – Turn up, Turn up on Time, Turn up Ready for Action!

The following classes have won the year group attendance trophies for 2nd to 6th January. Well done!!

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3HG 99%	4LS 97.8%	5CW 99.2%	6CY 98%

2. Clubs – All Parents – Action Needed

Clubs restart Monday 16th January and notification has been sent via SchoolsBuddy, please ensure your children are aware of which clubs they are attending. Pick up for all after school clubs is 4.15pm from the front playground.

3. Parents evening – All Parents – Action Needed

Parents evening slots are now available to book via SchoolsBuddy, these will take place on Tuesday 31st January and Thursday 2nd February. Please login to your account and head to the Clubs Sign up tab. A letter has been emailed with full details in.

4. Tutors Needed – All Parents– Job opportunity

We are currently seeking to find tutors within the local area that could provide additional bespoke support, with English and maths for children aged between 7 and 11. If you know of a highly motivated and talented tutor who would work well in partnership with the school and family to support vulnerable children please contact the head teacher, Andrew Jolley: head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk or 01903 204141 as soon as possible.

We are currently seeking 1-2 hours per week between now and July 2017 – if successful the hours could be increased and extended into future years.

5. Handwriting Pens – All Parents – Information

It is school policy that children use blue handwriting pens for all written work in school. All children have now been issued with a blue 'Manuscript Handwriting Pen' and must use these pens for all their writing. These are the best value, quality pens we could find to support children in their handwriting. Children only use blue pen as it is much more forgiving of mistakes than black pen.

'The ergonomic finger grip design steadies the hand, giving a smooth even delivery of ink when writing. The longer writing length means that it won't let you down and is ideal for everyday use! Also perfect for left handers, as the ink dries quickly and minimises smudging.'

Children will be expected to look after their pen (they have their names on them) and use them in lessons. Additional or replacement pens can be bought from school reception for 50p each.



6. Celebrating Children's Achievement

Well done to Aiden Souter in Year 6 for being picked as the Arsenal Mascot.



7. Postcard Competition – All - Competition

We have launched a competition for all pupils to design a postcard. The postcard is sent to parents to inform them when pupils have gone above and beyond expected at school. It must include the school name and the wording bright sparks. Entries must be on a landscape piece of A4 paper. Completed designs to Miss Taylor by Monday 30th January. Good Luck!

8. Worth less campaign – All – Information

On the following page is an update on the Worth Less? Campaign. Further details can be found on our school website <http://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Worth+Less+Campaign&pid=287>



Chesswood Junior School

Weekly News



January 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Worth Less? Worth Enough?

As promised, please find below an update on the school funding situation for schools in West Sussex. Following publication of the second part of the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation, school leaders across West Sussex are saddened by the fact that for many schools the financial situation does not look like it is improving either in the short or longer terms. Key headlines are as follows:



- As yet, no interim funding has been offered to West Sussex schools for the year 2017/18.
- The NFF will begin in April 2018, the new proposals allocate funding with greater fairness and transparency as all schools across England are funded via the same methodology.
- These new arrangements are, however, being severely undermined by:
 - The ongoing introduction of unfunded costs being placed upon schools, such as increasing employer NI and pension contributions as well as Educational Service Grant costs. These “stealth taxes” lie outside of the NFF.
 - Schools not receiving adequate “core funding” to meet basic staffing and equipment costs.
 - The government’s decision to make £3 billion of “efficiency saving” from school budgets.

Using data from WSCC and the DFE’s own database, under current NFF proposals the following will occur:

- In 2018 West Sussex schools will, on average, gain a further £79 per pupil rising to £144 in April 2020.
- After the introduction of NFF (2018), unfunded cost burdens will, however, mean that such gains are offset to the point where the vast majority of schools in West Sussex will be no better off (or even worse off) than the current dire financial situation.
- In terms of funding received, West Sussex schools will remain 148th out of 151 Local Authorities.

The new NFF arrangements are relatively complicated and more in depth analysis can be found via this document:

Headteachers in all West Sussex schools are dismayed that our financial situation looks so bleak. As a consequence, our fears about reduced staffing levels, increased class sizes and reductions in curricular and pastoral provision are likely to become a reality in either the short term, medium term or both. School Leaders are united in their belief that the current situation is both unfair and unsustainable. Previously we were made to feel that pupils in West Sussex were “Worth Less”, under the new arrangements they simply don’t appear to be “Worth Enough”. Our first step is to raise important questions with ministers from the DFE and our own local MPs. We are happy to share these questions with you and would urge you to raise similar concerns with your local representatives.

We will continue to do everything in our power to maintain standards of care and provision but also feel that it is important to let you know just how bad matters are at present. Your support as we continue with our campaign will be vital.

Yours sincerely

And on behalf of Primary, Secondary and Special School Headteacher Executives