



Dear Parents,

Welcome to edition 13 of the weekly communication. Please ensure that you read the communication and school diary carefully to ensure you are up to date with all the many events etc. that are taking place at school.



Weekly Attendance Awards



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

The following classes have won the year group attendance trophies for 5th to 9th December. Well done!!

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3KM 99.3%	4KC 97.4%	5SW 97.8%	6SU 99.4%

Carol Concert:

Just to congratulate all the children on their performances at this week's carol concerts. I am sure you will agree they were a delight to listen to and we thank all the staff for their hard work and parents for joining us, at this special time of year. I would like to thank you all for your kind donations as we raised an amazing £1054.87. A donation of £400 was made to St George's Church and the balance of £654.87 paid to Worthing Churches Homeless Project (WCHP)!

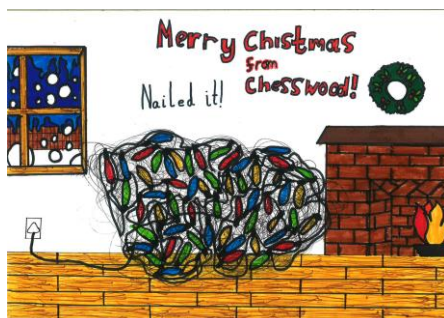


Clubs:

Information regarding clubs will be sent out on email, during the first week of term. **Club's will now be processed via the SchoolBuddy's system**, if you have not been able to register or having problems with SchoolBuddy please contact Ben Miller on bmiller@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk.

Christmas Card Winner:

We would like to congratulate Rosie Molloy in class 6CY, for this year's winning Christmas card design, well done!



School Communication:

School to parent communications - do you have something to say on this hot topic?

A small sub-group of 3 Governors are meeting in January with the school to review the effectiveness of school to parent communications and to identify any possible improvements.

Emails, paper, Schoolbuddy, the school website, texts, social media - there are so many ways for the school to communicate with parents and carers and there is SO MUCH the school needs to tell YOU. This is always a tricky area to get right in a big school, so we'd like to hear your views, please email Miss Taylor staylor@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk or write it down on paper and hand it in to the office - all contributions and views will be acknowledged and looked at by the sub-group.

In particular, we would like to hear from you on the following:

- If you have identified bugs or problems with the Schoolbuddy App or find it difficult to use - please be very specific with your comments as we will be meeting the App provider and potentially asking for improvements and changes.
- Are you happy with the way homework, school trips, child reports and very important school information is provided to you by email and/or paper?
- What are your main gripes with school to parent communications?
- Have you ever missed out on a communication from the school and why did that happen, in your opinion?
- What would make your busy life easier and school communications more likely to be read and acted upon?
- We would especially like to hear from you if you have positive suggestions and solutions about how the school can effectively communicate with a large number of parents and carers through multiple channels. Remember it's not 'one size fits all'.

The Chesswood school administration office is a small but tight ship of highly dedicated and hard-working staff who are very keen to provide a complete and convenient service to parents. No communications system will ever be perfect (especially in schools!) but there may be some quick wins and long term improvements that could be recommended to Mrs Lycett and the school administration team.

We very much look forward to hearing from you. The deadline for response on this issue is Wednesday 11th January 2017 but please reply early if you can, don't delay! Thank you for reading this school to parent communication....

Other News:

Thank you to everyone for your donations for Green Day and our Cake Sale for the NSPCC we raised £420.81! Well done!

Mobile Phones

With Christmas just around the corner, many children will be getting **new mobile phones for Christmas**. Please make sure you are familiar with the apps your child is downloading. Click here for some top tips for helping children to stay safe online: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#tips> The WSSCB has produced an online guide for parents available here <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/8523/online-safety-completed.pdf>

Favourite School Lunch Day We have a children's favourite School lunch day coming up on the 19th January, please book your space by 8th January 2017 or visit www.mealselector.co.uk



Library News

Winners of the Upper School Library 'Twelve Day of Christmas' quiz: Evie Crawford (4MH) and Daria Jahangardi (5CR) Brilliant take up on the quiz! £10 book tokens to both worthy winners!

Worthing Symphony Orchestra, Assembly Hall, Worthing Monday 2nd January 2017 at 2.45pm. Please visit www.worthingsymphony.co.uk



Community Choir

The Chesswood Community Choir starts on Wednesday 4th January here at school. The choir is geared towards anyone attached to the school community in anyway, Mums, dads, staff, governors, past pupils, ANYONE who is part of our school community, everyone is very welcome! It is singing for FUN and a chance to de-stress! It's a great way to show the kids that adults enjoy singing just as much.
Between 6pm and 7pm

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Low Level Mental Health Issues

Our locality schools have put together an informative talk on low level mental health awareness. This is something very relevant at present and would be useful for all parents of primary age children.

The emotional wellbeing of children is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Catherine Porter who will lead this session. She intends to share an overview of child development and how this can and does impact on their emotional well-being and behaviour before moving to space to think about how this may look in the home, with some practical tips about how to support children's mental health. Dr. Porter will be working with teaching assistants and teachers earlier in the day.

You are warmly invited to the talk on **Wednesday 4th January between 5:30-6:30**. Please **sign in at school reception no later than 5:20p.m.** and you will be directed to the room where the talk will take place.

To ensure we host the event in a room the appropriate size for guests please confirm by email to Miss Taylor that you intend to attend staylor@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk or call 01903 204141 or pop into reception.



Finally, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you and the children for the start of term on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.