

Norton & West Chinnock Schools

Learning Together for Excellence

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Co-Heads Newsletter April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our half termly newsletter to help keep you abreast of current news items and information that is happening in the schools.

Highlights this half-term:

The schools have continued to participate in competitive sports this half-term with children competing in football matches, hockey events, netball tournaments and cross country fixtures. The Year 6 football team got a brilliant 3-1 win earlier in the month at Millfield. It was a confident team display with all players showing great determination. There was some super skill upfront and in midfield and the team looked self-assured throughout. The ball hardly got through the rock solid defence. When it did, our goalie leapt to save it! A super team effort and great to see children from across our two schools working together.

Some classes have now managed to go on a trip this term and it is great to be bringing learning to life outside of the schools. Year 5 at Norton were offered the opportunity to visit Shepton Mallet prison as part of their Social Action Project led by Yeovil Town's Premier League Primary Stars programme. On the trip they learnt about the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour as well as finding out about the history of the prison. Class 2 at Norton enjoyed a visit to Longleat this week linked to their work on Rainforests. They had a great time especially feeding the lorikeets!

As things continue to open up, many pupils (and former pupils) have been involved in events out of school including the Norton Panto, Chinnock Crackers and the Helen Laxton Everybody Dance Performances. A huge well done to all children involved, as well as many others competing in sports and other activities out of school.

To continue the dancing theme, the West Chinnock PFA Disco took place a couple of weeks ago (thank you to the PFA and YO YO JO Disco for the music). Mr Caswell really enjoyed the conga!

Most of all, we are looking forward to celebrating Easter today with all the children that have worked so hard this term and hope as many of you as possible are able to join us for the parade and other events! Thank you to the FONS and PFA for their collaboration in making the Easter events possible.

The Hamdon Hoot (Norton's Student Newspaper) is due to be published today on the website. Due to staff absence and other priorities, West Chinnock's The Chirpy Chinnock will be published early next term.

Endurance:

We were delighted by news that Endurance, the lost vessel of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, was found at the bottom of the Weddell Sea and children have enjoyed seeing the images of the ship still in good condition. What a way to bring the History Curriculum to life! Coincidentally, our half-termly core

value is ENDURANCE with children thinking about how to keep persevering even when the going gets tough, and to support and encourage others to keep going.

With high levels of staff absence this half-term, we are really proud that the schools have been able to keep things going despite the disruption. We have certainly seen our core value lived out in our schools by all members of the community. We thank our staff team for their ongoing resilience, parents for your understanding and the Governing Board for its ongoing support through the challenges we have faced. A huge well done to all the pupils for staying motivated, keeping going and coming into school ready to learn.

Fundraising and raising awareness:

The Readathon raised over £750. Well done to everyone who took part by reading, sponsoring readers and to Esther from the FONS for promoting the idea. This money will buy books for children in hospital as well as helping to increase our stock in school.

Pupils were keen to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee in support of the people of Ukraine. We held a non-uniform day with children coming into school in yellow and blue for the day. Between the schools, over £200 was raised.

The following week was Red Nose Day supporting Comic Relief for causes in the UK and abroad. A highlight of the day was at West Chinnock when volunteer Jonathan re-created a Monty Python comedy moment and the children climbed up a mountain across the playground! The event has resulting in some great story writing and we thank Jonathan for the inspiration.

Message from the FONS and PFA

The FONS & PFA wish all Norton & West Chinnock families a very happy Easter!

We have put together a little Easter trail for you to do over the holidays, should you have a few hours to kill.

It consists of two loops, one around Norton and one around West Chinnock. Both loops start at Chiselborough Church where some of the bonnets from today's parade will be displayed. There are pom-pom Easter animals for you to find as you walk so keep your eyes peeled! (as they are circular walks you can join them at any point avoiding the need to drive to the start point).

The directions & map are included in the email with this Newsletter.

You can also visit Norton or West Chinnock Church to see the Easter gardens created by Rev Nick and the Year 6 children.

Things to look forward to:

The Festival of Dance that the children have been preparing for with Dance Instructor Keri Hill is happening on the 26th April 2022, please see the link below for ticket information:

<https://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk/whats-on/dance/primary-festival-of-dance/8724#>

For your information, please see the attached information on the clubs that are happening at each school. Sign up information will be sent out on the first day back with most clubs starting the second week of term.

Looking further ahead, we have the Residential for Year 5 & 6 from 22nd - 24th June.

Swiss Students Host Families:

We are delighted to be welcoming six Swiss Teacher Training Students for two weeks 26th June – 9th July. More information will follow about the opportunity to host a student after Easter. Do get in touch if this is something that you might be interested in doing.

Tomorrow (Friday 8th April) is an INSET day where teaching and teaching assistants are being trained in Read, Write, Inc phonics.

We wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to welcoming all the children back well-rested and ready to learn on **Monday 25th April 2022.**

Yours Sincerely

Handwritten signature of J B Caswell in black ink.Handwritten signature of L Stiddard in black ink.

Mr J Caswell & Ms L Stiddard
Co-Headteachers