

Norton & West Chinnock Schools

Learning Together for Excellence

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Co-Heads Newsletter 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy start to 2022 it has been! Everyone is certainly ready for a restful break before returning afresh for the Spring and Summer ahead of us. We hope you are all keeping safe indoors away from Storm Eunice. Here is a summary of some of the highlights this half-term as well as looking forward towards Easter.

Aspiration and achievements

To understand our half-termly core value **Aspiration**, pupils made New Year's Resolutions and have been thinking about what they would need to do to bring their dreams and ambitions to life. We were joined by Rev Nick Clarke and Lay Reader David Mangles for an assembly to explore this theme further. Children were interested in the many hats that Rev Nick has worn throughout his working life including police and pilot helmets! Next half-term, we will be exploring what is meant by **Endurance**, including how to persevere even when things are looking hard.

Every week, we celebrate and recognise hard-earned achievements with pupils receiving Headteachers' awards and other certificates for excellence in different aspects of their learning.

This term, we are delighted that pupils have been able to represent the schools in competitive sports.

The recent cross country was well attended with runners in all age categories. A special well done to our Year 2 and 3 girls who, out of all the schools there, won the overall teams race for their age category. Our Year 5 and 6 girls team also won – what an achievement!

Mixed Norton and West Chinnock football teams attended Millfield Prep in January. The games were close and competitive with both ending in a draw. A Year 3 and 4 football team from Norton played at a recent tournament at Buckler's Mead and showed great team spirit.

Last week, teams from Norton and West Chinnock represented our schools in a Netball tournament at Westfield. It was a strong performance from both teams. Well done everyone!

This week, hockey teams attended an area competition at Westfield. Out of the five teams there, Norton and West Chinnock schools made up three of the teams with great results and a positive attitude from all players.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for taking children to fixtures and to the staff who coached and supported, often in wintry conditions.

Hamdon Hoot and Chirpy Chinnock

We're delighted to be able to release the Pupil Newspapers online today. Please follow these links to read the latest editions of the [Hamdon Hoot](#) and the [Chirpy Chinnock](#).

Pantos and musicals

With Panto season in full swing, children have been enjoying local performances. West Chinnock pupils travelled to the Octagon to see Mother Goose in December, funded generously by the PFA.

This week, Year 5 and 6 went to Stanchester to see Aladdin, with star performances from some of our former pupils.

In March, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 from Norton will make the short trip to the Village Hall to see the Pantomime, Treasure Island. The FONS are very kindly providing food and refreshments for the children before the show.

School Development

We have been continuing apace with improvements to our curriculum across the schools. These are the three key areas of development:

1. Reading

Our Phonics programme (Read, Write, Inc.) is now fully underway. All children in Years R – 4 have been assessed so that Phonics teaching is matched closely to the stage children are at and any gaps in phonics sounds are addressed early. Groups are refreshed regularly following their next assessment.

The staff are looking forward to the upcoming in person training session (on the 8th March INSET). This will be a welcome addition to the online support that staff are receiving. The move to the new programme is a challenging one, and it is taking a lot of adaptation for children and staff alike. We are pleased that everyone is on board, working as a team for the new challenge and the progress so far is positive.

The next step is to fully organise our libraries so that they include the Read, Write, Inc books and provide all children with better direction when selecting a book.

You will see that your child has come home with a sponsor form for the Readathon taking place this week and next. Money raised will be collected during the week of the 28th February. Thank you Esther and Rose, the chairs of the FONS and PFA for their collaboration and support with this scheme. We hope the children enjoy participating. For more information please see the website <https://readforgood.org/>

2. The wider curriculum

The overarching aim of Norton and West Chinnock Schools' curriculum is to nurture and develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a spirit of curiosity and creativity, respect for themselves, others and the environment.

We are ambitious for all pupils and aim to ensure they finish Year 6 with the academic skills, social skills and knowledge in order to thrive. We recognise and value each child's individual personality and work to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Building on the curriculum planning work the staff did last term, Middle Leaders (our teachers with responsibility for a curriculum area) are continuing their work in developing the progression of knowledge and skills in their subjects, as well as planning for opportunities to observe practice and see the impact of their work across the schools.

3. SEND (*Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*)

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Mrs Jaggard, is coordinating the process of streamlining and improving the systems for pupil tracking ensuring continuity across the schools. She is also providing training opportunities at staff meetings. We are delighted that she is on track to achieve her National SENCO qualification.

Rules on self-isolation

On 9th February, the Prime Minister announced that the UK expects to remove any remaining restrictions one month earlier than planned. We await more detail from the Department for Education about what this means for schools. We will communicate to you as soon as we know more, including if there will be any change to the guidance on self-isolation.

Things to look forward to next half-term

We are thrilled to be joined by Tilly Bond, Somerset Cricketer and Foundation Cricket Coach, next half-term. Tilly will be delivering cricket sessions for children in Years 2 – 6 at Norton and West Chinnock on Thursdays. She is also running an afterschool club which will be available on Thursdays 3.30pm-4.30pm held at West Chinnock. This will be offered to children in Years 4, 5, 6 (Norton pupils are welcome too). More details and sign up information will be sent to parents of those year groups.

All other clubs will continue until Easter unless otherwise communicated. For details of all clubs, please see the website club pages ([Norton Clubs](#), [West Chinnock Clubs](#))

Please see a list of provisional dates for the forthcoming half term:

Monday 28th February. Return to school

Wednesday 2nd March. Cross Country at Bucklers Mead

Thursday 3rd March. World Book Day

Friday 4th March. KS2 Explorer Dome Morning (Norton)

Saturday 5th March. Hockey Tournament Under 10's Millfield Prep

Wednesday 9th March. Norton School watching Panto

Thursday 10th March. Football Under 11's Millfield

Thursday 10th March. Netball at Westfield TBC

Saturday 12th March. Hockey Under 9's Millfield

Monday 14th March. Football at Bucklers TBC

Tuesday 15th March. Parents Evening (West Chinnock)

Thursday 17th March. Parents Evening West Chinnock)

Wednesday 16th March. Yr 4 Netball Norton v's East Coker TBC

Friday 18th March. Red Nose Day

Week of 21st March (New date and TBC). Parents' Evenings (Norton)

Thursday 24th March. Tag Rugby Yr's 3/4 plus 5/6 teams TBC

Friday 25th March. West Chinnock PFA Disco

Tuesday 29th March. Vision Screening Reception Children (West Chinnock)

Tuesday 29th March. Small Schools Netball Tournament 1– 4pm at Westfield

Wednesday 30th March. Cross Country at Mudford Rec Yeovil

Week of the 4th April. Easter services/events TBC

Thursday 7th April. World Earth Day

Friday 8th April. Inset Day

Monday 25th April. Return to school for Summer Term

We would like to thank everyone in our school communities for their continued support and wish you all a peaceful and rejuvenating rest next week. We look forward to welcoming you all back **on Monday 28th February.**

Yours Sincerely,



Mr J Caswell & Ms L Stiddard
Co-Headteachers