

Norton & West Chinnock Schools

Learning Together for Excellence

www.nortonandwestchinnockschools.co.uk

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Co-Headteachers' Newsletter May 2022

Welcome to our half termly newsletter to help keep you updated of current news items, information about what is happening in the schools at a more strategic level and key dates for next half-term.

Highlights this half-term:

This has been one of the shortest half-terms ever and yet it has been jam packed with activity; from the children's magnificent dancing, Earth Week and forest school, the return of SATs, parents' evenings, a visiting theatre and the Queen's 70th Jubilee events of this week.

Just after Easter, groups from Norton and West Chinnock took the Octagon theatre by storm with their fabulous performances at Keri Hill's Primary Festival of Dance. We were so impressed with how well children represented the schools with their excellent behaviour as well as energy and enthusiasm. We have now received some great professional photos of the event which we will be sharing with parents.

Norton kicked off the term with Earth Week, organised by the Eco-Committee and with special thanks to Mrs Hallett. Each day of the week followed a theme; 'making time for the environment on Monday', 'turn-off the lights Tuesday' through to 'wear it wild for WWF Friday'! Children won prizes for re-purposing an object and awareness was raised through each focus of the week and we're really pleased that each class made enough money on the Friday to sponsor an endangered animal.

At West Chinnock, a whole day was set aside for Forest School Activities including preparing and cooking pizza in the cob oven - the Co-Headteachers had the delight of tasting a slice and seeing children of all ages enjoying the outdoors and working together on shared craft activities. Thank you Miss De La Hey for her energy and preparation in getting everything sorted for the day.

Last week, it was a pleasure to welcome the Wassail Theatre Company to Norton School and Village Hall with children in Years 2-6 from Norton and West Chinnock enjoying a

performance of a moving non-verbal play 'The Whispering Willows' and taking part in a drama/willow workshop. The play tells the story of Somerset farmer Morris who plants, harvests and makes baskets from willow. One day he pulls up a particularly large piece of Willow with a girl clinging to the end of it! The play explores their world until the chaos of WW2 and the invention of plastic threatening to destroy the farm and their livelihoods. It was very well-received and the children (and staff) were spell bound by the performance, the use of willow puppetry and the sound effects.

This week, the schools have marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with learning through the week from History lessons and a timeline of the Queen's life, street parties, cake sales and Jubilee services. Highlights of the week at Norton have been the Jubilee Bake-Off and the service at the opening of the Jubilee Nature Garden where children sang the National Anthem with members of the community, a flag was raised and ribbon was cut on the beautifully restored kissing gate. At West Chinnock the children took part in a re-enactment of the Coronation service at the church with the Archbishop of Canterbury AKA the Rev Nick Clarke and today they are coming to school in red, white and blue and dressed as Kings and Queens.

Gold winners at Norton and West Chinnock!

We're delighted to be recognised for our commitment to sport with a School Games Mark Gold Award. The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their schools and into the community. A huge well done and thank you to our Sports Captains, Mrs Byrne, all of our sports coaches and our teams for their hard work in achieving this and to all the children and parents who always demonstrate their highest level of commitment and good spirit to the great sporting opportunities on offer at our schools.

We're looking forward to receiving our Gold Plaques which will take pride of place!

Compassion:

We launched our half-termly core value with the theme of 'putting yourself in someone else's shoes' and showing Compassion.

During a Governor monitoring visit this half-term, pupils, when questioned about school values, enthusiastically described all of the schools' values and could recount an impactful assembly which focused on Compassion. We have been greatly impressed with how this value, and our other core values like Aspiration, are being lived out by children at the schools.

Our vision is to celebrate these values more prominently at the entrance of the schools with new displays.

School Development Updates:

We continue apace with key improvements to our provision in the schools.

1. Reading:

Staff thoroughly enjoyed their training day on our phonics scheme 'Read, Write, Inc' and we are continuing to see the positive impact of this joined up approach. We will soon have a development day where an outside specialist will visit the schools, look at our groupings

and data and carry out some side by side coaching with staff to further tweak, improve and develop our practice.

2. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):

Mrs Jaggard the SENDCO continues to work with staff and SEND pupils across the schools to ensure that they have the best support. She has brilliantly led staff meetings on this subject and is nearing completion of the SENDCO National Qualification.

Please see our SEND information and Policy which is on the website.

<https://www.nortonandwestchinnockschools.co.uk/learning/send.htm>

3. Curriculum:

Earlier this term a group of our staff were able to visit primary schools in North Somerset to see how they are making the most out of their outdoor learning environments especially in the Early Years. It was an eye opening and big idea generating day with staff feeling very inspired with how we can better use and improve learning in our outdoor areas at Norton and West Chinnock.

Curriculum Leaders have been reviewing how pupils progress in each subject looking at the implementation across the two schools of what we have called our 'Golden Threads' of knowledge from our Early Years to Year 6. For example, in Computing, how children's understanding of Programming develops through their time at school with each year of knowledge building purposefully to the next. We will be updating the curriculum pages on the website to provide more detail of our curriculum at a subject level.

Sunny weather

Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for sunny weather. Sun cream should be applied before school. Please ensure your child always brings in a named water bottle and a sun hat on hot days.

Clubs

Clubs continue next half-term as this half-term including during the first week back after the break.

[Norton Clubs](#)

[West Chinnock Clubs](#)

Governor Vacancies

Please [click here](#) to find out more about being a Governor. Would you, or someone you know, be interested to become a Governor at our wonderful schools?

If you have any spark of interest in this role, please contact the Clerk to Governors by email lclark@educ.somerset.gov.uk to arrange an informal chat in the first instance.

Things to look forward to next term.

June

Week of June 6 th	Phonics Screening
June 6 th	Year 2 Cricket Festival
June 6 th	Tennis at Martock (selected Year 4 team)
June 7 th	Norton Year 3 at Yeovil Town Football event
June 10 th	Millfield Athletics Years 3-6 from 4pm. Sign up information will follow first week back.
Week of June 13 th	Parent Forum Meetings
June 15 th	West Chinnock new Year R information evening
June 16 th	Norton new Year R information evening
June 21 st	Rounders Team at Bucklers Mead 12.45 -4.00 pm
June 22 nd -24 th	Year 5 and 6 Residential to Charterhouse
June 26 th	Swiss students arrive
June 27 th	Stanchester 'Wow Day' for Year 5
June 28 th	West Chinnock PFA breakfast fundraiser and concert (date TBC)
June 28 th	School Photographer. Norton morning, West Chinnock afternoon Class photos/Year 6 Leaver photos
June 29 th	Longleat trip. Class 1 Norton and Years R, 1, 2, 3 & 4 West Chinnock
Throughout June	Multiplication Check Year 4

July

Week of 4 th July	Transition days for children to spend time with new teacher and classmates if transitioning to another class
July 6 th	Norton Class 1 and 2 Sports Day
July 6 th	Stanchester Induction Day
July 7 th	Norton Class 3 and 4 Sports Day
July 8 th	West Chinnock Sports Day
Week of July 11 th	Junior plays and productions. Dates and times to be confirmed.
July 11 th and 12 th	Beaminster Induction Days
July 13 th	Back up date for Norton Class 1 and 2 Sport Day
July 14 th	Back up date for Norton Class 3 and 4 Sport Day
July 15 th	Norton Class 2 trip to Somerset Museum, Taunton.
July 15 th	Back up date for West Chinnock Sport Day
July 18 th	Yeovil Singing Festival
Week of July 18 th	Pupil annual reports
July 20 th	Leavers' Services: 2pm Norton Church 4pm West Chinnock Church
July 22 nd	Last day of term. Early finish (2pm)

Other sporting fixtures will be confirmed as soon as we know.

Thank you

As always, we would like to thank our school communities; our staff, volunteers, governors, parents, village communities and, of course, the children for their ongoing and continued support in making our schools places where children can be happy, safe, thrive and learn together.

Have a very restful week, we wish for good weather and hope you enjoy the extended Jubilee Bank Holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 6th June 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