

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

## Curriculum

### Number Day

Today we celebrated NSPCC's Number Day. Schools, organisations, and individuals across the UK come together on this day to participate in various math-related activities and raise funds to support the NSPCC's crucial work. There were some great numerical ideas on show for our 'Dress up for digits' theme and the children enjoyed a variety of maths puzzles, games and challenges.



### School Council visit

The school council visited the Houses of Parliament on Thursday. We were given a guided tour through both the Houses of Commons and the Houses of Lords, which included sitting in on some live debates. We also practised having a debate ourselves where we had to agree or disagree with a proposed law. The children learnt lots about the history of Parliament and will share what they have learnt in assembly after half term.

*Mrs Souques*



### Sports Hall Athletics

Year 5 had a fantastic morning at Forest school taking part in the indoor athletics. The children ran, jumped and threw in a range of track and field activities. They demonstrated a great sense of team work and support for each other and we came 7th overall out of 11 schools.

*Mrs E Wright*

### Sports events

We will no longer be sending paper copies of letters for invitations to sporting events. Invites will be sent via Parentmail with a Microsoft Form attached. Please still endeavour to respond to event invitations if your child cannot/does not want to attend and see your child's class teacher if you have problems with transportation.

*Mrs E Wright*





### Volunteer readers

Thank you to all our parent volunteers who come into school regularly to hear children read. This is very beneficial to many children and we would love to hear from any parents and grandparents who would like to help in school. Any time, however small, would be appreciated so please contact the office or your child's class teacher to find out more.

### Keeping in touch

We are proud of our 'open door' policy and many parents appreciate how accessible all staff are. This is a reminder about who to contact regarding specific issues. If you have a concern, please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance as most concerns can be dealt with successfully in this way. Our office staff; Mrs Moloney, Mrs Brewster and Ms Valero are able to make appointments for the Head Teacher and all other staff members.



If you have a question about...	Please ask to see or contact...
.. your child in their class	Your child's class teacher in the first instance
.. other Early Years/Y1 matters	Mrs Wright, EYFS/Y1 Phase Leader
.. other Y2/Y3 matters	Miss Swift, Y2 & Y3 Phase Leader
.. other Y4, Y5 & Y6 matters	Mr Hudspith Y4, Y5 & Y6 Phase Leader
.. SEN, Pupil Premium and Inclusion	Mrs Brooks, Assistant Head teacher
... other pupil related matters	Mrs Davies, Deputy Head teacher
.. Hot school meals	Chartwells <a href="mailto:enquiries@chartwells.co.uk">enquiries@chartwells.co.uk</a> Tel <a href="tel:08009176818">0800 917 6818</a>

Staff will aim to respond to communication between 8:00am-5:00pm, however please be aware they will be unable to view or respond to emails during teaching time. We will strive to respond within 48-hours (2 working days). In line with promoting staff wellbeing and helping our staff find a suitable work-life balance, staff may work around other responsibilities and commitments and respond outside of these hours, but they are not expected to do so.

### Safeguarding - parking

Please could parents park safely and responsibly in Holbrook School Lane, especially respecting our neighbours' access to their property by avoiding parking over driveways. A reminder that Tythe Barn and St. Mark's Church both have car parks where families can Park'n'Stride to school, which helps reduce congestion and contribute to children's daily amount of exercise. Thank you.



**Smartwatches** – a reminder that children may wear a simple watch to school to help them learn to tell the time (providing this doesn't cause distractions to learning). However, some smart watches can take photographs and are not suitable for school due to this feature, which raises privacy and safeguarding concerns. If your child has one of these watches, then please ensure that they are not worn to school. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### Early Years and Childcare

The national wraparound childcare programme is part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget. The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8.00am to 6.00pm,

so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation. This programme will only focus on primary school-aged children from Reception to Year 6, Monday to Friday during term-time. Have your say via this link to the [parent survey](#) which is open until 2 February 2024.

## Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is 'What makes someone inspirational?' – see below.



## In the news this week



45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. Maria del Mar Galcerán Gadea is thought to be the first person with the genetic disorder to join a European regional or national parliament. She has been involved with politics since she was 18, when she joined Spain's conservative People's Party. Speaking to the media, Mar Galcerán said she wants to be seen as a person, and not for her disability.

**Things to talk about at home ...**

- > Make a list of people you find inspirational. What about them inspires you?
- > Think about some of the places you find leaders (e.g., schools, councils, clubs). For each place, how are the leaders chosen? Share how important you think it is for leaders to be from a diverse range of backgrounds and with different experiences.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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### CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES

CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
8th February 2024	19th February 2024
15th February 2024	26th February 2024
22nd February 2024	4th March 2024
29th February 2024	11th March 2024
7th March 2024	18th March 2024

### Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

Spring 2024	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book day

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes



Ian Holmes

