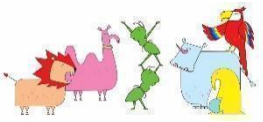
Charfield Chatter

Funky Falcon
Kool Kestrel
Cyril Chatterbox
Magic Merlin

CHARFIELD SCHOOL

Working together.... Learning for life



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Newsletter 2

9th October 2026

Dear families,

We have been enjoying the autumn sunshine at school over the last two weeks. Lots of children have been enjoying exploring the leaves changing colour, collecting conkers and spotting changes in the forest. As the weather begins to get a little colder and wetter, please ensure your child brings a coat to school as we head outside for playtimes whatever the weather.

We are working hard to reduce the amount of lost property we have in school. We know lost items are frustrating for families and we aim to check the corridor areas at the end of every day to return missing items! Please help us by ensuring all your child's items are named - including water bottles.

Caterpillars joined us for Silver assembly today, they were all excited to be in the hall with everyone and I was so impressed with their brilliant listening skills. They are also experts at the Charfield clap.

This term the children have been thinking hard about what makes them a special person. The class displays are looking fabulous and really showcase each child as an individual - see my separate photos on class dojo.

In assembly this week we have discussed the ways we are responsible in school. We have focused on new pupil groups who will be leading changes in our school - see more information further down this newsletter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Engley
Head Teacher

OPEN DAYS for children starting school in September 2027

We look forward to welcoming perspective families into our school for a tour and presentation on:

Wednesday 21st October at 1.30pm Monday 9th November at 9.30am Friday 27th November at 9.30am
Tuesday 1st December at 9.30am and 1.30pm

The application deadline for primary places is 15th January 2027.

Clubs

We are really keen to offer a wide variety of enrichment opportunities for the children at our school. We are very lucky to be able to offer the chance for children to take part in Sports clubs twice a week, we have Rocksteady music club and piano, guitar and flute music lessons - ask the office for more information on any of these clubs.

Miss Henwood runs our school choir club for pupils joining us at the Young Voices event, this is weekly on a Tuesday.

Our school football club for pupils in Y5 and Y6 will begin on Friday 16th October. This will take place at lunchtime. We will join matches and tournaments across the year, information will be shared about these events as they come up. If your child would like to join the football club please complete this form: https://forms.gle/rKQxUNhp2aoWdHHP7

We will share our Term 2 club information in the last newsletter of this term and they will begin week commencing 02/11/2026.

Pupil Voice Groups

The children at our school are really keen to make positive changes to ensure our school is the very best it can be! We have launched our new pupil voice groups in assembly this week.

House Captains were elected last week and they will be providing a termly update to class dojo on things that are happening in school.

School Council has been elected this week and they will be working with Mrs Engley to think about ways to improve our school community and to plan exciting events.

Sustainability Squad - Pupils joining this team will work with Mr Watkins to help us reduce energy waste and ensure our school site is clean and tidy. There will be a litter picking team and a team focussing on recycling.

Opal Squad - Pupils in this team help Mrs Milmine to ensure our OPAL resources are looked after and that everyone has plenty to use at playtime.

Reading Ambassadors - Pupils are joining Mrs Colman to focus on ensuring our library is a great place to go to read. They will be setting up reading buddies and maybe planning author visits.

Inclusion Team - Pupils in this team will be supporting Mrs Lindsay and Mrs Macklin to ensure everyone is included in our school. They will be working on our anti-bullying policy and friendship buddy system.

Hall helpers - Pupils in this team are supporting younger children at lunchtime, helping them carry things to their tables and ensuring they have water to drink.

Your children are so excited to be taking on responsible roles in school, we can't wait to see what every team achieves this year.

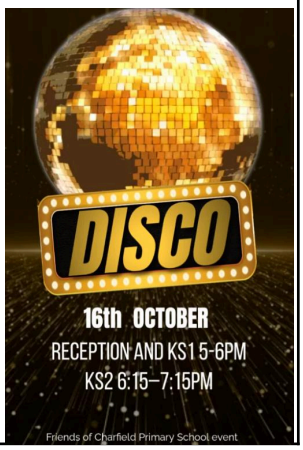
News from the Friends

The Friends are busy planning lots of exciting events to take place across the year.

We hope your child can join the disco this term, tickets are on sale now!

http://www.pta-events.co.uk/charfield/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=116450

More dates coming soon for Term 2 events.



Curriculum Information from Mr Galsworthy, Deputy Headteacher

Writing – How we do it

At Charfield, writing is taught through a phased approach using a high-quality picture book to inspire the children. Each picture book is age-appropriate and often linked to theme children are learning about in their foundation work. Across a term, children will work towards writing a fiction piece and a non-fiction piece. Different genres within these are planned across the year.

Phase 1 is the immersion phase where children explore their key text and the genre they are writing in.

Phase 2 is when children learn and apply the grammar and techniques they need for the genre.

Phase 3 is the writing phase where children plan, write and edit a final piece.

In EYFS and Year 1 a slightly different approach is taking called drawing club…

Safeguarding and family support information from Mrs Fletcher, Family Liaison Officer

Parenting and family support

Family Lives website offers an online and innovative 'Parents Together Programme'. You can work through six interactive blocks filled with helpful techniques and ideas designed to help you become a more confident parent. https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses

The NSPCC website contains parenting tips for all stages of a child's life, as well as advice on how to deal with difficult situations, including how to manage tantrums, and dealing with separation and divorce. https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/?utm_old=supportparents

Action for Children's website contains expert advice on topics such as child's development, behaviour and emotional wellbeing. https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-we-can-help/get-parenting-support/

Inclusion Information from Mrs Lindsay, Inclusion Leader

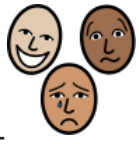
MHST Mental Health Support Team

At Team Charfield, we will be welcoming **Erin Winstanley**, who works as part of the **Mental Health Support Team** for Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust to our school **fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons**. Erin is a whole school practitioner and she will be working with **all classes** to explore themes such as 5 ways to wellbeing and understanding emotions.
Erin will also work with **small groups** to explore areas such as anxiety and how to manage transitions. If your child is part of the small group work, your child's class teacher will inform you. If you think your child could benefit from support in the following areas below, please inform your child's class teacher.

5 Ways to Wellbeing
In this session, we explore the 5 key areas that have been identified to help improve wellbeing: Connect, Get Active, Take Notice, Learn, and Give. The session aims to inform the audience about these 5 areas, building up their understanding of wellbeing, and provide useful tips for introducing these into everyday life.

An Introduction to Anxiety
This session covers what anxiety is and our body's response to anxiety, focusing on our thoughts, feelings, physical sensations and behaviours. We normalise that everyone gets anxious while exploring when anxiety can be unhelpful and what keeps it going. As well as learning about anxiety, children will gain some strategies for managing and overcoming anxiety.

An Introduction to Low Mood
Low-mood can have an impact on the way that we think, feel and what we do. This session uses psychoeducation to explore the 'vicious cycle of low mood', as well as introduce strategies that can help to break this cycle. We explore how our behaviours i.e. the things we do or do not do can impact our thoughts and the way that we feel. We then consider how increasing our activities in a meaningful way can have a positive impact on our mood and overall wellbeing.



Understanding Emotions: Tools to Thrive
Big feelings can feel overwhelming and scary. Often this can mean that children find it difficult to communicate how they are feeling in a healthy way. This session provides psychoeducation around big feelings. It explores what 'big feelings' are, why a child might experience these, and introduces some
practical strategies and tools to help with managing big feelings in a healthy way.

Exam Wellbeing

In this session, we focus on stress caused by exams (or SATs in primary school) and how to support our wellbeing to prevent stress overload. We go over the signs of stress and how to spot when things are building up, while sharing practical tips for supporting relaxation and wellbeing during the exam period.

Transition and Change

Transitions can come with lots of uncertainty. Sometimes this can make children and young people feel anxious and worried. This session provides psychoeducation around coping with change, as well as some practical strategies to navigate big changes. The session focuses on key transition points such as moving to secondary school.

Erin will be delivering a **whole school assembly Wednesday 14th October** to introduce herself to the children before she starts working with them.

We are looking forward to welcoming Erin to our team.

If you would like any more information, please visit their website. s://www.otrbristol.org.uk/what-we-do/mhst/

As part of their support, parents and carers can access weekly webinars.

NHS
Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

Mental Health Support Team

Online Parent/Carer Workshop

What is it?

It is an hour long workshop aimed at parents & carers to understand your child, and gain some tips and tricks to use at home.

There are 2 topics this month:

INTRODUCTION TO ANXIETY

Monday
12pm-1pm

Gain an understanding of anxiety, how it may impact your child and learn some strategies to use at home

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS: TOOLS TO THRIVE

Wednesday
12pm-1pm

To learn about the function of emotions, what can impact children's ability to manage emotions and gain some tools to support your child at home.

What happens next? You will receive an email with options and instructions.

Topics of workshops change termly

To sign up, please complete a registration form here: MHST Online Session

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. MHSTs were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers. To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.

MHST
Tools to thrive

School Nurse drop in Coffee Morning-Thursday 22nd October 9-10am (more information to follow)

Cycle 1-My Plan Meetings with class teachers Monday 12th October- Wednesday 21st October. Class teachers will contact you to arrange a meeting.

Free School Meals

We are aware that family circumstances can change at any time so we keep this item in our newsletter.

If you're on a qualifying benefit, applying for free school meals makes sense for your child, your finances and your school! You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

You will also be helping our school, as we get extra funding that's called Pupil Premium Funding, to improve educational outcomes.

Applying is a simple process and will only take a couple of minutes.

This flyer explains more about applying for benefits-related free school meals and the extra help it offers your child and family. Or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please apply if you qualify, we can offer help to complete the online form if needed, just let us know.

Dates		
Term 1		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Friday 16th October	Gold Assembly – Parents to attend contacted on 09/10	14:30
Wednesday 21st October	Open Day Tour for Prospective EYFS 2027 Parents	13:30
Term 2		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Monday 2nd November	INSET Day	
Monday 2nd November	Year 6 Residential Week Begins	
Wednesday 4th November	Flu Vaccinations	
Monday 9th November	Open Day Tour for Prospective EYFS 2027 Parents	09:30
Wednesday 11th November	Year 1 Butterflies Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week Starts – Odd Socks Day	
Tuesday 17th November	Early Parents' Evening	15:30-17:30
Wednesday 18th November	Book Fair Begins	15:15
Thursday 19th November	Late Parents' Evening	16:00-19:00
Monday 23rd November	Year X Swimming Week Starts Final Day of Book Fair	

Wednesday 25th November	Year 2 Grasshoppers Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Friday 27th November	Open Day Tour for Prospective EYFS 2027 Parents	09:30
Tuesday 1st December	Open Day Tours for Prospective EYFS 2027 Parents	09:30 & 13:30
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 4 Ladybirds Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Thursday 10th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performances	09:30 14:00
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch	
Monday 14th December	Gold Assembly – Parents to attend contacted on 07/12	14:30
Friday 18th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert Performances	09:30 14:00
Term 3		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Monday 4th January	INSET Day	
Monday 11th January	Young Voices Concert	
Tuesday 12th January	Open Day Tour for Prospective EYFS 2027 Parents	09:30
Wednesday 13th January	Year 5 Dragonflies Class Assembly & Open Class Year 6 SATS Parents' Information Evening	15:00 17:30
Wednesday 20th January	EYFS Caterpillars Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Wednesday 27th January	Year 6 Bumblebees Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Monday 1st February	Children's Mental Health Week begins	
Wednesday 3rd February	Year 3 Beetles Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Friday 5th February	Gold Assembly– Parents to attend contacted on 29/01	14:30
Tuesday 9th February	Safer Internet Day	
Term 4		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Monday 22nd February	INSET Day	
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day	
Monday 15th March	Neurodiversity Week Begins Year X Swimming Week Starts	
Tuesday 16th March	Year 5 Taster Day at KLB Late Parent's Evening	 16:00-19:00
Thursday 18th March	Early Parents' Evening	15:30-17:30
Friday 19th March	Gold Assembly - Parents to attend contacted on 12/03	
Friday 26th March	Good Friday – School Closed	
Term 5		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Monday 12th April	INSET Day	
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday – School Closed	
Wednesday 5th May	Year 2 Grasshoppers Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Monday 10th May	SATS Week for Year 6 begins	
Wednesday 19th May	Year 5 Dragonflies Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Friday 21st May	Gold Assembly – Parents to attend contacted on 14/05	14:30
Thursday 27th May	KS1 Sports Day Sports Day Picnic Lunch KS2 Sports Day	10:30 12:15 13:30
Term 6		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
Monday 7th June	INSET Day Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Fortnight Begins	
Wednesday 9th June	Year 1 Butterflies Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Monday 14th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week Begins	

Wednesday 16th June	Year 6 Bumblebees Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Thursday 17th June	New EYFS 2027 Parents' Evening	17:30
Wednesday 23rd June	Year 4 Ladybirds Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Thursday 24th June	Reserve Sports Day	
Friday 25th June	Moving Up Afternoon 1	
Wednesday 30th June	Year 3 Beetles Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Friday 2nd July	Moving Up Afternoon 2	
Wednesday 7th July	EYFS Caterpillars Class Assembly & Open Class	15:00
Friday 9th July	Moving Up Afternoon 3 Annual Reports sent via email	
Friday 16th July	Moving Up Afternoon 4 Gold Assembly – Parents to attend contacted on 09/07	 14:30
Monday 19th July	Year 6 Leavers' Production	
Friday 23rd July	End of school year	

2026-2027 Term Dates

CSET Trust has set the term dates for 2026/27. Please note there is a slight difference to South Gloucestershire set dates for the first day of term 1 and last day of term 6.

Term 1 - Thu 3 Sep – Fri 23 Oct 2026
Term 2 - Mon 2 Nov 2026 – Fri 18 Dec 2026
Term 3 - Mon 4 Jan 2027 – Fri 12 Feb 2027
Term 4 - Mon 22 Feb 2027 – Thu 25 Mar 2027
Term 5 - Mon 12 Apr 2027 – Fri 28 May 2027
Term 6 - Mon 7 Jun 2027 – Fri 23 Jul 2027

INSET days are set as follows:

Thursday 3rd September 2026
Friday 4th September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Monday 7th June 2027