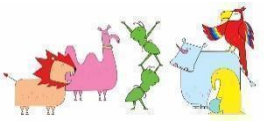
Charfield Chatter

Working together.... Learning for life



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Newsletter 3 23rd October 2026

Our fortnightly newsletter to families

Dear families,

Time flies when you are having fun! 7 weeks have whizzed by and term 1 is complete! We are really proud of how hard every class has worked this term. The **learning in books is looking great** and the children can tell me what they have worked hard on to improve. We have seen lots of children focusing really hard on their handwriting and spelling. Time table rockstars practise is also improving, thank you for your support with this at home.

We can't wait to meet with families in term 2 to share your child's progress and targets, we will share how to book for your **parent's evening meeting** at the start of next term.

Plans are really moving forward for the **school expansion project**, we hope to see many families at the drop in event on Tuesday 3rd NOvember, 4pm - 7pm. We would also appreciate more families completing the travel survey. Currently we have had 30 responses which is low. It only takes a few minutes to complete: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharfieldPupilParentTravelSurvey26

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 have spent time learning in the hall today as we emptied their classrooms ready for the refurbishment works. **Over the half term break all three classrooms will be fully redecorated and have new flooring fitted -** watch out for the before and after pictures on class dojo!

We said **goodbye and good luck** to Mr Galsworthy today, we wish him well in his future endeavours.

Don't forget Monday 2nd November is an INSET day so we will welcome children in YR - Y5 back on Tuesday 3rd November. Y6 we will see you on the INSET day as you head off to camp.

Have a **spooktacular** half term break. We look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

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 runs on a Friday lunchtime with tournaments organised across the year.

Additional clubs running in Term 2 are as follows:

Tuesday lunchtime - Jellycat club with Mrs Engley, all welcome.
Tuesday after school until 4pm - Dungeons and Dragons club with Mr Watkins, Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday lunchtime - Pokemon club with Mrs Nunn, Year 3 - Year 6.

Please sign up using this link:

https://forms.gle/FVCJY9oe1B5V2rSY9

Last chance to complete the Children's Commissioners survey

Children can complete The Big Future here:
https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture/

News from the Friends

A massive thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped make our school disco such a success! We are delighted to share that we raised an amazing £850!

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, volunteered their time, and supported us. A special well done to all the children too, who behaved so brilliantly and made the evening such a pleasure.

More dates coming soon for Term 2 events.

Curriculum Information from Mr Galsworthy, Deputy Headteacher

Maths – How we do it

At Charfield, our approach to maths is driven by the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM). This means children in Years 1-6 receive two maths sessions a day – their main maths session and mastering number. In EYFS, maths is taught through a session of mastering number.

Main Maths Session

The main maths session comes from NCETM's teaching spine. Each class' maths curriculum is organised into units and uses a small steps approach. This means maths is broken down as much as possible to help children build their understanding slowly, leading to greater confidence. Teachers adapt the NCETM materials to suit their class and use a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach. This means that when children are learning a new concept, they initially use physical materials as representations such as dienes, counters or unifix cubes and move on to using pictorial representations of these. Concrete and pictorial representations are always accompanied by the abstract representation – using digits, until children are confident enough to use the abstract representation alone.

Mastering Number

Mastering number sessions are short, snappy, daily maths activities focussed on key number facts, initially with addition and subtraction and moving on the multiplication and division, with place value a constant component of these sessions. In Year 4, there is a particular focus on times tables to help children prepare for the statutory multiplication tables check. In Year 6, children work through an arithmetic program, rather than mastering number to help them prepare for the Key Stage 2 SATS.

At home

Children have access to Numbots and/or TimesTables RockStars and should use these frequently.

We know maths can be a tricky subject for adults and children! We also know teaching methods and processes for certain skills change often over time and may not be the same as when you were in school. Please see your child(ren)s' class teacher if you want more information about any part of maths your child is struggling with and they will inform you about how it is being approached in school.

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/

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.

Attendance

High attendance is essential for all children, and it supports them to be successful in school. We expect all our students to have attendance of at least 97%. This is to ensure that they don't miss out on essential learning, which might hold them back in the future.

Being on time to school is also extremely important. Mornings are the time when the routines for the school day take place, making sure that the students are set up to be successful in their learning for the rest of the day. Children who are regularly late miss out on these important interactions. If your child is more than half an hour late for school, they are deemed to have missed morning registration, and are marked absent.

Of course, we understand that sometimes children will get bugs which mean that they cannot attend school. If your child is really too ill to attend school, we ask that you do the following:

- Let us know as soon as possible that your child will not be in school by emailing the absence email address or calling the absence line. In your message, let us know your child's name, tutor group, why they are not in school and when you expect them to return. **Do this every day that your child is too ill to attend.**
- Don't allow your child to stay home for minor sniffles or coughs – if you are unsure the NHS website provides some helpful advice: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

If your child needs a medical or dental appointment, please make it out of school hours if you can. If you are unable to make an appointment after school or in the holidays, try to make it either early morning or as late in the school day as possible, so that your child misses as little learning as possible.

Any requests for absence during term-time require you to complete an absence request form, these are available from the office and contain information about the legal processes we follow if unauthorised absence is taken.

Please let us know if your child has an on-going medical condition, so that we can try and offer as much support as possible.

To support your school's high attendance, the school will do the following:

- Keep you informed of your child's attendance rate.
- Let you know if we have concerns about your child's attendance.
- Invite you in for a meeting if your child's attendance falls to 90%. 90% attendance means that your child is missing an average of a half day's education every week and is highly likely to fall behind with their learning.
- Work with other agencies such as education welfare if we feel that you would benefit from additional support.

As with all aspects of your child's education, working in partnership between home and school is the best way of supporting your child. Please do let us know if you have any concerns that might be affecting your child's attendance at school.

Inclusion Information from Mrs Lindsay, Inclusion Leader

If you missed our school nurse drop in, Olivia from the nursing team, will be around during Parents' Evening, **Tuesday 17th November until 5.20pm,** for you to see what support the school nursing team has to offer and to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

If your child has special educational needs or disabilities, you know better than anyone how important it is that change is carefully planned and managed. With nationwide reforms of SEND support within education in development, it is important more than ever to understand how services are working right now.

As your local parent carer forum, South Glos Parent Carers (SGPC) want to understand how well the different parts of the system work for you - whether that's education, health or social care services. Whether your child has a diagnosis or not, your voice is important.

👥 **Who can take part?**
All parents and carers of a child or young person aged 0 – 25 with any additional need or disability - diagnosed or not.

🕒 **Key details:**
✔ One survey per child or young person
✔ Completely confidential
✔ **Closes midnight, Sunday 6th December**
✔ May take up to an hour

Your time is precious, but an investment in sharing your voice now will truly help SGPC to represent local SEND families as we journey through SEND reforms.

SGPC values your time in sharing your views and experiences and as a thank you, **parent carers who complete the survey can enter a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher** (one entry available per family).

Brought to you by South Glos Parent Carers
https://sgpc.org.uk/our-surveys

Dates		
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 5 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 4 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
Monday 21st June	Year 6 Swimming Week Starts	
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