



Ditchheat Primary School Weekly Newsletter - 26th January 2022

This newsletter can also be viewed on our school website:
<http://ditchheatprimary.co.uk/>

Headteachers update

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new" - Socrates.

Dear lovely families,

I am really delighted to tell you that Christine Bates, currently working in Cherry Class as a Teaching Assistant, will be the teacher in Cherry from Easter. She is a fully qualified teacher, and she took on the TA role to help us out. She already knows the children really well, and is a part of our school family, so it is the very best solution.

Alex Shrimpton will be taking on the Teaching Assistant hours currently covered by Christine. Again, it will help to keep continuity for Cherry as they know her well too.

I know Rose will be working hard with them after February half term to plan for a very smooth transition.

Our wonderful Kate Knowles will be leaving us after half term. It is a measure of a great school when someone is able to develop their skills so that they can progress their career. We have been lucky to have her for nine years. She will be the Office Manager at Keinton Mandeville School. We are delighted for her and very proud too, though of course very sad to have to say goodbye.

All lovely news, so you may wonder why the quote at the top. I know that this is already a time of change for our school, and change will always make people feel anxious. I just wanted to reassure you that these changes are part of the natural life of a school, and in no way reflective of how our staff feel about our potential changes going forward. I have been invited by the Governing Board to stay as Headteacher until the end of the Summer Term. I am looking forward to leading the school during this time, and to ensuring that whatever path is taken, our children have the best experience both now, and going into the future.

Well done to the RED team. They had the most points last half term, so are invited to wear Mufti this Friday!

I am very excited to say that from next Tuesday, we will have Saplings, a toddler group, in the school hall. Steph Parry has kindly agreed to run the group. It will run from 9am to 11 am every Tuesday. The cost, to cover refreshments, will be £2 per family.

I think that is quite enough excitement for one week. Roll on the lighter nights and the Spring flowers.

With my very warmest wishes,

Michelle Heap
Interim Headteacher

Attendance Last Week			
Cherry	Maple	Holly	Willow
95.1%	99.4%	97.9%	93.4%
Whole School Attendance for 2021-2022 = 95.6%			

Yoga club

Rosie will be on holiday for the next 2 weeks so unfortunately Yoga Club will not run on Tuesday 25th January and Tuesday 1st February. Sorry for any inconvenience.

FoDS News

The donations have been collected and raffle money counted - Thank you again Mrs Heap for sacrificing sleep, warmth, and comfort for our toilets!! The grand total raised was £630. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We have announced the next couple of events, which (all being well) we plan to host during March.

The first is the 90s Disco (over 18s only) which will be at the Jubilee Hall in Ditchheat on Saturday 5th March. Tickets are £10 (£8 if purchased in advance). More information available on our [Facebook Page](#)!

We have also scheduled our next Bag2School collection which will be on Wednesday 30th March. As always, please bring along any unwanted and outgrown clothing by 9am on the morning of the 30th. They will accept; clothes, bags, belts, shoes, jewellery, scarfs, coats and soft toys and we will be paid by the kg.

We are still running our School Lottery, for just £1 per week you will be entered to 3 separate draws:

- £25,000 national jackpot
- local draw (prize depends on number of tickets sold) guaranteed to be won by a FoDS supporter
- The special prize for this quarter - A family forest staycation

Finally, we really appreciate the support we have had this year. We know it's not always possible to contribute financially but remember there are some things you can do which will cost you nothing extra - pop us an email or grab one of the team for more information:

Easyfundraising.org - we receive donations when you make online purchases - including donations on your online food shopping!

[Empties Please](#) - donate your used ink toners and cartridges into the cardboard box in reception at school.

[AmazonSmile](#) - nominate us as your cause when making purchases from Amazon.

For more information you can follow our [Facebook Page](#) or email friendsofditcheat@gmail.com

Key Dates

January

- Friday 28th - Holly at Carymoor - 9am-3pm
- Monday 31st - Willow Class Swimming
- Monday 31st - Deposit due for Willow Class Residential

February

- Tuesday 1st - NO Yoga club
- Friday 4th - Holly at Carymoor - 9am-3pm
- Monday 7th - Willow Class Swimming
- Friday 11th - Holly at Carymoor - 9am-3pm
- Monday 14th - Willow class Swimming
- Monday 14th - LAST Football club
- Tuesday 15th - LAST Yoga club
- Wednesday 16th - LAST Conservation club and LAST Ditcheat University Club
- Thursday 17th - LAST Multi-Skills club
- Friday 18th - Holly at Carymoor - 9am-3pm - LAST SESSION
- Friday 18th - LAST day of term

February Half Term - Monday 21st - Friday 25th February

- Monday 28th - Back to school
- Monday 28th - Willow Class Swimming
- Monday 28th - Installment due for Willow Class Residential

March

- Friday 4th - Cherry and Maple - Carymoor at school