



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of term is now upon us, it is time to reflect on what has been a really successful few weeks. Our run up to Christmas has included students visiting a food bank in Wells along with Mr Jones, our RAG Week in the Sixth Form which has raised a substantial amount of money whilst having lots of fun and the chance for the main school to attend school not wearing their uniform which again has raised money for charity. We have spoken with the students about this being a time for giving and supporting - I hope a few volunteer their services to wash up after your Christmas lunch!

Year 7 students visited St Andrew's Church in Chew Magna earlier in the week to visit a place of worship in the run up to Christmas. Well done to all of the students who supported this in a variety of ways.

We have also been celebrating students' achievements. Some students had the opportunity to visit the cinema as a reward for their endeavours whilst others took part in the annual Chew's Got Talent in the Hall which was lovely to watch. The Sixth Form always look to celebrate this run up to Christmas with their debating afternoon which takes place every year where some brilliant performances took place under the watchful eye of Mr James, our Head of English, as the Chair.

Uniform When we Return in January

Can I give advance notice that we will be monitoring students' uniform once more when we return to school in the new year. Can I ask that, although I am conscious that the Christmas period is very busy, you look to spend just a small amount of time making sure that uniform is correct in advance of this. Please do check on the school website if you have any uniform queries.

In the new term, we will also be focusing on several aspects around school attendance. We are aware that there have been a number of illnesses which have presented themselves over recent weeks and are grateful to parents and carers for keeping us informed. We will share the materials from our expectation assemblies in January with parents and carers in due course.

Term Dates 2026/27

We have already begun to receive enquiries regarding term dates for the following academic year. Traditionally we have always followed the set dates from Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) but for the academic year 2026/27 we are following the dates published by the Lighthouse Schools Partnership which differ to BANES by just one day. For clarification, the dates are as follows:

- Term 1 - Thursday 3rd September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026
- Term 2 - Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
- Term 3 - Monday 4th January 2027 to Friday 12th February 2027
- Term 4 - Monday 22nd February 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027
- Term 5 - Monday 12th April 2027 to Friday 28th May 2027
- Term 6 - Monday 7th June 2027 to Friday 23rd July 2027

INSET dates will follow shortly in 2026.

Return to School in January 2026

We will return to school in the new year on Monday 5th January.

Can I finish by wishing you and families a very happy Christmas.

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher