



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of our first week back during which we have welcomed our new Year 7 students to Chew Valley who have already made a really positive impression. Across the school it has been wonderful to finally have students studying their subjects in our departmental areas after our period of 'bubbles' and making full use of our canteen and the Hall as our dining area along with the rest of the school site.

We have taken the opportunity in our **start of year assemblies to be really positive with students around how they approached their learning last year**, both here and in their primary schools, and talk about our **high expectations** for them over the coming months. Staff have been really impressed with how the wider student body has returned and the way in which they have quickly focused on their learning. We have also talked about getting involved in clubs and activities and making the most of time at Chew Valley. In addition we have gone through our values in school particularly with regards to mutual respect and positive relationships.

On **Friday 17th September** we are going to run one of our **first House events** which is a **community run/walk/amble around the school site**. All students take part along with many of the staff. When previously run, it was a real success with the whole community supporting each other. The school day will finish at the usual time and the event will take place after lunchtime. On this day **students are to attend school all day in their PE kit**.

We have been using **Class Charts** this week; information for you to access this has been sent to parents and carers via Insight. Once you have the app, you will have full access to a number of functions including being able to view the homework set, behaviour and rewards. If you need further information, please refer to my letter dated the 3rd September which goes into more detail.

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended our Year 12 Parents' Information session yesterday where it was useful to confirm our continuing work with you. We have already written to all Year 7 parents and carers about arrangements for the **Year 7 Information Evening** which is taking place on **Thursday 16th September**; we are looking forward to meeting many of you there. In addition a separate letter has been sent to Year 7 parents and carers regarding the after-school activity taster sessions for students that evening. **Year 7 students attending these sessions are allowed to wear their PE kit all day on Thursday 16th September for school** (some also have PE lessons during the day).

We have an evening planned for **Year 10 and 11** parents and carers on **Tuesday 5th October** where we will be focusing on GCSE and other Level 2 course studies and how to support students through this. On **Thursday 7th October** we have an evening for parents and carers of all years to come and hear about how the school approaches the **important areas of relationships and sex education**. Details of these will follow.

Whilst students are able to be dropped easily for school in the morning, we are aware that at the end of the day things get busy with regards to cars and buses. Can I remind parents and carers that it may be easier to arrange to collect students from the rugby club car park which is 100m towards Chew Stoke and our thanks go to them for allowing us to use this. Can I respectfully ask that everyone is considerate in their actions as you will understand that student safety at this time has to be our priority.

I have put together a short film which covers a number of the areas in this letter which can be viewed [here](#).

May I remind you that we have our **third INSET day** of the year on **Friday 24th September** and students will not be on site.

COVID

Although the school has looked to return to some normality this term, we are working under our updated COVID risk assessment which can be viewed on our website. It is important to remind everyone that if any student has symptoms of COVID then a PCR test should take place.

For the COVID NHS guidance on when a child should attend or stay off school please see the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

For Coronavirus it specifies that a child should not attend school and be tested if they have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

In addition, the following detail is relevant for all parents and carers to read:

Home Testing

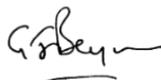
'At home' testing twice a week is still a very important part of our effort in preventing any spread of COVID-19 amongst the school community. Testing kits are still available from school as well as from other locations. Should a lateral flow test result be positive, students should seek a confirmatory PCR test. If this is negative they will be welcome to return to school. If it is positive then a period of isolation will need to be undertaken and NHS Test and Trace engaged with.

Close Contacts

As you will be aware, close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case will no longer have to self-isolate if they are under 18 years of age or have had both vaccines. Close contact tracing will now be undertaken by NHS Test and Trace. Anyone contacted by Test and Trace as a close contact is advised to get a PCR test as soon as possible; they do not need to isolate while awaiting this test or the result.

Can I wish you and your families a good weekend.

With very best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher