

Friday 15th September

Welcome to the family, classes of 2017!



This week we welcomed our brand new Chad Valers in reception, half of whom started on Monday and the rest on Wednesday. This year is a lovely mix of siblings (who have been desperate to start school for at least two years now) and lots of brand new members of our extended Chad Vale family. They have settled very quickly into school and have clearly been well prepared for the experience— well done parents! We look forward to watching them grow and learn over the next 7 years.

We are now well into the first term back, and although we still have building work going on, it's 'business as usual' in the classrooms. As a reminder to existing parents and for all new Chad Vale parents, this newsletter contains lots of important information and guidance about the school. Please do take the time to read it all, even if you are a seasoned Chad Valer. There are some updates to previous information shared in the past and some new information contained within this weeks newsletter.

Collecting children- please remember that you must inform the school office if someone other than the 'usual parent' is collecting your child. We cannot release your child to an unknown adult!

Thank-you for your co-operation on this matter.

Chad Vale Primary School Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

At Chad Vale Primary School we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents and carers. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Guidance

As well as following the guidance set out in our Home-School Agreement, we expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Follow our school's safeguarding procedures, ensure that everyone is protected from harm and **immediately** report anything that they believe is putting anyone at risk
- Respect and demonstrate the caring family ethos of our school in line with the School Code
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children
- Demonstrate that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Correct their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour
- Not raise concerns relating to members of staff in front of your children
- Park safely, legally and responsibly in our local community and to not use the school drive or turning circle when dropping off or collecting children at any time

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, office area or any other area of the school grounds including team matches
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent/carers or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence

Continued overleaf...



Chad Vale Primary School Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

...continued

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff at the school on Facebook or other social sites. Any concerns you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)
- Contacting other parents to gain information about other children in school
- Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs whilst on school property
- Dogs being brought on to school premises

How we will respond to behaviour that is unacceptable under this code of conduct

Should **any** of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school will establish the facts and attempt to remedy the situation through a meeting with a senior teacher. We will raise our concerns and gain reassurance that the conduct will not be repeated.

In some cases the School will seek the advice of the Local Authority before responding to the unacceptable conduct. This may lead to the School, or the Local Authority acting on behalf of the School, writing to the individual concerned to make it clear that their conduct is unacceptable and warn them that further action will be taken if it is repeated, which may result in the individual being barred from the school premises. The individual concerned is entitled to make representations to the School's Governing Board about the letter and the warning given.

Questions and concerns about this Code of Conduct

We are grateful for your support in maintaining our caring and safe environment; we welcome your feedback on this Code of Conduct and are willing to discuss any aspect that you may be unclear about.

The contact for questions and queries about the Code of Conduct is Paul Sansom (Head Teacher).

The School's published procedure for making complaints is available on our school website.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the wider Chad Vale Family.

This Code of Conduct is reviewed on a regular basis; the most up-to-date version can be found on the school website.

Thank-you to everyone who gave money to the Ubiaro family collection. Today we made a school donation of £300 towards their Go Fund Me appeal.

Chad Vale School Fund...

coming soon!



In March this year, we carried out a consultation with parents and carers about the idea of setting up a Chad Vale School Fund, where parents make a weekly donation to school. This money would be used to help enhance the facilities, equipment, materials and services that we can offer. Over 85% of the respondents said that they were willing to make a small weekly payment towards school fund and having discussed it with staff, parents and governors we are now almost ready to launch this initiative.

The School Fund account would be used to help pay for a variety of 'extras' that in the past have been covered by the whole school budget. As I'm sure you have read, school budget cuts are having a real impact across the country and we are trying hard to minimise this as best we can so that the children experience no difference in what we offer. To quote the government, there is 'no magic money tree' but pressure is building from the teacher unions, parent pressure groups and from MPs themselves to ensure that schools are funded fairly and equitably. We expect to see more on this over the coming months in the news.

Having discussed and consulted at length with parents we have decided to set up our school fund system as follows:

- A suggested payment of £2 per week, per child, payable in advance via cash, cheque or direct bank transfer
- You can donate more than £2, less than £2, or nothing at all. The donation is voluntary
- All monies paid will go into a separate account 'CV School Fund' and will be spent in line with the school ethos, values and to improve the experience for children at Chad Vale (see more below)
- The account will be independently audited every year and all spending plans will be shared with parents via the newsletter. The governing body finance committee will also have Chad Vale School Fund on their agenda as a standing item and will help to ensure that it is being spent according to the aims.

The Chad Vale School Fund will not (or cannot) be used for:

- Staffing costs, materials and equipment required to deliver the national curriculum or costs associated with the upkeep or utilities of the building or site

The Chad Vale School fund can or could be used for:

- Funding whole school/year group curriculum enhancement projects, educational licensing whereby children have access to special resources at home (e.g. Education City/Mathletics), enhancing school library or ICT facilities used by the children

The above examples are non-exhaustive and every application to spend funds from the account will be subjected to a number of 'tests';

- ◆ Is the spending in line with the school values and ethos?
- ◆ Does the spending benefit the children directly?
- ◆ Have alternative sources of funding for this spending been investigated?
- ◆ Has the principles of 'best value' been applied?
- ◆ Can we evidence the impact of this spending?

We are currently in the process of finalising the best way to receive payments for School Fund and are hoping to launch this officially after half term. If you have any questions please do email me on head@chadvale.bham.sch.uk. In the meantime, if you'd like to make any sort of donation our PPTA will gladly receive. We also this week received a donation from another parent of £1000, which will be going into our brand new School Fund account to start us of. We are blessed with such generous and thoughtful parents and really appreciate your support.

Diary Dates– please also check the online diary on our website

Tue 19 Sep 2017	3:45pm – 4:15pm	Year 4 Parent Meeting
Thu 28 Sep 2017	All day	Year 3 Trip to Frank Chapman Centre
Wed 11 Oct 2017	All day	Year 6 Chad Trip to Lapworth Museum
Thu 12 Oct 2017	All day	Year 6 Vale Trip Lapworth Museum
Mon 16 Oct 2017	4:00pm – 6:00pm	Parents' Evening
Wed 18 Oct 2017	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Parents' Evening
Thu 19 Oct 2017	4:00pm – 6:00pm	Parents' Evening
Fri 20 Oct 2017	All day	Break up for Half Term
Mon 30 Oct 2017	All day	Back to School for Children
Thu 2 Nov 2017	All day	School Photographs
Tue 5 Dec 2017	2:30pm – 3:00pm	Reception Nativity (Chad)
Wed 6 Dec 2017	2:30pm – 3:00pm	Reception Nativity (Vale)
Mon 11 Dec 2017	3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reception Christmas Workshop (Chad)
Tue 12 Dec 2017	3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reception Christmas Workshop (Vale)
Fri 22 Dec 2017	All day	School Breaks up for Christmas
Monday 8th January	All day	School closed– Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 9th January	All day	Back to school for children

How to stay in touch with us...

We have a variety of ways of keeping in touch and sharing information with you. This weekly newsletter is one of them! Please check that you are aware of the others below and please ask if you need any help:

School Website: www.chadvale.bham.sch.uk

School Twitter: www.twitter.com/chadvaleprimary

School Facebook: www.facebook.com/chadvaleprimary

School E-mail: enquiry@chadvale.bham.sch.uk

We use an electronic system called SIMS to record your child's attendance, achievements and behaviour. You can access this information about your child from home (or on the move) by registering for free access to the School Gateway app. To register, you will need to use the same email address and mobile phone number that we have on our system here. You can also make online payments for dinners, trips and our before and after school club through the School Gateway. For more information and to register and download the app, please visit: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>.

We use two electronic systems to record progress and achievement in school. For children in reception, we use the Early Excellence Tracker. You will be issued with a username and password for this so that you can access and add to your child's achievements and see how much progress they are making.

For children in Y1-6 we use School Pupil Tracker Online. This gives you information about achievement, progress and targets. Parents will be issued with an updated username and password in our October parent meetings but the ones you have had previously all should still work.

To contact your child's teachers, the easiest way is via email. All of the teacher's email addresses are on the school website. You can also contact the senior teachers in the same way. For the headteacher, please email: head@chadvale.bham.sch.uk and to get through on the phone, please call 0121 464 7329.

If you are worried or concerned about anything, please do get in touch as soon as possible; we can often allay fears or worries very quickly if we know about them; remember also that we have an 'open door policy', that means you are welcome in school at anytime. Please arrange any visits via the school office.



Harvest Festival

This year our Harvest Festival Celebrations will take place on Wednesday 27th September 2017. We would like to collect food and donate it to the Ladywood Food Bank.

Please ensure donations are non-perishable and with a good sell by date. Some of the items suggested include:

- milk (UHT or powder, preferably semi-skimmed),
- cereal (preferably not sugared),
- tinned soup, tinned veg, tinned fruit,
- fruit squash,
- pasta-cooking sauces,
- rice/sponge pudding (tin),
- tea bags, coffee.

By making a donation (however small), you will be making a significant difference to the lives of local people in need. Any contributions will be gratefully received.

Thank You,
Miss Haslam
(RE coordinator)

twinkl

www.twinkl.co.uk

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