

Charing CE Primary School

Weekly Newsletter



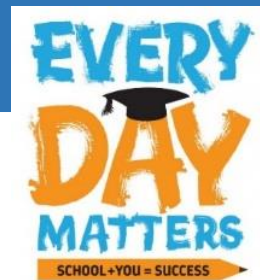
Friday 10th November 2023

Telephone: 01233 712277







Email: office@charing.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.charingschool.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharingPrimary/>



Attendance

 Rabbits	 Squirrels	 Otters	 Woodpeckers	 Badgers	 Owls
96%	93%	96%	90%	95%	86%
Whole School – 92.9%		Year to date – 93.2%		Target – 96%	

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Today we held the last of our school open days for the Reception intake next September. It was a fantastic opportunity to show off our school to so many prospective parents. The children as always made us hugely proud. They were polite, welcoming and didn't seem phased by more than 15 adults and small children too, wondering through their lessons.

We hope you have all seen the message regarding the 'Home School Agreement'. Please make sure you have acknowledged this via the Microsoft forms link and added any comments you would like to share. Your opinions are always valued as part of our school community.

Mr Bird and I spent Wednesday morning dropping into lessons and were hugely impressed with the behaviour and attitudes of our pupils. They were really enjoying their learning and showing off what they could do.

Compassion

Friendship

Forgiveness

Resilience

Hope

We are also excited to have just signed up to a new play initiative called 'Opal Play'. We will be introducing this in 2024 and much of the planning stage will be started within the next two months. 'Opal Play' is a programme which is designed to improve the quality of play at break and lunchtimes. It aims to give pupils more opportunities for collaborative play and creative expression by having more 'hands-on' things to do during this free time. If your children have ever said they miss the playground in Rabbits class, then this is exactly what we are hoping to recreate but for our older children. I'm really excited about this next stage in improving our school and I think it will give the children a great experience at break and lunchtimes.

We will need your help too, so please look out for requests to help with resourcing such things as tyres, wooden planks, building materials and many more. We will know more within the coming months.

Next Friday is Children In Need Day! The children can come to school wearing their own clothes but please be aware that PE and Forest School will still take place.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Mrs Ros Golden

COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION

John

Cherry

Anyia

Havana

Anna

Lily

Esmee

Abubaker

Oceane

Kaycie

Millie G

Lia

Anas

George

Junior

Lenny-John

Victoria

Trixie

Harry H

Charlotte

Ruth

Hugo

Joey

Isabelle

Tilly

Luchiana

Amos

Noah

Jasmine

Azaniyah

Audrey



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This Week in Worship

Our overall Theme to this term's Collective Worship is *Being Committed to...*

This week's focus has been committed to *Remembering*.

We have been thinking about Remembrance in different ways. We wondered why it is important to remember. We shared memories that made us feel happy and thought about sad memories too. Remembering is important because it is a link to the past that can affect the future.

We looked at a picture of a cairn and learned that it is a memorial, with stones added as an act of remembering.

Our Bible passage was from the Old Testament, Joshua: Chapter 4 verses 4 – 8.

The Israelites had finished crossing the River Jordan, when the Lord told Joshua to choose 12 men from each tribe to take up 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan river (where the Priests were carrying the Ark of the covenant, made with God) and place them where they stayed that night. This was to be a memorial to remember when the flow of the Jordan was cut off and the Israelites arrived safely on the other side. (This memorial is still there.)

We also spent time thinking about Remembrance Day and what it means. We thought about the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance. Wednesday and Thursday Worships were focused on Peace makers and how we can see our small but vital part in World Peace.



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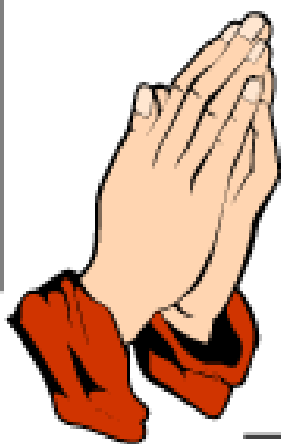
Dear Father God,

Thank you for our many happy
and positive memories which make
us who we are today.

Be with those who have sad
memories at this time of year.

Help us to remember that you are
always with us, by our side, to
guide us on our life's journey.

Amen.



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This week's poster about **MICROTRANSACTIONS** is at the end of the newsletter. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Hammond.



REMINDERS:

Payments for wrap around care:

If you have unpaid sessions, please ensure that these balances get cleared off by the end of term. Unpaid sessions will result in you losing your child's place at the club for term 3 and will be offered to other families. If you are experiencing problems in paying, please contact the school office.

Dinner Money:

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance. Our caterers will not allow a debt to build and as of next term, any unpaid accounts will result in your child not receiving a meal and you will need to provide a packed lunch.



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Christmas Events at Charing Village

There are lots of exciting events happening this month in the village. We are having a “Light Parade” from The Pavilion to the Market Place on Friday 24th November at 6pm.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto at the Church from 6pm. This year the grotto will be Santa’s Toy workshop.

There will also be a special post box for the children to send their letters by the grotto along with a craft fair in the Church Barn and an Adult and Children’s Tombola.

Food and Drink available and there will be a Disco in the Pavilion from 8pm.



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B&B COACHING
Be The Best



PLAYER

DEVELOPMENT

CENTRE

**2023 - 2024 Football
Season**

September 23 - June 24

Player Development Centre
Thursday Evening - Cornwallis Academy
Book now: maidstoneunited.co.uk/pdc

Girl's Player Development Centre
Monday Evening - The Gallagher Stadium
Friday Evening - Cornwallis Academy
Book now: maidstoneunited.co.uk/girlspdc

More information

Email: pdcc@maidstoneunited.co.uk

West End
in Schools



Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

© Disney

Join Beauty on her courageous journey to a mysterious castle, hidden deep in an enchanted forest.

As the audience share magical castle life with Beauty and the Beast, we help them learn the true meaning of friendship and fun in this re-imagined tale where both Beauty and the Beast are spell-bound in the castle.



**The Pantomime is coming to Charing CE Primary School
on**

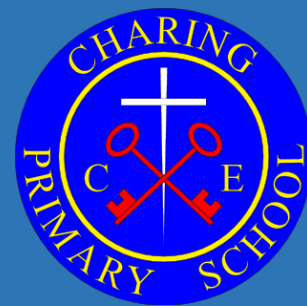
Tuesday 5th December 2023

Please note this performance is only for Ducklings, Rabbits, Squirrels, Otters

** Bookings to be made through MCAS*

Telephone: 01233 712277 Email: office@charing.kent.sch.uk





Date	Event
22nd November	Coffee Morning in Library from 2:30pm
29th November	Badgers Class event 2:15pm – 3:00pm Parents' Evening: 3.30pm -8pm
5th December	Ducklings, Rabbits, Squirrels and Otters Pantomime in school hall- PM
6th December	Whole school - Christingle service in the hall (parents welcome)- 2:30pm
7th December	Coffee Morning in Library from 2:30pm
8th December	All day - Woodpeckers, Badgers and Owls - Pantomime trip to Hazlett theatre
11th December	Ducklings, Rabbits, Squirrels and Otters - Breakfast with Santa- AM Woodpeckers, Badgers and Owls - Movie afternoon - PM
12th December	Ducklings and Rabbits - Nativity to school: 9.45am Whole school - Christmas fete: PM
13th December	Christmas service at the church- 9.20am Lunchtime - Whole School - Christmas dinner Ducklings and Rabbits - Nativity to parents: 2.15pm
14th December	Ducklings and Rabbits - Nativity to parents: 9.30am Squirrels and Otters - Christmas concert to parents: 11am and 2pm
15th December	Squirrels and Otters - Christmas concert to parents: 9.30am Term 2 ends

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday