

# Chadsgrove Newsletter



## Headteacher's Message

Well, I don't think I can ever remember a March quite as stressful as this last one in the history of my career! It all started with a broken mirror one cold Monday morning in the mobile, and then that same day, whilst practicing a fire drill, we had the Ofsted phone call! Ofsted arrived the next day and as you all know only too well, we had to close the school as we had no electricity for the day! Ofsted thankfully came back for day two to complete the inspection and how pleased I am now about that, in the light of the current situation, otherwise we could have been waiting for some time for an inspection that we were well ready for and wanted to get behind us! I would like to thank you all so much for the very positive comments on parent view and your support during the inspection, particularly with children going home halfway through day one! Our report has now been delayed, so we will have to wait some time for the formal grade, however, I can say that we are all very pleased with the outcome and feel that it is an accurate judgement for Chadsgrove.

This term we are saying goodbye to Liz Morgan who has worked at Chadsgrove as a teacher, then Assistant Headteacher for over 20 years! Liz has always been loyal and committed to her job, but it has never just been just a job for Liz, she always goes above and beyond and she has given so much to our school. Liz's passion shines through all she does with inclusion at the heart for children, their families and the wider community. Our discos will never be quite the same so we will have to invite her back to those! Liz has got a much deserved promotion as Deputy Headteacher at Wilson Stuart School in Birmingham and starts after Easter, however, I think this will be a virtual start using zoom technology! We wish Liz all the very best in her new role, Wilson Stuart are a very lucky school, and she will be sorely missed at Chadsgrove. Rebecca Gayden will be taking on the lead of Post 16 on a temporary basis alongside her leadership role at the College.

I would like to thank you all so very much for your support and understanding during this unprecedented time of crisis, you have been, as always, considerate and thoughtful in our mission to get the very best for your children through remote learning opportunities and a different means of communication. Please do let us know if you need any help or advice as we are still here working alongside you, even though we are not in school.

I hope you all have a good Easter holiday, although I am mindful that it will feel and be very different to other holidays that we have previously had, however, take time to enjoy being together and the opportunities that brings.

Deb Rattley

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## Chadsgrove School Values

**Welcoming Teamwork Friendship Trust Independence Fun**



## 2LS Making Mother's Day Cards

2LS have been having great fun using our feet to make a heart shape for our Mother's day cards. We hope you liked the finished cards.



## 3LS Celebrate Pancake Day

3LS love anything to do with food, so what better excuse than celebrating Pancake Day! We each had our own pancake to choose what toppings we would like, and to have a go at spreading toppings all by ourselves. Finally, the most important part... taste testing!



## 4LS Enjoying the Hydrotherapy Pool

In Hydrotherapy we have been learning to control our bodies when in the water, most importantly feeling calm, safe and happy. Look at how independent we are!





## PLANT SALE



### 5LS Money Plant and Bulb Sale.

A huge thank you to everyone who bought plants and bulbs for the children in 5LS.

We made a staggering £150 towards our interactive whiteboard fund.

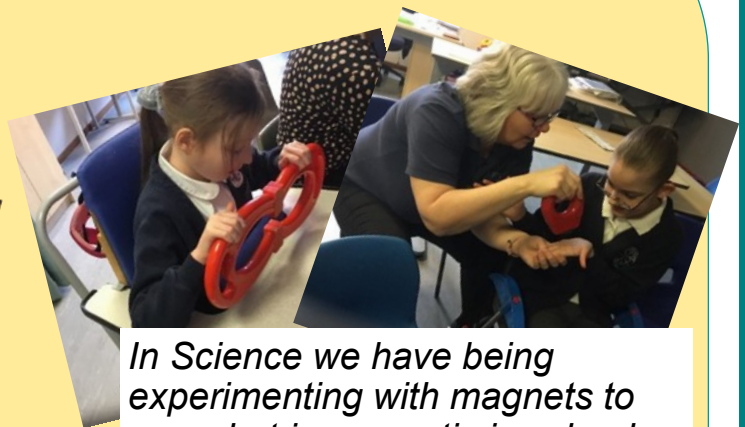
Thank you once again.



Congratulations to Joshua in 5LS for winning the Young Writers 500 Words Mini Saga competition. His story is to be published in a book with other stories coming out in June. There were over 12,000 entries!! Well done.

### 6LS Have been very busy and are looking forward to experiencing new and exciting opportunities next term

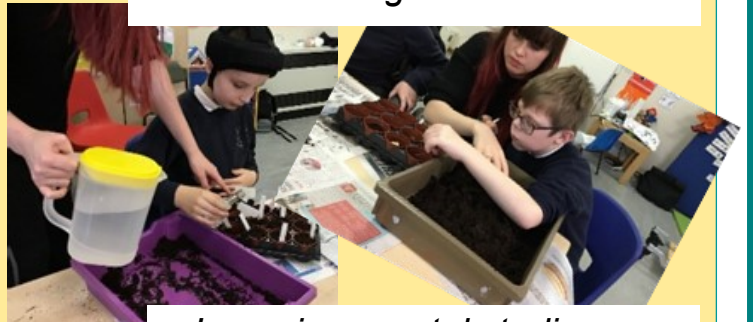
*We have had sensory stories and tested the Three Bears porridge*



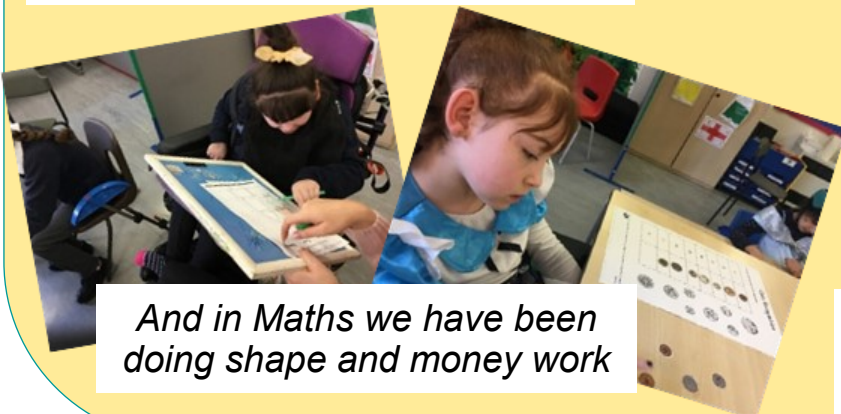
*In Science we have been experimenting with magnets to see what is magnetic in school*



*In History we have been finding out what it is like to be a Viking*



*In environmental studies we have been growing flowers and onions*



*And in Maths we have been doing shape and money work*



*We had a positive mental health day and some of us made Inspirational stones*



## 7LS Present to the School

In March, 7LS took part in our class assembly, by presenting a sensory story to the rest of the school. As our theme was 'Individual Liberty', we told the Bible story of Moses setting the people free. Mitchell pretended to be one of the cows in the story and Aiden explored what it would be like if the country was in darkness!



## 8LS Clever Constructions

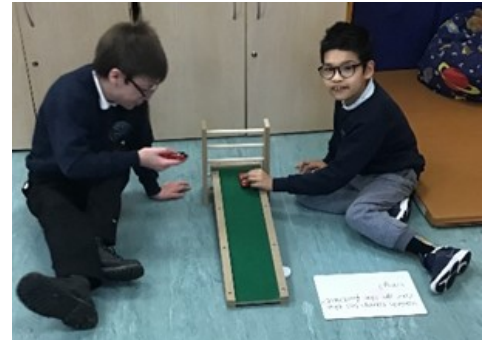
In Art lessons this term 8LS have been working on 'Clever Constructions'. They have designed robots in their sketchbooks and then explored and experimented with a whole range of materials to create some brilliant work. Here are some of the finished pieces.





## 8LS News

In Science, we have been investigating forces in motion. We had great fun with the syringes and the car tracks! We worked out that a force called friction slows the cars down.



Everyone in 8LS dressed up as a character on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March for World Book Day. We had great fun!



In History, we have continued to look at the Vikings, making our own Runes. In Reading, Finley shared his favourite story, Poo Bum! It's very funny!



In English, we used play doh to 'make' our adjectives!

## 9US Enjoying Art

We are continuing their exciting work with Meadow Arts and the artist Sally Harper. They are encouraged to explore, interact, create and think differently through a whole range of new and exciting materials and resources. This term we have spent some time exploring the over head projector, transparent materials, painting on a large scale and glass painting.

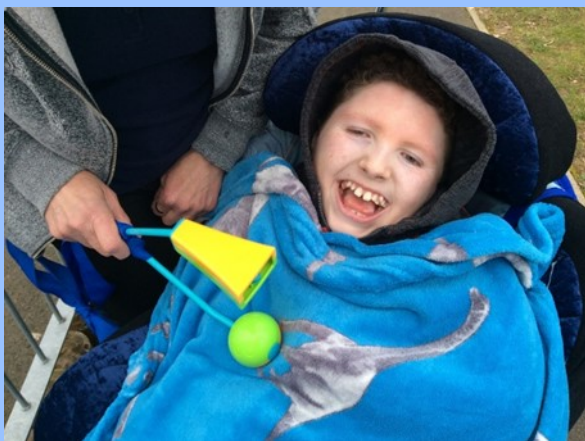




## 10US went on a Sensory Trail

Mrs Taylor prepared a sensory trail for us to explore! It was a fun morning with different things to touch, to look at and feel!

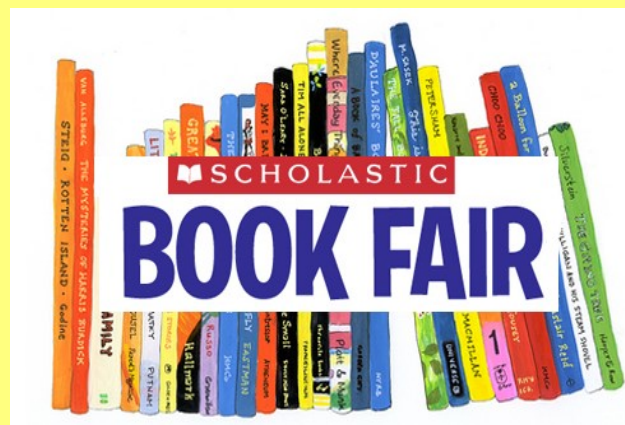
Charlie particularly enjoyed one of the sounds...it made him laugh so much, Mrs Mole asked if she could keep the item in her classroom for the time being!



Ryan enjoyed exploring the sound and touch of the shells! He was very gentle in exploring the delicate shells... well done Ryan.



Madison liked the feel of the bark.



**Sadly, due to the Coronavirus and subsequent school closures, 'Scholastic' have had to postpone our annual SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR.**

**We hope to reschedule this Book Fair just as soon as school is fully re-open and the situation has settled.**

**We will also rearrange all of our other exciting reading related activities, such as our 'Readathon' and our 'Leading Reading' awards. We will keep you informed with any updates.**

**If you need any support or advice with reading activities for your child at home, please contact us.**



**Take care and be safe.  
Mr G Brown**





Pupils in 11US fully embraced dressing up for World Book Day, and all looked fantastic! At parents' request, we attempted to sell Sophia (Oliver Twist) to the highest bidder, but nobody was interested; her mum and dad were very disappointed! Jess (our Little Red Riding Hood) even brought in some freshly baked cookies for the class to share, and they were delicious.

## 12US News



12US have had a very busy half term! Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you to all pupils in 12US for being so amazing during our OFSTED inspection, as they always are. A special mention must go to those selected pupils who spoke or read to the inspectors. You are all incredible assets to Chadsgrove.

As part of our PSHE sessions, 12US had a visitor this half term, Charlotte Bull. Charlotte is a legal executive in education law and gave us an overview and insight into lots of different types of law.

Thank you, Charlotte, from all pupils and staff in 12US.

Pupils in 12US have been taking part in many sporting activities this half term. They attended the Lord's Taverners U19 Boccia Competition which was held at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College in Worcester in January.

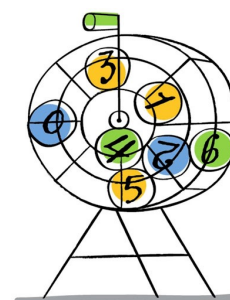
In the Disability competition the Chadsgrove Wolves (IG, TK & AI) played some excellent Boccia beating Regency High in the Final, the team went on to represent Worcestershire at the West Midlands Competition, they finished 3rd in their group. In the Pan Disability competition, the Chadsgrove Pumas came second (WL & JS) behind the Chadsgrove Jaguars (15US). At the West Midlands Pan Disability Competition the Pumas won all their games to meet a team from Leicestershire in the Final, they narrowly lost in a very tense final. Well done to the Pumas for being West Midlands Silver Medalists, a first for Chadsgrove School.



## 13US Visit Bluebrooke Nursing and Care Home



On Tuesday mornings 13US have been chatting to and getting to know the residents of Bluebrooke Nursing and Care Home, Catshill. They have also enjoyed playing Bingo with them.



## 14US Working in the Community

Each Friday 14US have the opportunity to apply their skills in the local community. This term pupils have enjoyed spending time at 'Where-Next' in Redditch and have met lots of new people and built positive relationships there. Everyone gets active in the dance sessions and creative in the arts and crafts session. Look at our colourful bird feeders, they will be attracting all of the birds for us to watch





## 15US BBC School Report

A group in 15US took part in BBC Young Reporter this year, the students discussed and came up with the theme this year of "Why the school minibus is so important to us". They worked together to source information, photos and interview other pupils around school to gather their views, with the help of our very talented anchors: Grace and Eleanor. They filmed, edited and produced a very professional film. The film can be viewed via our YouTube channel Chadsgrove School.



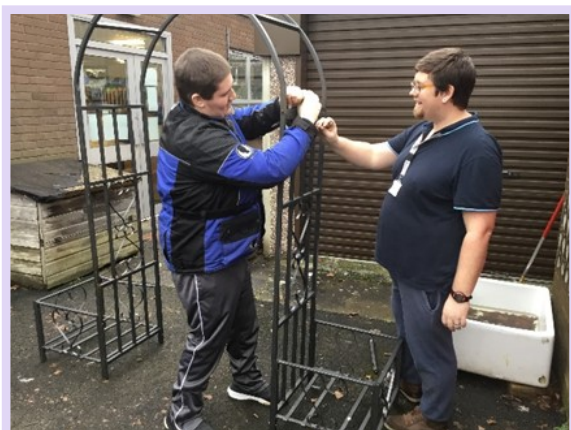
## 15US Work Experience

Three of 15US pupils started their work experience placements/internships this term.



Jayson has started his placement at the Co-op in Catshill, his duties are stock replenishing, checking stock levels, recycling and customer service. Well done Jayson

Tom started work experience placement at The Fruit Shack in Catshill this term. Tom's duties include checking stock freshness, replenishing stock and general store duties. In addition Tom has been given an added challenge to follow a bespoke map and direct his job coach to his placement each week. Well done Tom



Connor started his internship with one of our school caretakers, he is helping to mend, make and update lots of items around school. In addition Connor is also designing and making bird boxes for our business enterprise group to sell. Well done Connor



## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



### Physical section

The pupils have increased their fitness greatly this term during their fencing sessions, in addition the students are also learning the technical part of the sport.



### Skill Section

Students have learned new skills and refined existing ones enabling them to become more confident in the preparation of simple meals. In addition they have studied basic food hygiene and safety in the kitchen.



### Volunteering Section

The pupils have been preparing to plant seeds with two trips to the local garden centre to choose the seeds they want to plant, they made a timetable for planting as each type of seed needed planting at different times. They had just started to plant the various seeds in trays.





## USEFUL WEBSITES

Khan Academy

**<https://www.khanacademy.org>**

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

**<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>**

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn

**<https://www.futurelearn.com>**

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Blockly

**<https://blockly.games>**

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

**<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>**

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

**<https://ed.ted.com>**

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

**<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>**

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

**<https://www.duolingo.com>**

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

**<https://mysteryscience.com>**

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

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Free science lessons

Toy Theater

**<https://toytheater.com/>**

Educational online games

The Kids Should See This

**<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>**

Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course

**<https://thecrashcourse.com>**

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

**<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>**

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

**<https://www.crestawards.org>**

Science awards you can complete from home.

Paw Print Badges

**<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>**

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

**<https://www.tinkercad.com>**

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

**<https://www.prodigygame.com>**

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>**

Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives

**<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>**

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

Oxford Owl for Home

**<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>**

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Geography Games

**<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>**

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>**

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

**<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>**

Good, free art activities

Red Ted Art

**<https://www.redtedart.com>**

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

**<https://theimaginationtree.com>**

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Twinkl

**<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>**

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2020

WORLD BOOK DAY 2020:  
To celebrate 'World Book Day 2020'  
on Thursday 5th March 2020  
many pupils (and staff) dressed  
up as a character from their  
favourite children's book.





## BOOKSTART 'TREASURE PACKS'

PUPILS IN EARLY YEARS ALSO RECEIVED THEIR 'TREASURE BOOK PACKS' TO SHARE WITH PARENTS.

'BOOKSTART' IS A NATIONAL FREE BOOKS PROGRAMME FOR NURSERY AGED CHILDREN IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

EACH YEAR 'BOOKSTART' PROVIDES A FREE 'TREASURE' BOOK PACK FOR CHILDREN TO SHARE AND ENJOY WITH THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

THIS YEAR THE FREE BOOK WAS 'MAX THE BRAVE' BY CELEBRATED PICTURE BOOK AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR ED VERE.

G. BROWN





## Reading at Home

Over the last term our curriculum focus has been the further development of the teaching of 'reading' within the school. Just some of the developments we've made this year, so far, are:

- ⇒ Our staff received additional training in the teaching of 'Reading & Phonics'
- ⇒ New 'Oxford Reading Tree' books purchased to update and modernise our stock, ensuring that our reading scheme supports the teaching of phonics in a sequenced way and is also engaging for our pupils
- ⇒ Further 'phonics' resources purchased to support teaching and learning
- ⇒ 'Reading Buddies' initiative
- ⇒ 'Reading for Pleasure' - 'Drop Everything And Read' (D.E.A.R.) opportunities
- ⇒ BookTrust Projects, e.g. Bookbuzz, Time to Read, Treasure Packs, etc.
- ⇒ Reading environments updated and improved
- ⇒ Tracking of the development stages of awareness, and use of, 'Objects of Reference' for pupils on our Pre-Formal Pathway
- ⇒ World Book Day (Thursday 5th March)

As 'reading' is vitally important, we are keen to keep up the momentum, and so we have many more reading related events planned for later this year, including:

- ⇒ Book Fair & Book Week (25th March-1st April)
- ⇒ Sponsored 'Readathon' (end of March)
- ⇒ Parent drop-in sessions with classes to share tips on supporting your child with the development of their reading skills
- ⇒ A 'Reading at home with your child' workshop for parents

At Chadsgrove, we continue to encourage as many opportunities as possible for our pupils to 'read for pleasure' or to experience being read to, as we realise just how vital this is in helping to develop their language, curiosity, imagination and listening skills, as well as benefiting their academic development, including writing skills.

However, I wanted to say a big thank you to all our wonderful parent carers as I never cease to be amazed by your incredible efforts to continue to support our school to further progress your children's learning. Despite the pressures of modern life and the unique demands placed on families in meeting the additional needs of your children, many of our families are bucking the national trend and finding the time to read with or listen to their child reading at home.

Should you require any additional advice on reading for your child, or if you wish for your child to have a book sent home to share, please contact your class teacher through the home/school book and we'll be happy to help. All we ask is that any books borrowed are returned each day, so they can be used in school for reading sessions.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Gareth Brown



## 'Hungry Little Minds'

'Hungry Little Minds' is a government campaign to encourage parent carers to be more involved in the development of their child's early language, literacy and numeracy skills. The website is worth a look for any parent carers because it is full of useful videos, hints and tips, activities and recommended apps or websites that you may wish to try with your own child.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Phones or tablets are part of many families' everyday lives and kids love to use them, but it's not always easy to know which apps and games can benefit your child's learning. That is why the 'Hungry little Minds' website have given a DfE quality mark to apps that an independent educational panel believes have good educational value. Here are just three of the apps the website recommends which we as a school have also found to be useful.



### **CBeebies Storytime**

'CBeebies Storytime' is filled with free interactive story books and bedtime stories for young children and is a great way to enjoy reading with your little one. The library is always growing, with amazing stories featuring all the CBeebies' favourites.

Age: 0-5 Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#), [Amazon](#)



### **Teach Your Monster to Read**

'Teach Your Monster to Read' is a phonics and reading game that has helped children learn to read. The app covers the first two years of learning to read, from matching letters and sounds to enjoying small books.

Age: school-aged children Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#), [Amazon](#)



### **Phonics Hero**

'Phonics Hero' teaches children to read and spell with systematic synthetic phonics. The app includes over 850 fun and varied games. Using a step-by-step approach, children learn the 44 sounds, the reading and spelling of words, and how to conquer sentences.

Age: school-aged children Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#)



The 'Hungry Little Minds' website offers much more advice on how to choose suitable educational apps designed to help your children learn.





## Chadsgrove School

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Website: [www.chadsgrove.org.uk](http://www.chadsgrove.org.uk)



### Online Payment

Online Payment is now available, should you require any instructions on how to access, please telephone the school office who will be happy to help you.

Use our secure Internet Payment facility at

[https://www.civicaepay.co.uk/Worcestershire/webpay\\_publicP4S/webpay/default.aspx](https://www.civicaepay.co.uk/Worcestershire/webpay_publicP4S/webpay/default.aspx)

Or via link on School website



### **A NOTE FROM LORRAINE PETERSEN OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

Dear Parents

I just want to say a very big thank you to all of you for the support you are giving your children at this difficult time. What is happening across the world is unprecedented and we are all having to learn to live differently. I understand the challenges that many of you are facing every day and I know that keeping your child safe is the number one priority.

I am very proud to be Chair of Governors at Chadsgrove and I believe that the last month has shown the dedication and commitment of Deb Rattley and the Chadsgrove team working alongside our families in providing the very best support for our children and young people.

I hope you have all been accessing the Home Learning area on the school website. Staff have been providing excellent resources for you to share with your children.

Every night I look forward to my bedtime story read by a member of staff – if you have not seen the story time videos please visit Chadsgrove's YouTube channel.

Please contact me to tell me about the wonderful things you are doing with your child at home – I would love to hear from you. [cog@chadsgrove.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:cog@chadsgrove.worcs.sch.uk)

Best wishes and take care

Lorraine  
Chair of Governors