



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

World Book Week at Chew Valley culminated in a wonderful day on **Friday 7th March** where students and staff embraced the theme with many dressing up in their favourite characters in order to earn House points. At lunchtime we had our annual catwalk in the Hall where everyone cheered and clapped the participants which was wonderful to see. This day has become one of the highlights of our school calendar and it is great to see so many smiling faces around this. The week also had other brilliant events taking place and a big thank you to the Library staff alongside Mr Jones for everything they did to make it a success.

I was lucky enough to watch the final night of the school production '**Much Ado About Nothing**' on Saturday 1st March. The cast were fantastic and a big thank you goes again to them and to the staff involved for putting on such a wonderful show.

We had our regular visit, which happens four or five times a year, from our **School Improvement Partner** along with staff from LSP on Monday 3rd March to **watch learning in lessons**. They got into many classes and were able to report back that they had seen some really strong practice which was good to hear.

The Year 12 **A Level Geography students** spent three days at Skern Lodge in North Devon carrying out their fieldwork as part of their course. A big thank you to Mrs Shuttleworth and Mrs Taylor who accompanied them.

Thank you to all parents and carers who recently attended our **Year 8 and Year 12 Parents' Evenings**. We keep a very close eye on attendance figures with these and it is pleasing to report that so many people were able to be involved. Thank you also to those parents and carers who have taken up the offer to come and look around the school during the working day; we look forward to showing you around.

Students, as part of their preparation for taking part in the annual **Ten Tors Event** in May, **spent last weekend on Dartmoor**. The dedication and commitment involved in seeing this through to the end is highly commendable and again a big thank you goes to all of the staff who were away with them.

We have now **closed the parent and carers survey linked to mobile phones** that we put out in conjunction with the University of The West of England. We will be working alongside them going through the results and reporting back in due course. A big thank you to everyone who took part.

A reminder of our current focus on the correct school uniform being worn at all times. Students have been made aware that uniform which is incorrect will be logged every morning by their tutor. If there are five logs, this will result in a 20-minute detention. We understand that the majority of the school continues to uphold our standards to the highest levels, which will result in positive points being awarded on ClassCharts.

With this letter I have also attached the latest newsletter from the Climate Action Team which highlights some of the important work they are doing.

Another reminder that we **break for Easter** on **Friday 4th April which will be a full day, finishing at 3.20pm**. We **return** to school on **Wednesday 23rd April** following a staff INSET day on Tuesday 22nd April.

Please do contact us with any questions you might have or visit our website at <https://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/> for further information.

With best wishes,

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher

USA and Climate Change

Donald Trump current president of the USA has called climate change "mythical", "non-existent" and "an expensive hoax". Trump has chosen Lee Zeldin as the EPA minister of the USA. Lee Zeldin, as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), supports an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that includes fossil



fuels. He emphasizes balancing environmental protection with economic growth and has been involved in efforts to roll back certain environmental regulations to boost domestic energy production, including fossil fuels. The United States is the second-largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world following China. If the USA reduces its efforts in combating climate change and supporting environmental initiatives, the consequences could be severe and beyond description. The people who are currently in power in the USA will not assist the movement for climate action leaving our planet in an irreversible state.

Chew Valley School Climate Action Team

NEWSLETTER

March 2025 Edition 8. Editor Lucy with guest contributors from the climate action team.

The Environmental Toll of Non-Recyclable Packaging

Companies often use non-recyclable packaging primarily due to cost and convenience. Non-recyclable materials, such as certain plastics, are typically cheaper to produce and offer durability that can be beneficial for protecting products during shipping and handling. However, this practice has significant environmental impacts. Non-recyclable packaging contributes to pollution, as it often ends up in landfills where it can take hundreds of years to decompose. During this time, it can release harmful chemicals into the soil and water, posing risks to wildlife and human health. Additionally, non-recyclable packaging can contribute to ocean pollution, harming marine life that may ingest or become entangled in the debris. The produc-

tion of these materials also involves high energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating environmental degradation. Consumer consumption plays a crucial role in the environmental problem of plastic packaging. The high demand for convenience and single-use products has led to more plastic packaging, much of which ends up in landfills or the ocean. Additionally, producing plastic packaging uses a lot of energy and creates greenhouse gases, aggravating climate change. Consumers' choices directly impact the amount of plastic waste, highlighting the need for greater awareness and a shift towards more sustainable options.

Plastic waste makes up 80% of all marine pollution, with 8 to 10 million metric tons of plastic ending up in the ocean each year. By 2050, plastic is projected to outweigh all fish in the sea. Over 460 million metric tons of plastic are produced annually, and an estimated 20 million metric tons of plastic litter end up in the environment each year.



Pollution and Climate Change

HAUTEVILLE



Heroic Hauteville!

February was a fantastic month for Hauteville who steamed ahead with 37 environmental positives! Bilbie has come in 4th place with 0 positives, Rodney in 3rd place with 1 and an admirable effort from Moreton with 5 leaving them in 2nd place.



Remember!

As a team we have noticed an increase of littering around the school and we ask our fellow students to try to remember to place their rubbish in a bin as often as possible!

Microplastics, tiny plastic particles less than 5mm in size, have become a pervasive environmental issue, affecting both wildlife and ecosystems. Recent studies have uncovered alarming levels of microplastics in the lungs of birds, raising significant concerns about the impact of airborne plastic pollution on both wildlife and human health. Researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington discovered high concentrations of microplastics in the lungs of 56 wild birds from 51 different species. These microscopic plastic particles, including materials like chlorinated polyethylene and butadiene rubber, are commonly used in products such as pipes, wires, and tires. The presence of these particles in bird lungs suggests that birds are inhaling microplastics from the air, which can lead to serious health issues. This discovery also implies that humans, who share the same environments, might be at risk of inhaling these harmful particles as well. The study highlights the urgent need to address plastic pollution and its far-reaching impacts on both ecosystems and human health.



Birds, particularly seabirds, are highly susceptible to microplastic ingestion due to their feeding habits. When birds ingest microplastics, these particles can cause physical blockages in their digestive systems, leading to malnutrition and starvation. Additionally, microplastics often carry toxic chemicals, such as

persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which can leach into the birds' bodies, causing reproductive and immune system dysfunctions. The presence of microplastics in birds' lungs, although less studied, could potentially impair respiratory functions and exacerbate health issues.

Beyond the direct impact on birds, microplastics contribute to climate change through their production and degradation processes. The manufacturing of plastics is energy-intensive and releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases. As plastics degrade, they emit methane and ethylene, potent greenhouse gases that further contribute to global warming. Additionally, microplastics in the ocean can interfere with the ocean's ability to sequester

carbon dioxide, further exacerbating global warming. Moreover, microplastics disrupt ecosystems by affecting organisms that play crucial roles in carbon sequestration, such as plankton and other marine life. This disruption can weaken the natural processes that regulate the Earth's climate, highlighting the interconnectedness of pollution and climate change. Addressing microplastic pollution is therefore crucial not only for protecting wildlife and human health but also for mitigating climate change. By tackling the issue of microplastics, we can make strides in preserving our environment and ensuring a healthier future for all living beings.

