

# Weekly Newsletter

## WHY DOES MY CHILD FORGET STUFF??

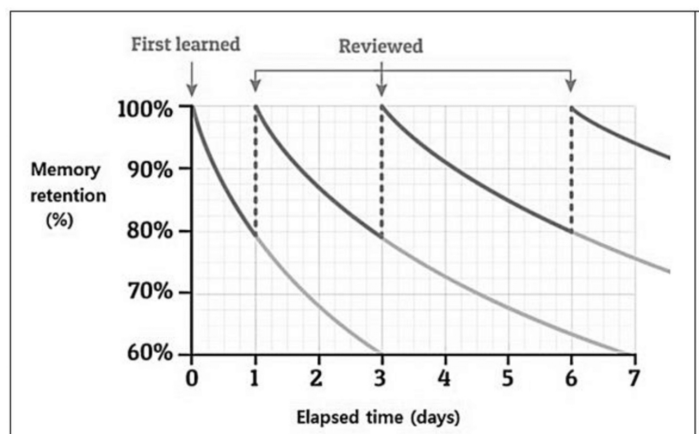
Amongst the many common experiences we have as parents and teachers, one of the more perplexing is those that end in the phrase (or thought) 'but you knew this yesterday!!' Whilst this can be really frustrating, Research into memory tells us that when we 'learn' something for the first time, it is natural for us to forget it and to then need to relearn it again (and sometimes several times) before it goes into what is known as 'long term memory' and is truly learned (rather than just temporarily remembered).

As counter intuitive as it sounds, forgetting is actually a necessary part of the learning process and every time we forget something, the work that goes into trying to recall it, while sometimes deflating, is actively helping the process of truly learning it. A useful visual for this was developed by German psychologist, Herman Ebbinghaus whose work on memory theory included the development of the 'forgetting curve' (see below). This tracked the average time it took someone to forget a piece of information but also the fact that each subsequent time it is 'relearned', it sticks that little bit more.

In school, the children regularly engage in something commonly known in education as 'retrieval practice' which is a form of test on knowledge they have been taught in previous lessons, terms and even years. This provides really useful assessment information for Class Teachers but also will be helping the pupils' memory of the knowledge purely by being tested on it.

**What does this mean for us as parents? Two things...**

1. We should try not to get too frustrated when our children forget what we think they've learned - forgetting it is natural!
2. We can really help our children properly learn things by checking ourselves whether they remember things like spellings, times tables facts, phonics sounds, etc, etc some time after we know they have initially learned them.



## Article 15

**All children have the right to find things out and say what they think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it breaks the rights of others.**

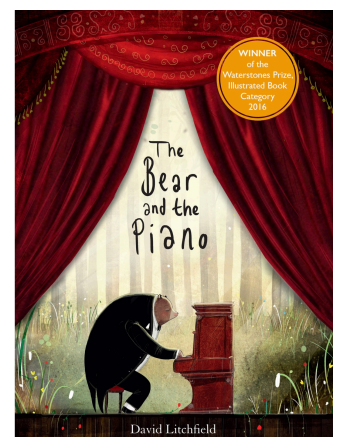


## THIS WEEKS ASSEMBLY

In this weeks assembly we shared the Wonderful book *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield.

This is a book about a bear who becomes a piano supremo (obviously as bears do) and makes the decision to leave the forest to perform for adoring crowds in the big city. He eventually returns to the forest to discover not only have his friends not forgotten him but they have been proudly celebrating his success from afar.

The story speaks of character traits such as bravery and citizenship but also contains a lovely message about friendship and championing and being supportive of our friends.



## HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Applications for our new Head of School closed on Monday and having had a lot of interest we have selected a shortlist of very strong candidates.

The process from here comprises of a number of stages, starting next week and concluding at the end of February. We will of course keep you all posted as this progresses.

## LOST PROPERTY AMNESTY

In order to return as much lost property to their rightful owners, we are planning to schedule regular half-termly amnesties. This will involve the current store being brought onto the school playground so parents can look through for any missing items. The first of these will take place after school on Friday 7th February.

In the meantime, children are always welcome to look for themselves during the school day.

## PARENTS EVENINGS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Parents' Evenings this week. We hope you found the meeting useful.

Hopefully you also left with a few ideas of how to support your children at home. Remember there are lots of resources on our school website to support this and we are always here to help should you need anything from website tips, printed resource sheets to book recommendations.

## 2025 PARENT AND FAMILY SESSIONS

As part of our school development priority to support parental engagement this year, we are pleased to share dates for four sessions which we will host over the remainder of the school year:

**Wednesday 12th Feb (5.30pm) - Phonics and early reading**

**Thurs 6th March - Family Book Evening**

**Wednesday 14th May - Maths Methods**

**Wednesday 25th June - Digital Wellbeing and Online Safety**

Further details of each session will be shared in due course.

## PTA SPRING TERM EVENTS

We have two exciting events coming up this term...

### For the children...

Get practising those dance moves ready for our Spring Disco - Thursday 6th February

### For the adults....

Join us for our annual Quiz Night - Friday 7th March, Cheadle Hulme Conservative Club. This promises to be a fun night for all, so get those babysitters booked!

Tickets on sale soon for both of these events from [pta-events.co.uk/chpspta/](http://pta-events.co.uk/chpspta/)

Please note that ticket sales for the disco must close on Tuesday 4th February to allow us to finalise lists of attendees.

## WET PLAY BOX SHOUT OUT

We are in the process of putting together boxes of resources and games for the children to use on the days when it is too wet for them to go outside. If you have any games (e.g. board games, card games, etc) which are in good condition we would welcome any donations. These can be brought in via your child's Class Teacher. Thank you!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

For a full list of dates for the 2024-25 academic year, please see our Annual Planner which can be accessed by clicking on this link.

7th Feb - Year 2 Assembly

10th Feb - CHPS Commons Week

11th Feb - Safer Internet Day

12th Feb - Phonics and Early Reading Parent Session

14th Feb - Year 3 Assembly

14th Feb - End of term

24th Feb - School re-opens

6th Mar - World Book Day / Family Book Evening

14th March - Reception Assembly

17th March - Parent Council (5-6pm)

4th April - Year 4 Assembly

27th June - Year 1 Assembly