



# Chipping Hill Times

Issue 13

Date: 20/03/2026

Address: Owers Road, Witham, CM8 1FR

Website: [www.chippinghill.essex.sch.uk](http://www.chippinghill.essex.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01376 512201

Email: [admin@chippinghill.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chippinghill.essex.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredibly busy and rewarding fortnight it has been! There has been so much to celebrate across our school community and I am bursting with pride at everything our children, and the wider team around them, have achieved.

Last week's STEM Day was a real highlight. The creativity on display was impressive and I do not think any of the children will forget the excitement of the countdown and rocket launches! Moments like that remind us just how magical learning can be when it comes to life in that way.

Our Hawks Class had a wonderful experience at the Braintree Big Sing, a fantastic opportunity for the children to perform and be part of something so special. Cross country last week was excellent too, and I was lucky enough to be there to cheer our children on in person, from our youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6, they made me exceptionally proud, as they always do.

The afternoon tea organised by the Friends of Chipping Hill Primary School for the Walker Bar golden ticket winners was a lovely occasion. For some of our children it was their very first afternoon tea experience and the joy on their faces said it all. The Mother's Day stalls were a big hit too and I hope they brought a smile to your faces last weekend!

A huge thank you to everyone who has visited our book fair too. The support has been fantastic, and the funds raised will go directly towards building on the range of resources we are able to provide for our children. Every purchase really does make a difference.

Well done also to our Year 5 children who represented the school brilliantly at the hockey event on Wednesday!

The iRock concert was another success and Mrs Jones was so impressed, and rightly so. A huge well done to every child who performed. Getting up on that stage takes real bravery and they should be proud of themselves.

I do, however, have some bittersweet news to share. Our wonderful Mr Gribbon will be leaving us at the end of this term as he embarks on a new career path. Mr Gribbon has been an outstanding ambassador for sport at our school and his dedication and passion for the children has been clear to see. I know this has been an incredibly difficult decision for him and we wish him all the very best for his future. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for everything he has given to our school community.

Despite the busyness, I continue to feel grateful to be part of such a committed school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

There is still plenty to look forward to before we break up! I am particularly looking forward to the Year 4 production on Wednesday and I cannot wait to see what they have put together. We also have our progress event on Thursday which will run from 2.50pm to 4.30pm in the classrooms and I hope to see many of you there, celebrating all that your children have achieved this term.

Wishing you a wonderful, sunny weekend,

Mrs Walker  
Headteacher



## Chipping Hill Ambassador Awards

### **Congratulations to all these pupils!**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated those children who received the Mathematics Ambassador. These awards went to those children who spot the Maths around them and models positive thinking. They encourage those that find Maths tricky and celebrate the effort, not just right answers. They are always curious, persistent, logical and creative when it comes to Maths!

Robins - Evie	Kites - Hattie
Wrens - David	Kestrels - Noah
Nightingales - Arlo	Harriers - Agastya
Skylarks - Maisie	Eagles - Akshaj
Kingfishers - Eva	Hawks - Thomas
Swifts - Aabid	Falcons - Oscar
Ospreys - Jake	Condors - Rosie

This week we have been we celebrating those children who received the Bravery and Courage Ambassador. These awards have gone to someone for doing something even when they feel scared or unsure. Even if they are worried, they take a deep breath and try anyway. They speak up when something does not feel right. You do not have to be fearless to be brave, you just have to keep going.

Robins - Heidi	Kites - Miley
Wrens - Grace	Kestrels - Theo
Nightingales - Arthur	Harriers - Oliver
Skylarks - Olivia	Eagles - Aliyah
Kingfishers - Millie	Hawks - Eliza
Swifts - James	Falcons - Eadie
Ospreys - Sophia	Condors - Mia

### Cross Country

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we had a very busy day for sports as a group of our pupils participated in the KS1 and KS2 Cross Country events in Chelmsford. Incredibly, 66 children participated across the two events, ranging from EYFS to Year 6.

The children were even lucky enough to have Mrs Walker join us for the event, and she had a fantastic time cheering each and every child on with Miss Harris, Mr Gribbon and the other staff members in attendance. As always, we are so proud of the children's personal performances and took great joy in seeing their smiley faces running around the course. A big thank you to all parents for your part in travel and preparation of the children, we could not do it without you!



### Attendance

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting every child to thrive, we have recently appointed an attendance consultant who will be working alongside our school community in the Summer Term. Their role is very much one of support; helping families to navigate any barriers that can sometimes make the transition between home and school a little tricky. We know that children get poorly and that life is not always straightforward, and this is not about that. It is simply about ensuring that every family has access to the right support, at the right time, so that our children can be in school and making the most of everything we have on offer. We look forward to sharing more about this work as it develops and, as always, our door remains open if you ever want to chat.

# Congratulations!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO ATTENDED OUR  
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR.**

Together we have raised... **£1,627.89**  
for our school to spend on **FREE BOOKS**

 **SCHOLASTIC**

## Useful Contacts

**NHS Healthy Start Scheme -**  
[www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

Healthy Start provides financial help for families on low incomes or certain benefits, helping them to buy:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Milk
- Infant formula

Vitamins for pregnant women, new mums, and young children.

**Best Start in Life - [beststartinlife.gov.uk](http://beststartinlife.gov.uk)**

Supporting families every step of the way, Best Start in Life is here to help you and your child thrive, from pregnancy through to starting school. Being a parent brings incredible moments of joy alongside natural worries and questions. Whether you're expecting your first baby, understanding your child's early health, navigating their first day in childcare, or preparing for school, the Best Start in Life website brings together a range of trusted information and support in one easy-to-access place.

**Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service -**  
<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/>

Phone - 0300 247 0013

**Home-Start Essex - [www.home-startessex.org.uk](http://www.home-startessex.org.uk)**

Home-Start Essex works with families who have children under 5, supporting parents to give their children the best possible start in life.

**Witham Community Hub - [www.withamhub.co.uk](http://www.withamhub.co.uk)**

17 The Grove Shopping Centre, Witham, Essex,  
CM8 2YT

Phone: 01376 617998

Enquiries: [info@withamhub.co.uk](mailto:info@withamhub.co.uk)

**Launch of Free Yo-Yo Project Bereavement Consultation Line - [Website Link](#)**

The Yo-Yo Project, Farleigh Hospice's Children and Young People's Bereavement Service, is piloting a new telephone consultation line designed to provide quick access to advice from a qualified and experienced child/young person's therapist. The consultation line number is **01245 933855** and will be open **Tuesdays 3pm-5pm** and **Thursdays 11am-12.30pm**.

## Payment Reminders

**Year 4 - Harriers and Kestrels Swimming:** Please ensure permission and payment of £44.67 is received in school by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

**Year 5 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze:** Please ensure permission and payment of £12.55 is received in school by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

**Year 2 Trip to Barleylands:** Please ensure permission and payment of £16.47 is received in school by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

The **Wide Awake Club and Super Supper Club** booking forms for Summer Term have now been sent out. Please ensure all balances are cleared before making bookings for after the Easter holidays. If you are having any problems making payments please contact the school office.

**If there are any problems making payments please speak to the office. Thank you.**

## Dinner Menu Rotation

Week commencing 23/03/26: Spring Term Menu 3

Dinner orders for this week are now closed.

Week commencing 13/04/26: Summer Term Menu 1

Week commencing 20/04/26: Summer Term Menu 2

Week commencing 27/04/26: Summer Term Menu 3

Dinner menus for the weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 are now available to view on the school website and orders can be placed online via SCOPAY.

**The deadline for placing orders is 1pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

**Please note this is a new menu rotation so please check the allergens carefully prior to ordering.**

Please also ensure that once you have ordered for the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> April, that you scroll across to May to place orders for the Friday of that week. A copy of the allergen list can be found on the school website. It is the responsibility of parents or carers to ensure that, where necessary, you have checked the allergen list and ordered an appropriate meal accordingly. This also applies to ensuring that any children with any other dietary requirements are also ordered the correct meal (i.e. vegetarians and those with religious beliefs). There will be no charge for those entitled to Universal Free School Meals (reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and to those children in other year groups entitled to means tested free school meals. The charge for all other children is £2.20, payment can be made online or by cash.

## Recent Letters And Communications

- Dinner Orders for weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April
- Wide Awake Club booking forms for weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Cancelled - Years 3 & 4 Football Club - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 3 - Zoo Trip Reminder - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Headlice
- Year 4 - Swimming Lessons Payment Reminder
- Year 5 - Bikeability
- Violin Music Tuition
- Ingredients Slip for Bake Off Entries
- KS1 & KS2 Art and Craft Clubs - Summer Term 1
- Super Supper Club Booking Forms Summer Term 2026
- Forest School Parent Session for Wrens

## Meningitis

The outbreak of meningitis in Kent has been heavily covered in the news and may be causing anxiety in Essex. The public health team at Essex County Council have said that there is no increased risk to anyone in Essex unless they have a direct link to a case of meningitis in the Kent outbreak and been contacted by the UK Health Security Agency. Simply being a contact of a person with a direct link does not increase the risk. If you would like to know more about the outbreak and how it is managed there is an update on the [UK Health Securities webpage](#). If you would like to know more about meningitis and how to spot it the [NHS webpages](#) give good advice.

## Community Information

Information regarding the following has been included in the community section of our school website, please take a look if you would like further information. These are all third party events/information, not endorsed by the school, but they may be of interest to you.

<https://www.chippinghill.essex.sch.uk/community-info>

- Easter Holiday Activities Club at Freedom Leisure Witham
- Bikeability - Easter Courses
- FITC Holiday Camps - Easter Holidays
- Kinetix Camps - Easter Holidays
- Ride for Helen

## Events Diary

**If there are any changes to the dates listed, we will notify you as soon as possible.**

- 25.03.26:** Year 3 Colchester Zoo Trip
- 25.03.26:** Year 4 Easter Performances at 2pm and 6pm
- 25.03.26:** No Years 3 & 4 Boys Football Club
- 26.03.26:** Year 1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower
- 26.03.26:** EYFS Learning Journey and Years 1 - 6 Progress **from 2.50pm to 4.30pm** in classrooms
- 26.03.26:** Friends of Chipping Hill Great Easter Bake Off in school and cake sale after school
- 27.03.26:** No running club or girls basketball club
- 30.03.26 to 10.04.26:** Easter Holidays
- 13.04.26:** First Day of Summer Term
- 14.04.26:** Harriers Swimming Lessons start
- 16.04.26:** Kestrels Swimming Lessons start
- 17.04.26:** Friends of Chipping Hill Non-Uniform Day (more details to follow)
- 21.04.26:** Year 5 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze
- 23.04.26:** Year 6 SATs Meeting at 3.30pm
- 27.04.26:** Year 2 Trip to Barleylands
- 04.05.26:** Bank Holiday
- 11.05.26 to 14.05.26:** Year 6 SATs Week
- 18.05.26:** Forest School Parents Session with Robins and Wrens
- 20.05.26:** Ospreys Class Performance at 9am and Kites Class Performance at 2.30pm (more details to follow)
- 20.05.26:** EYFS Learning Journey and Years 1 - 6 Progress **from 2.50pm to 4.30pm** in classrooms
- 21.05.26:** Class Photographs
- 22.05.26:** Year 6 History Off the Page Day (more details to follow)
- 25.05.26 to 29.05.26:** Half Term
- 01.06.26:** Non Pupil Day

## WANTED: Parent Governors

If you would like to become more involved with school governance perhaps you might think about becoming a Parent Governor. If you would like more information and/or to talk through what the role entails, please contact our Chair of Governors, Karen Butler at;

karen.butler@chippinghill.essex.sch.uk

## Details of Summer Term Clubs will be sent out next week

# Spring - School Activity Clubs

### MONDAYS:

**Netball (Years 5 & 6):** From 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

**KS1 Football (Years 1 & 2):** From 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, finishing at 4.20pm (£45)

**MiniMe Mindfulness (Years 1 – 6):** From 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£60)

**Choir (Years 1 - 6):** From 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£40.50)

### TUESDAYS:

**MegaBallers (Years 1 - 6):** From 24<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> March, (7.40am-8.35am) (£32.50)

**KS1 Multisports (Years 1 & 2):** From 13<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

**Boys Football (Years 5 & 6):** From 13<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> March finishing at 4.20pm (£50)

**Tennis (Years 1 - 6):** From 13<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.05pm (£50)

### WEDNESDAYS:

**Early Morning Fitness (Years 1 - 6):** From 14<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March (7.40am-8.35am)

**KS2 Ball Games (Years 3 - 6)** From 14<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.20pm (£50)

**Boys Football (Years 3 & 4):** From 14<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

#### **NO Boys Football (Years 3 & 4) on 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Hip Hop (Years 3 - 6):** From 25<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

**StandUp Drama School (Years 1 - 6):** From 7<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£50)

**Art and Craft Club (Years 1 & 2):** From 25<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£25)

### THURSDAYS:

**Early Morning Fitness (Years 1 - 6):** From 15<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> March (7.40am-8.35am)

**KS2 Multisports (Years 3 - 6):** From 15<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.20pm (£50)

**KS2 Girls Football (Years 3 - 6):** From 15<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

**Hip Hop (Years 1 & 2):** From 26<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

### FRIDAYS:

**KS2 Running Club (Years 3 – 6):** From 16<sup>th</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

#### **NO KS2 Running Club (Years 3 – 6) on 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**KS2 Gymnastics (Years 3 - 6):** From 27<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

**Lego Robotics Club (Years 3 & 4):** From 16<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm

**Girls Basketball (Years 3 – 6):** From 16<sup>th</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> March, finishing at 4.15pm (£40)

#### **NO Girls Basketball (Years 3 – 6) on 27<sup>th</sup> March**