



Chipping Hill Times

Issue 9

Date: 16/01/2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term and all of the various weathers we have had to contend with during pick up and drop off times so far!!

The children have all returned to school positively with brilliant, focused attitudes. It was a delight to be able to showcase their exceptional efforts in the last of our New to Reception Tours this week. We have also welcomed Mrs Rudgewick (Kestrels Class teacher) and Mrs Harrison (Harriers HLTA) to our staffing team this term and we are delighted to have them join us. This week, the Ambassador award was focused on 'thoughtfulness' and what it means to be thoughtful. We talked about how many thoughts we have a day and how much power that gives us to use those thousands and thousands of thoughts for good. So it was an absolute treat to receive a letter and a Special Recognition certificate for Imogen (Swifts) this week, informing me of the time she has spent with Farleigh Hospice recycling their Christmas Trees. By supporting this campaign, Imogen has contributed towards raising over £73,000 - phenomenal! Well done for making such a positive impact across the community and beyond!

Clubs have all begun this week and we continue to have a great selection available for the children both before and after school and they are always really well attended. There are some spaces remaining on a few of the clubs, do enquire if your child is keen to join one. In addition, we are always looking to see how the offer can be developed, if there is a club you would like to put on my radar, do grab me on the gate and let me know!

We have already had sporting success this term too with our Year 2 Squad achieving 1st place at the KS1 Sports Hall Athletics Competition on Wednesday, well done to the team for representing the school so brilliantly! Thank you to the parents who were able to support transportation for the event too, your time and generosity makes a significant difference in us being able to continue to attend events such as these, especially with the ever increasing costs of coaches and mini buses.

As you know, I am incredibly proud of the staff here and how hard they work to provide the best education and care for your children. The 2026 Pearson National Teacher Awards remain open to parents and pupils to nominate their 'unsung hero'. This could be **anyone** working in our school that you feel goes the extra mile to make a real difference to your child's time here. You can find more information and place your nomination here: [The 'Unsung Hero' Award - Thank a Teacher](#). The entire team at Chipping Hill put the children at the heart of everything they do and we are committed to working with our families throughout the challenges that daily life brings, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher after school if you are requiring support or advice.

Thank you, as always, for your support and I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Walker
Headteacher

Reminder about Parking

It is extremely important that everyone parks safely and courteously near the school site. Please do not park on roundabouts, crossings, across driveways, on private roads and where signs are clearly in place to advise of no parking. **The safety of the children is paramount.**

Request for Forest School

If you have any children's gardening tools or items that could be used outside at Forest School for digging and such like, they would be very gratefully received by Mrs Hubbard for Forest School.
Thank you.

Chipping Hill Ambassador Awards

Congratulations to all these pupils!

On Friday 9th January we celebrated those children who received the Ambassador Award for achieving with determination, for working hard and pushing to challenge yourself in all subjects even when it feels impossible.

Wrens - Maisie	Kites - Poppy
Robins - Elijah	Kestrels - Alexander
Nightingales - Brooklyn	Harriers - William
Skylarks - Amelia	Eagles - Kailan
Kingfishers - Ava	Hawks - Thea
Swifts - Madison	Falcons - Esmae
Ospreys - Enya	Condors - Sophia

This week we have been celebrating those children who received the Thoughtfulness Ambassador Award for truly thinking before they act, noticing and considering how others feel and for showing care for both people and things in our school community.

Wrens - Belle	Kites - Isabelle
Robins - Elijah	Kestrels - Meredith
Nightingales - Amelia	Harriers - Hallie
Skylarks - Nidhi	Eagles - Guraj
Kingfishers - Freddie	Hawks - Amber
Swifts - Scarlett	Falcons - Arushi
Ospreys - Maddie	Condors - Inaya

Year 2 - KS1 Sports Hall Athletics Competition

This week eight of our wonderful Year 2 pupils participated in the KS1 Sports Hall Athletics Competition. They all participated in a range of activities including obstacle course relay races, jumping activities and throwing activities. We are really proud to tell you all, that our Chipping Hill team came in 1st place! Well done to the children that participated.



If you're pregnant or have children under the age of four, you could get help to buy food and milk.

Apply online for NHS Healthy Start.



www.healthystart.nhs.uk
@NHSHealthyStart



About the scheme

The NHS Healthy Start scheme helps young families and those who are pregnant to access healthy food, milk and vitamins.

The scheme is available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

People may be eligible if they have responsibility for at least one child under the age of four or are more than 10 weeks pregnant. Eligibility also depends on the benefit the person receives and what their income is.

People apply for the scheme online and get a prepaid card, which they can use to buy healthy food and milk. They can also get free Healthy Start vitamins.

The prepaid card can be used in most places that sell eligible healthy food and milk items and accept Mastercard®. The card is topped up every four weeks with their payments.

Once on the scheme, people will get:

- £4.25 each week of their pregnancy (from the 10th week of pregnancy)
- £8.50 each week for children from birth to one year old
- £4.25 each week for children between one and four years old

The payments will stop on the child's 4th birthday or if they no longer receive the qualifying benefits.

Useful Contacts

NHS Healthy Start Scheme -
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

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

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

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

Phone: 01376 617998

Enquiries: info@withamhub.co.uk

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

The Yo-Yo Project, Farleigh Hospice's Children and Young People's Bereavement Service, the consultation line number is **01245 933855** and will be open **Tuesdays 3pm - 5pm** and **Thursdays 11am - 12.30pm**.

Free Family Activities in Mid Essex this Winter -
[Mid Essex - Winter Events - Active Essex](#)

Events Diary

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

20.01.26: Year 5 visit to Witham Library

21.01.26: No Stand Up Theatre after school

29.01.26: EYFS Learning Journey and Years 1 to 6 Progress at 2.50pm until 4.30pm in classrooms

03.02.26: Parents Evening

05.02.26: Parents Evening

06.02.26: Forest School - Year 4

06.02.26: No Basketball Club after school

09.02.26: Lower KS2 Maths Workshop (Years 3 and 4) at 2.45pm in KS2 Hall

10.02.26: Upper KS2 Maths Workshop (Years 5 and 6) at 2.45pm in KS2 Hall

11.02.26: Year 4 Superstars Sports Event

16.02.26 to 20.02.26: Half Term

23.02.26: No Choir or KS1 Football after school

04.03.26: Wonderdome visit to school for Years 2 and 5

05.03.26: World Book Day

Essex Healthy Schools Team

Children's Drinking Habits Research

The Healthy Schools team is conducting research to better understand children and young people's drinking habits. They aim to identify the challenges schools and parents face in encouraging water consumption.

"Our objective is to develop a resource campaign that supports both parents and schools. This initiative focuses not only on promoting increased water intake but also on educating parents that sugary drinks, such as squash, juice, and flavoured water, are generally not permitted in schools. We want to encourage parents to help their children adopt water-only habits before they begin school."

If you are interested in assisting with the research please complete the following form;

[Hydration survey for Parents – Fill in form](#)

Year 2 - Local Walk

Year 2 enjoyed a walk in the local area this week. In Geography they have been learning about human and physical geography. On the walk they spotted lots of geography features including houses, roads, ponds and trees. When they returned they did a field sketch of the duck pond, using photos and their memory to help them.



Recent Letters And Communications

- Hawks Class - Braintree Sings
- Updated details of events
- Years 5 and 6 - Research Project
- Harriers and Kestrels Swimming Lessons
- Year 5 Trip to Witham Library
- Essex Music Tuition
- After School Clubs
- Wide Awake Club booking forms for weeks commencing 19th, 26th January and 2nd February 2026
- Dinner orders for weeks commencing 19th, 26th January and 2nd February 2026
- Year 1 - Trip to Layer Marney Tower
- MegaBallers Details
- Year 2 - Local Walk
- Children's Commissioner - A Guide For Parents On Managing Children's Digital Lives
- Online Safety Newsletter
- Letter for Harriers Parents and Carers

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>

- Colchester Prep and High School Events
- Ultimate Combat Academy - Amateur Boxing
- Essex Life - Young Poets Competition
- Adult Community Learning (ACL) - Free Online Family Learning Courses
- NHS Healthy Start Scheme
- KEGS - Prospective Students Tours for Year 5 boys

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

Maths Parent Workshops

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming **Maths Parent Workshops**, designed to help you understand our approach to teaching maths and give you practical strategies to support your child at home.

We will be holding **separate sessions for Lower KS2, and Upper KS2**, so you can attend the one most relevant to your child:

- **Lower KS2 Workshop (Year 3 and 4):**
Monday 9th February at 2:45 PM
- **Upper KS2 Workshop (Year 5 and 6) :**
Tuesday 10th February at 2:45 PM

Each session will be **informative and interactive**, and at the end, you will have the opportunity to work alongside your child on some **fun problem-solving activities**. To join us, please **sign up using the Google Form linked below**:

[Maths Parent Workshop – Fill in form](#)

We look forward to seeing you there.

Payment Reminders

Year 4 Superstars Sports Event: Please ensure permission and payment of £4.50 is received in school by Friday 30th January. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

Year 6 Residential for current Year 5: Please ensure permission and the deposit of £20.67 is received in school by 31st January 2026. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning the slip and payment to the school office.

Year 2 and 5 WonderDome Planetarium: Please ensure permission and payment of £5.38 is received in school by Monday 2nd March. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

Year 1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower: Please ensure permission and payment of £20.39 is received in school by Monday 16th March. This can be done online via Scopay or by returning payment to the school office.

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

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

Dinner Menu Rotation

Week commencing 19/01/26: Spring Term Menu 1

Week commencing 26/01/26: Spring Term Menu 2

Week commencing 02/02/26: Spring Term Menu 3

Dinner orders for these weeks are now closed.

Spring - School Activity Clubs

MONDAYS:

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

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

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

Choir (Years 1 – 6): From 12th January to 23rd March, finishing at 4.15pm (£40.50)

TUESDAYS:

KS1 MegaBallers (Years 1 & 2): From 13th January to 10th February, (7.40am-8.35am) (£32.50)

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

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

Tennis (Years 1 – 6): From 13th January to 24th March, finishing at 4.05pm (£50)

WEDNESDAYS:

Early Morning Fitness (Years 1 – 6): From 14th January to 25th March (7.40am-8.35am)

KS2 Ball Games (Years 3 – 6) From 14th January to 25th March, finishing at 4.20pm (£50)

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

Hip Hop (Years 3 – 6): From 7th January to 11th February, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

StandUp Drama School (Years 1 – 6): From 7th January to 25th March, finishing at 4.15pm (£50)

THURSDAYS:

Early Morning Fitness (Years 1 – 6): From 15th January to 26th March (7.40am-8.35am)

KS2 Multisports (Years 3 – 6): From 15th January to 26th March, finishing at 4.20pm (£50)

KS2 Girls Football (Years 3 – 6): From 15th January to 26th March, finishing at 4.15pm

Hip Hop (Years 1 & 2): From 8th January to 12th February, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

Code and Build Club (Years 5 & 6): From 8th January to 26th March, finishing at 4.15pm

FRIDAYS:

KS2 MegaBallers (Years 3 – 6): From 16th January to 13th March, (7.40am-8.35am) (£32.50)

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

KS2 Gymnastics (Years 3 – 6): From 16th January to 13th February, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

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

Girls Basketball (Years 3 – 6): From 16th January to 27th March, finishing at 4.15pm (£40)