



Chipping Hill Times

Issue 8

Date: 19/12/2025

Address: Owers Road, Witham, CM8 1FR

Website: www.chippinghill.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01376 512201

Email: admin@chippinghill.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start off the final newsletter for this term extending a heartfelt thank you to you all for your support this term. I feel honoured to call myself Headteacher of this school and I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved since September. The education sector is ever-changing, and we are committed to ensuring that your child gets the best, holistic education we can offer. We have already developed elements of the school that encourages emotional literacy alongside academic achievement. There is an exceptionally strong staffing team here, who are all focussed on providing the very best experience for your children - much of which happens as part of their usual day-to-day! Whether it is learning support, or TLC when they are having a wobbly day, I am proud of the commitment all the staff have to make sure your child is safe and happy at school and I thank them all for what they do, every day.

Last week's Christmas 'Day' alongside the PTA was a huge success and a real demonstration of how highly we value the experiences we can provide the children at this school. From helping them choose presents to wearing reindeer antlers for hoopla, our staff made sure that every element of the day was filled with festive fun! A particular thank you goes to Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Button, Mrs Cox and Miss Goodwin who prepared a brilliant Christmas dinner for all of the children, staff and volunteers to enjoy - especially cooking 1192 roast potatoes! The Reception and Year 2 Nativity performances were a joy to watch, and I was so impressed at how well the children remembered a multitude of songs, actions and spoken lines - well done to all of you! I particularly loved the sparkly outfits too of course!

I would also like to mention two staff members; one of our HLTA's, Mrs Akhtar and Kestrel's Class Teacher, Miss Taylor who have both decided to step away from the classroom and pursue new challenges. We wish them both well in their respective endeavours. Both Mrs Akhtar and Miss Taylor have worked with numerous children over the years and contributed to the learning journeys of them all - thank you both, you will be missed.

Finally, thank you to your children – their smiles and positivity are infectious, and this job really would not be the same without them. I hope you are all able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas filled with new and existing family traditions and can reflect on 2025 and all you have achieved as a family - they are only children for a small while! I look forward to seeing you all, well-rested, on Monday 5th January 2026.

Wishing you a fabulous Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Mrs Walker



Recent Letters And Communications

- Spring Term Clubs - MiniMe Mindfulness and Girls Basketball
- Year 4 - Superstars Sports Event
- P.E .Days - Spring Term 1
- Residential 2026
- Year 2 WonderDome Planetarium
- Year 5 WonderDome Planetarium
- Spring Term Clubs - Emails 1 of 2 and 2 of 2
- Colchester Zoo Trip for Year 3 - Gold Card Information

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 KS1, Lower KS2, and Upper KS2**, so you can attend the one most relevant to your child:

- **KS1 Workshop:** Tuesday 13th January, 2:45 PM
- **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.

Choir

The school choir has worked hard to learn lots of festive favourites this half term. They performed beautifully to their families at the beginning of December and to a very appreciative audience at Park View..residential home. The choir sang their hearts out with all of their love on both occasions!"



Reception Admissions for September 2026

The primary school (Reception) admission round is now open, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15th January 2026**.

Applications can be made via the website below, where there is also further information regarding the process.

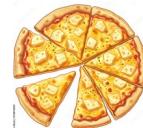
[Primary school places | Essex County Council](#)

Dinner Menu Rotation

Week commencing 05/01/26: Spring Term Menu 2

Week commencing 12/01/26: Spring Term Menu 3

Dinner orders for these weeks are now closed.



Payment Reminders

Wide Awake Club and Super Supper Club: Please ensure all balances for Wide Awake Club and Super Supper Club are cleared as soon as possible. The booking forms for next term have now been sent out but bookings cannot be placed for January onwards until balances have been cleared.

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 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 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.

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

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

Useful Contacts

School Age Flu Immunisation - Catch up clinics are being run for anyone who missed the school session and would like their child to have the vaccine. Further details can be found at:

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book>

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

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**.

Free Family Events in Mid Essex this Winter -

[Mid Essex - Winter Events - Active Essex](#)

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>

- SCS Witham Football Development Centre
- SCS Christmas Witham Football Camp
- Adult Community Learning (ACL) - Free Family Learning Courses
- Essex Library - Winter Reading Challenge

Events Diary

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

05.01.26: First Day of Spring Term

13.01.26: KS1 Parents Maths Workshop at 2.45pm in KS2 Hall

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

03.02.26: Parents Evening (further details to follow)

05.02.26: Parents Evening (further details to follow)

06.02.26: Forest School - Year 4 (further details to follow)

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

10.02.26: Upper KS2 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

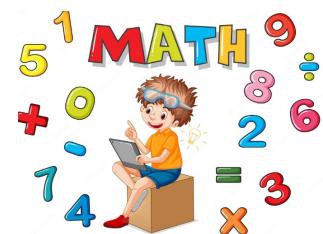
23.02.26: No Choir or KS1 Football after school

27.02.26: No Basketball Club after school

04.03.26: Wonderdome visit to school for Years 2 and 5

05.03.26: World Book Day

06.03.26: No Basketball Club after school



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.

Lost Property

Any lost property will be left out at collection time today, Friday 19th December, please help yourself to any items that may be of use. After this time any items that are not named will be sent to the clothing recycling centre.

Chipping Hill Ambassador Awards

Congratulations to all these pupils!

On Friday 8th December we celebrated those children who received the Creative Writer Ambassador Award for imaginative ideas and effective communication in writing. For listening to feedback from teachers and peers and using this to improve their writing.

Wrens - Brodie - Beau	Kites - Jessica
Robins - Martim	Kestrels - Isabelle
Nightingales - Marley	Harriers - Evie
Skylarks - Eirinn	Eagles - Florence
Kingfishers - David	Hawks - Victoria
Swifts - Evelyn	Falcons - James
Ospreys - Buddy	Condors - Eloise

This week we have been celebrating those children who received the Team Ambassador Award for co-operation and support during group tasks or activities. Understanding how to collaborate, communicate and respect others to create a positive team dynamic.

Wrens - Cillian	Kites - Whole Class
Robins - Louie	Kestrels - Whole Class
Nightingales - Alfie	Harriers - Louie
Skylarks - Louie	Eagles - Owen
Kingfishers - Whole Class	Hawks - Alfie
Swifts - Whole Class	Condors - Harrison
	Falcons - Isabella

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

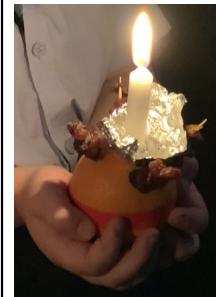
KS2 Gymnastics (Years 3 - 6): From 16th January to 13th February, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

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)

Year 1 - Christingle Service

Our Key Stage 1 children enjoyed a Christingle assembly led by Reverend Howard on the 5th December. The children had a wonderful time making Christingles in the morning and enjoyed being able to share their knowledge during the assembly. Some of the candles were lit and the children sang Away in a Manger and it was a beautiful Christmassy moment. Thank you to Reverend Howard, our excellent candle holders, and parents for the donations of oranges.





Essex County Council
Libraries

**10 January
to 22 February
2026**



Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk