



Chipping Hill Times

Issue 10

Date: 30/01/2026

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 am not sure about you, but I am certainly looking forward to some drier weather! Thank you to the many parents and carers who attended our recent Progress Afternoon - it is always lovely to see so many of our families sharing in their children's successes. As you know, we extended the session from 2:50pm until 4:30pm to offer greater flexibility, and it was wonderful to see so many families around the school, engaging with learning. Your support makes a real difference to your child's learning journey.

This week, I have had the pleasure of welcoming children from across the school to my office who have proudly shared some of their excellent Maths, English and Science work. Seeing the effort, progress, and pride in their learning has been a real joy and makes me incredibly proud of all our pupils. Especially the Super Scientists in Swifts!

As a school we have signed up to the Get Set for the Milan Olympics Challenge, and our pupils have already raced their way across the map to the closing ceremony destination - Cortina! When more activity is logged, the race begins again and we are able to see how many times we are able to make the journey. Well done to everyone who has logged their activity so far! Please read on in the newsletter for further details of how to get involved.

The school name is also going to be travelling around the moon on the Artemis II rocket! Chipping Hill Primary School has been added to an SD card which will be placed inside the Orion spacecraft, the aim of the space flight is to establish a sustainable human presence on the moon. To find out more information about the NASA mission, scan the QR code below on the boarding pass.

We are aware that there has been a high level of illness recently, and we continue to maintain strong cleaning and hygiene practices across the school. Please can I remind families that if your child has been unwell with a contagious illness or sickness bug, they should remain at home for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. This helps us keep as many children and staff healthy and in school as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Looking ahead, our PTA have lots of exciting plans in the pipeline, and I am really looking forward to seeing these develop. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school.

Our children continue to impress me with their resilience, hard work, and kindness and this week I have been especially proud of how thoughtfully they have been looking after themselves and one another.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Walker
Headteacher



Medicines

A reminder regarding prescribed drugs for children attending school;

- Parents should bring medicine to the office where they will be required to fill in a form stating details, dosage and all necessary information.
- Only medicines needing 4 or more doses per day will be given at school. Medicines requiring 3 doses should be given at home - at breakfast time, after school and at bedtime (the only exception would be if a child was attending Super Supper Club).
- We can only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration.
- Parents and Carers should make arrangements to collect the medicine from the school office at the end of the day unless alternative arrangements are made with the school staff. Medicines will not be handed to a child to bring home.
- Non prescribed drugs: The school is unable to administer any non-prescribed drugs unless it has been discussed and agreed with the school office.

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.

Get Set for Milan, Winter Olympics and Paralympics

We are excited to share that our school is taking part in Get Set for Milan, an exciting initiative run by the British Olympic and Paralympic Association in the lead-up to the Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

The aim is to encourage children to stay active in any way they choose and to log the time they spend being active. This could include swimming, football, dance classes, after-school clubs, dog walks, or even climbing and playing in the park.

To take part, children can log their activity at home using the details below:

- Team name: Chipping Hill Primary School
- Team pin code: 3829
- Log activity here:

<https://www.getset.co.uk/app/log-activity>

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.

Year 2 Trip to Barleylands: Please ensure permission and payment of £16.47 is received in school by Monday 20th April. 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.

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

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>

- Adult Community Learning (ACL) - Free Online Family Learning Courses
- FACE Family Advice Online Sessions
- Complete Dance Studios - Open Morning - Sunday 1st February

Dinner Menu Rotation

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

Dinner orders for these weeks are now closed.

Week commencing 09/02/26: Spring Term Menu 1

Week commencing 23/02/26: Spring Term Menu 2

Week commencing 02/03/26: Spring Term Menu 3

Dinner menus for the weeks commencing 9th, 23rd February and 2nd March 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 4th February 2026.

Please note this is a new menu rotation and also includes three theme days so please check the allergens carefully prior to ordering.

A copy of the allergen list can be found on the school website. It is the responsibility of parents and 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.

NB: Please ensure that after ordering meals for weeks commencing 9th and 23rd February that you scroll across to March to order meals for week commencing 2nd March 2026.

Chipping Hill Ambassador Awards

Congratulations to all these pupils!

On Friday 23rd January we celebrated those children who received the Ambassador for Freedom of Choice Award – for promoting everyone's freedom to make their own choices, respecting diversity and standing up against discrimination or unfair treatment.

Wrens - Darcie	Kites - Alex
Robins - Jude	Kestrels - Harper
Nightingales - Rosie	Harriers - Primrose
Skylarks - Vivan	Eagles - Lily
Kingfishers - Phoebe	Hawks - Grace
Swifts - Tamara	Falcons - Annabelle
Ospreys - Frankie	Condors - Ava

This week we have been celebrating those children who received the Ambassador for showing kindness to self Award – by being patient when something was difficult, saying kind words to themselves when they made a mistake, celebrating something they did well. Remembering that everyone deserves kindness, including themselves. Remembering that we are all enough.

Wrens - Lucas	Kites - Grace
Robins - Harper	Kestrels - George
Nightingales - Sadie	Harriers - Connor
Skylarks - Belle	Eagles - Isabelle
Kingfishers - Thea	Hawks - Charlie
Swifts - Alexis	Falcons - Lottie
Ospreys - Clark	Condors - Freddie

Recent Letters And Communications

- Hawks and Eagles - Letter from Mrs Walker
- Wide Awake Club Booking Forms for Weeks Commencing 9th and 23rd February and 2nd March
- Dinner Orders for Weeks Commencing 9th and 23rd February and 2nd March
- Art and Craft Club for Year 1 and 2
- Online Safety Newsletter - February 2026
- Get Set for Milan, Winter Olympics and Paralympics
- MegaBallers - Tuesday and Friday mornings
- Year 2 - Trip to Barleylands
- NHS Advice on Childhood Illnesses
- Year 2 - DT Project Request
- Robins and Wrens Forest School Information
- Year 5 - Forest School
- Year 5 - Residential Deposit and Consent Reminder
- Parent Meetings
- KEGS Tours - Year 5 boys
- Harriers Class Update from Mrs Walker

Themed Menus for School Dinners

We have several themed menu days during the next dinner menu rotation which is now available to book.

On **Friday 13th February** we will be celebrating **Chinese New Year and Pancake Day** with vegetable spring rolls, lucky rice and sweet and sour sauce, followed by pancakes with raspberry sauce.

On **Friday 27th February** we will be having a **Spanish Day** at school so lunch will be chicken and chorizo paella or vegetarian paella and an iced doughnut.

On **Thursday 5th March** we will be celebrating **World Book Day** with a 'How to train your dragon' themed menu of 'Toothless' dragon bite beef burger or vegetarian 'Viking' burger with 'Stormfly' dragon claws (potato wedges) and 'Hiccups' (tomato ketchup) and 'Hookfang' fireberry ice cream.

Jacket potatoes are also available on these days.

If your child would like to enjoy these themed menus please book on Scopay by 1pm on Wednesday 4th February.



Donations

Thanks to everyone who has donated items to the school over the last few months we are very grateful for the toys and books we have received. Thanks to all these generous donations we are now very well resourced, so going forward we will put out specific requests if there is anything we need at school. Thank you again for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Events Diary

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

03.02.26: Parent Meetings. From 1.20pm to 3.10pm at school and from 4pm to 6pm online

05.02.26: Parent Meetings. From 1.20pm to 3.10pm at school and from 4pm to 6pm online

06.02.26: Forest School - Year 4

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

13.02.26: No Basketball Club

16.02.26 to 20.02.26: Half Term

23.02.26: No Choir or KS1 Football after school

03.03.26: Robins Forest School starts. Every Tuesday until 12/05/2026.

04.03.26: Wrens Forest School starts. Every Wednesday until 13/05/26

04.03.26: Wonderdome visit to school for Years 2 and 5

05.03.26: World Book Day (further details to follow)

11.03.26: Friends of Chipping Hill Mother's Day Stall (further details to follow)

12.03.26 to 17.03.26: Book Fair (further details to follow)

13.03.26: Hawks - Braintree Sings!

17.03.26: iRock Concert. Parents joining from 2.15pm

20.03.26: Eagles Forest School AM and Hawks Forest PM

25.03.26: Year 4 Easter Performance at 2pm and 6pm (further details to follow)

26.03.26: Year 1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower

30.03.26 to 10.04.26: Easter Holidays

13.04.26: First Day of Summer Term

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

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 5 - Library Trip

Last week, Year 5 walked to Witham Library. During this visit, we were shown how to navigate the library and take out books as well as completing some small tasks where we looked for books using their index numbers and placed them into categories. The Librarian also told us about the Winter Reading Challenge and some of the children signed up to participate during the visit.



White Rose Maths 1 - Minute Maths App

We would like to draw EYFS and KS1 parents and carers attention to the White Rose Maths 1-Minute Maths app, a free resource designed to support children in developing fluency and confidence in key mathematical skills. The app provides short, focused activities that can be completed in just one minute, making it ideal for regular practice at home. The content aligns closely with classroom learning, helping to reinforce key concepts. We encourage parents and carers to download the app and support their child's maths learning through frequent, manageable practice at home.



MEGABALLERS

**CHIPPING HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Owers Rd, Witham CM8 1FR

MegaBallers KS1
Tuesday 07:45 - 08:25

CLICK HERE

MegaBallers KS2
Friday 07:45 - 08:25

CLICK HERE

Did you know
we also run a
BabyBallers
program for 16mths
- 5 years old on
Saturday mornings
in Witham

CLICK HERE

Sessions take place outside on the school field.
Please ensure appropriate footwear is provided.

EMAIL: Jo.pilgrim@babyballers.com

WWW.BABYBALLERS.COM

 @BABYBALLERS_UK  BABYBALLERS