



Chipping Hill Times

Issue 11

Date: 13/02/2026

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,

Wow! Who can believe we are halfway through this academic year already?!

As we reach the midpoint, I just wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you for your continued support throughout another brilliant half term. Your partnership in your children's education makes such a difference, and we are so grateful. I do my best to be out on the gate most days, please do come to me if you have any worries or need to talk.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at last week's parent evenings and the maths workshops. The conversations were incredibly valuable, and it was lovely to see our families so fully engaged in their children's learning. These meetings really do help us work together to ensure every child can thrive. Thank you to Mrs Beazeley for facilitating the workshops.

Nightingales impressed me with their Shape Shop this week with such eloquent telephone manners! Well done for showing off your brilliant maths learning.

A special well done to our Year 6 children, who completed another round of practice tests last week. They are all doing incredibly well, approaching their work with such maturity and determination. We are very proud of each and every one of them – keep up the fantastic effort!

Year 4 have begun their production practice, and we cannot wait to see what they pull together! This week, they also attended the Superstars sports event and represented our school brilliantly. Well done Year 4, and a big thank you to the staff who helped make this happen.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week, and what a joyful way to mark it! We danced our way into the week and back out again in assembly, celebrating the importance of belonging. The children have been creating their personal maps, showing all the places and things that help them feel they belong. It's been so heart warming to see them reflect on what matters most to them.

Whatever you are planning for half term, I hope it brings you happiness and joy – with a sprinkling of much-needed sunshine! Let's hope for drier weather as we head into the next half term.

Have a wonderful break, and I look forward to seeing you all at 8:35am on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,
Mrs Walker
Headteacher

Year 4 Superstars Sports Event

This week, the whole of Year 4 attended the Superstars Sports event, which involved a range of multi-skills based activities and involved us competing against five other schools. Every child was able to participate and have a go at each of the activities including basketball, javelin, speed bounces and scooter races, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Our elected Chipping Hill captains, George (Harriers) and Olivia (Kestrels), made us proud when they read aloud to the other schools our own school sporting pledge, which they created themselves along with some help from some other chosen sports role models in Year 4.



Chipping Hill Ambassador Awards

Congratulations to all these pupils!

On Friday 6th February we celebrated those children who received the Fair Play Ambassador Award – for supporting fair behaviour and encouraging inclusivity in games. For creating new games and demonstrating our breaktime and lunchtime rules at all times.

Wrens - Harrison	Kites - Finley
Robins - Romeo	Kestrels - Evangelica
Nightingales - Tharius	Harriers - Henry
Skylarks - Oliver	Eagles - Freddie
Kingfishers - Remi	Hawks - Coco
Swifts - Theodore	Falcons - Flynn
Ospreys - Darcy	Condors - Elsie

This week we have been celebrating those children who received the Mindful Moment Ambassador Award. For helping to create calm or relaxed moments in class or outside that allows everyone to feel that they belong and recognising the importance of Children's Mental Health Week 2026.

Wrens - Juan	Kites - Milo
Robins - Sophia	Kestrels - Evie
Nightingales - Isla	Harriers - Sophia
Skylarks - Amelia	Eagles - Evie
Kingfishers - Dominic	Hawks - Sadie
Swifts - Primrose	Falcons - Baylie
Ospreys - Zara	

Year 4 - Forest School

Harriers and Kestrels had a fun-filled muddy adventure last Friday at Forest School.

Activities included playing in the mud kitchen with pots, pans and utensils, building shelters using tyres, wood and tarpaulin, investigating the bug hotel, mud face painting and warming up by drinking hot chocolate. The mud and water created a fantastic environment for slipping and sliding around and getting covered in mud!



Essex County Council
Children and Families

Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?

Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!

Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally FREE event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.

Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

Want to join in?
Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

Starting Reception Roadshow near you:
[Chipping Hill Primary School, Owers Rd,](#)
Where: [Witham CM8 1FR](#)
Monday 9th March 2026
When: 4.30pm -6pm

You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting www.tlc-essex.info and searching 'Starting reception'

Follow us on social media to join our Starting Reception Campaign

Instagram Facebook

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

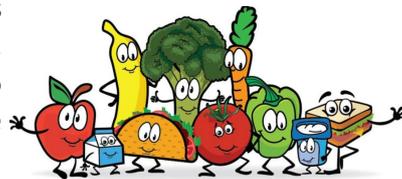
Launch of Free Yo-Yo Project Bereavement Consultation Line - [Website Link](#)

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](#)

School Dinners

If on a day you have ordered a Free School Meal, but a packed lunch is brought to school, we will give your child the school dinner ordered and send the packed lunch home with them. This is to ensure the school does not waste food. This applies to EYFS, Years 1 and 2, and those in Years 3 to 6 who are entitled to free school meals.



Payment Reminders

Year 6 Residential for current Year 5: For those paying on a monthly basis, the February payment of £28 is due by the end of the month. 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 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 3 Trip to Colchester Zoo: Please ensure permission and payment of £8.74 for those children without a gold card and £1.74 for those children with a gold card 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 5 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze: Please ensure permission and payment of £12.55 is received in school by Friday 27th 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.

Dinner Menu Rotation

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

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

Dinner orders for these weeks are now closed.

Recent Letters And Communications

- Year 4 - Easter Performance - Wednesday 25th March
- Clubs - Spring Term 2
- Year 5 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze
- Year 5 Bikeability - final reminder
- Year 3 Trip to Colchester Zoo
- Spanish Themed Day - Friday 27th February
- Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 10th February
- Year 6 Information for the rest of the Academic Year
- Outstanding payments for Coach James
- Year 5 - Bikeability
- World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

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

Age - Appropriate Viewing

We have noticed that some children have been discussing content from films and shows that are not age-appropriate. We encourage all families to review their parental controls on streaming services and devices, and to have open conversations with children about what they are watching and why age ratings matter. Thank you.



Essex Teaching Awards

The Essex Teaching Awards gives the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the inspirational work of early years and childcare practitioners, teachers and school staff within Essex.

Nominations are now open, if there is someone at school you wish to nominate - please do!

[Essex Teaching Awards](https://www.essex.gov.uk/teaching-awards) | [Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk)

Events Diary

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

- 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
- 27.02.26:** Spanish Themed Day - wear red or yellow t-shirts or red/yellow accessories
- 03.03.26:** Robins Forest School starts
- 04.03.26:** Wrens Forest School starts
- 04.03.26:** Wonderdome visit to school for Years 2 and 5
- 05.03.26:** World Book Day
- 11.03.26:** Friends of Chipping Hill Mother's Day Stalls (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 3 - Colchester Zoo Trip
- 25.03.26:** Year 4 Easter Performances at 2pm and 6pm
- 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 Bake Off Cake Sale after school (further details to follow)
- 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

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>

- Explore Learning - Information Session for 11 Plus and Entrance Exams
- Starting Reception in 2026 Roadshow
- SCS Witham Goalkeepers Only Camp February Half Term
- SCS Witham Football Camp February Half Term
- SCS Witham Multi-Sports Camp February Half Term

Please note there is no KS1 Football or Choir on the first day back after half term.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IF YOUR CHILD JOINS A CLUB
THAT YOU KEEP A NOTE OF THE DATES AND FINISHING TIMES.**

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)

No KS1 Football on Monday 23rd February

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)

No Choir on Monday 23rd February

TUESDAYS:

MegaBallers (Years 1 - 6): From 24th February to 24th March, (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 25th February to 25th March, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

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

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

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 26th February to 26th March, finishing at 4.15pm (£30)

FRIDAYS:

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

KS2 Gymnastics (Years 3 - 6): From 27th February to 27th March, 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 20th March, finishing at 4.15pm (£40)