Chater Junior School

Making lives better

Friday 16th October 2026

“I like to learn. That is an art and a science.”

Katherine Johnson

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many parents attending our first parents' meeting for this academic year. If you were unable to attend, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher. Working in partnership with you, our parents, is essential to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome staff from Hammond Academy, Hemel Hempstead, who visited our school to see our OPAL provision in action. They were extremely impressed with the opportunities we provide for our children and the positive impact OPAL has on play and learning experiences across the school.

We are pleased to let you know that we will be moving to Google Classroom as our online learning platform. Over the coming weeks, this will become our main way of sharing home learning, class learning and school events with pupils and families. A letter was sent home yesterday, along with a parent guide containing further information to help families get started.

I am also excited to announce that Ms Gamrot has launched the Hertfordshire Heroes Art Competition! This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to showcase their creativity and artistic talents. Two years ago, one of our talented pupils won first prize, and we would love to see another success this year! We hope lots of children will take part. Please see the end of the newsletter for further details on how to enter. Good luck, everyone!

Looking ahead to next week, please do not forget that **Wednesday is the PTA Crazy Hair and Hat Day**. This is an important fundraising event for our school. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for further details. We kindly ask children to bring a donation of **£1 to £2**, and PTA members will be collecting donations at the school gates during morning drop-off on Wednesday.

We have also begun planning activities for next half term, and our next exciting community event will be our **Diwali Celebration**. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information. Further details will be shared with families next Monday.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting and successful week ahead.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Khindey

Congratulations

Headteacher Award

Well done to the following children who received the Headteacher Award in our Celebration Assembly.

Amelia
Class: Walter Tull

Dhanvika
Class: Florence Nightingale

Huda
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Hayder
Class: Ernest Shackleton

Jacob
Class: Martin Luther King

Rayan
Class: Greta Thunberg

Zayna
Class: Malala Yousafzai

Sumaya
Class: Usain Bolt

Attendance Award- Walter Tull

Attend Today,
Achieve Tomorrow
Every School Day Counts!

National Target- 95%
Whole School Target - 96%
Whole School Attendance- 96.8%

Walter Tull	99.2%
Florence Nightingale	97.7%
Queen Elizabeth II	97.3%
Ernest Shackleton	99%
Martin Luther King	93.9%
Greta Thunberg	93%
Malala Yousafzai	97%
Usain Bolt	97.3%

Golden Table Award

Well done to the following children for showing excellent manners and behaviour at lunchtime.

Aahan
Class: Walter Tull

Tamera
Class: Florence Nightingale

Neaksha
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Jaden
Class: Ernest Shackleton

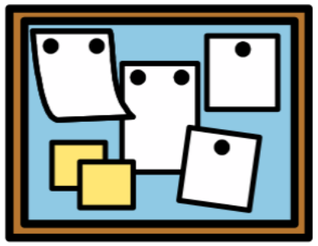
Kainaat
Class: Martin Luther King

Matteo
Class: Greta Thunberg

Ethan
Class: Malala Yousafzai

Amelia
Class: Usain Bolt

Notices



Autumn Term Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th October	Year 3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum Year 6 Trip to Lincolnsfield
Wednesday 21st October	Greta Thunberg Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am PTA Crazy Hair & Hat Day New Hope Harvest Donations Due
Thursday 22nd October	Year 5 Ancient Greek Workshop
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	Half-Term
Monday 2nd November	INSET DAY 2- School closed
Tuesday 3rd November	Pupils return to school Chater Celebrates Diwali
Wednesday 4th November to Friday 6th November	Year 6 at PGL
Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November	SEND Parent's Evening week Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 9th November	Year 6 Height & Weight Checks with school nurse
Wednesday 11th November	PTA Meeting - Christmas Fayre Preparation 9am-10am
Thursday 12th November	Year 4 Sports hall Athletics Festival Year 6 Sports hall Athletics Festival
Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying week- Break the Silence
Thursday 19th November	Flu Vaccinations session 2
Friday 27th November	PTA Non Uniform Day to raise tombola donations for Christmas Fayre
Week beginning 30th November	Last week of School run Clubs
Tuesday 8th December	Tricia Bastable (Watford School's Trust) Christmas Assembly
Wednesday 9th December	PTA Christmas Fayre 3:30-5:00pm
Thursday 10th December	Christmas School Lunch
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Performance 1 2:00-3:00pm
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Performance 2 9:30- 10:30am Rocksteady Christmas Concert 2:00pm
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term- school finishes at 1:15pm.

NewHope

PREVENTING **HOMELESSNESS.** TRANSFORMING **LIVES.**

Here are some things that we need please:

Groceries

Baked beans
BBQ sauce
Biscuits
Breakfast cereals/ porridge pots
Brown sauce
Cereal bars
Chocolate spread
Chutney/pickle
Cooking oil (not olive)
Cup a Soups
Dried herbs, (chilli, oregano, thyme, parsley, mint)
Individual bags of crisps
Individual chocolate bars/biscuits
Jam
Ketchup
Marmite
Mayonnaise
Mug shots
Pasta
Pasta sauces
Peanut butter (smooth)
Pot noodles/ super noodles/ pasta pots
Salad cream
Salt and pepper
Stock cubes
Sugar
Supermarket vouchers
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned tuna

Household

Air freshener
Antibacterial multi-purpose cleaner
Dishwasher tablets
Kitchen foil/cling film
Kitchen rolls
Scourers/cloths
Washing powder
Washing up liquid
Wooden disposable cutlery

Drinks

Cans of fizzy drinks
Coffee
Fruit juice: individual cartons and large cartons of long-life juice
Instant hot chocolate
Long-life milk
Small bottles of water
Squash
Tea

Toiletries

Brushes
Combs
Conditioner
Moisturiser
Paper towels
Pump soaps
Sanitary towels
Shampoo
Shaving gel/foam
Shower gel/body wash
Spray deodorant (male and female)
Sun cream (30+)
Toilet rolls
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Women's razors

For further details:

visit newhope.org.uk/harvest
contact Frazer at fansell@newhope.org.uk
or call 01923 227 132

You can also donate money online to our **Fresh Food Fund**
newhope.org.uk/freshfoodfund

New Hope (Watford New Hope Trust) is a registered charity (1080784) and a company limited by guarantee (03969063).

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026

Get Creative!

CRAZY Hair & Hat Day

Big hair? Funny hat? Go for it!

♥ Have fun ♥ Be creative ♥ Support our PTA! ♥

Show off your wackiest hairstyle or your most amazing hat!

Examples:

Fun buns

Colourful hair

Creative hats

Hair accessories

Cool hats

Wild and wacky (wig)

Festive hats

Silly styles

Any style!

However you choose to take part, we can't wait to see your creations!

Date: Wednesday 21st October

Donation: £1-£2 per child

Staff and pupils are all welcome to participate!

Donations will be collected in the morning at drop off time

Halloween at church farm

24th - 31st October

Visit
Church Farm Ardeley
A real working farm!

- Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- Big Bale Play
- Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- Spooky Photo Opportunities
- Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- Scarecrow Trail
- Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- Farm Sensory Trail

Additional Activities

Pumpkin Picking & Carving

Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)

Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides

Eerie Egg Collecting

Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online **www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk**

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience

Chater Celebrates Diwali

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
First day back after half-term

Wear traditional cultural clothing or a colourful Diwali-inspired outfit

Indian dance workshops
for all classes

£2.75 per child

Contribution via Arbor by Friday 30th October

Diwali-themed activities throughout the day

- Diya drawing and painting
- Reading and writing activities linked to Diwali
- Learning about the significance and traditions of the festival

Families who celebrate Diwali...

We'd love to welcome you to share your stories, traditions or experiences with your child's class at **2:45 pm** on the day.

If you would like to share a story or talk to a class, please let your child's teacher know in advance.

Hertfordshire HEROES
SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE

CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION 2026

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS THIS CHRISTMAS

THANK YOU
BRAVERY
DEDICATION
SERVICE
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

REAL PEOPLE. AMAZING WORK. BRIGHTER CHRISTMASES.

Create festive artwork to bring cheer to Armed Forces personnel and say thank you for their service.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE SAME IMPORTANT MISSION

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Create a festive piece of artwork to bring cheer to military personnel who are serving away from their families during Christmas.

Your artwork will be shared with members of the Armed Forces to spread festive cheer and show appreciation for their service.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

Create a single piece of artwork on one page, no larger than A3. Your artwork must:

- feature His Majesty's Armed Forces
- include a winter theme, such as Christmas or another winter festival
- not use glitter.

You can also include a message, such as:

"Wishing our Armed Forces a Merry Christmas from [School Name]."

"Thank you for your service."

ANY ART MEDIUM IS WELCOME!

Paint, pencils, crayons, collage, pastels and more – just no glitter please!

WHO CAN ENTER?

All Hertfordshire Key Stage 2 pupils

- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

ALL CREATIVE MINDS WELCOME!

DEADLINE

Submit your artwork by

Friday 6th November 2026

HOW TO ENTER

Submit your artwork to school.

Please make sure you clearly write:

- **Your name**
- **Your age**
- **The name of your class**

Your school will collect and send all entries.

THE PRIZE

One winner from each year group (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) will receive:

- A certificate
- A special prize kindly donated by Northwood HQ
- In previous years this has included an exciting outdoor adventure experience.

A DAY OF ADVENTURE AWAITS!

RESPECT
THANK YOU
COMMUNITY
STRONGER TOGETHER

SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

HEROES AT CHRISTMAS

Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire HEROES
SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE

Kindness Connects Us All