Chater Junior School

Making lives better

Friday 25th September 2026

“Do anything, but let it produce joy. "

Walt Whitman.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, last week I was proud to announce our new pupil representatives across the school. Our newly appointed Head Boy, Alfie, and Head Girl, Leah, have written an introduction for our newsletter to share a little about themselves. I know they will both do an excellent job and represent our school with maturity, kindness and pride.

Hello there!
My name is Alfie and I am Head Boy of Chater Junior School.
I am a friendly person who will try to help others in their learning and friendships.
I go to Cub Scouts where I have fun with my friends doing activities like camping.
I also love to read many different genres of books.
With my friends, I have climbed Snowdon, raising over £250 for my Scout group.
I have ADHD so I look at things with a different perspective which helps me find solutions to problems.
As Head Boy, I will try and make sure there will be positive relationships between everyone at Chater Junior School.

Thank you for reading!

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

My name is Leah, and I am incredibly honoured and proud to be our school’s Head Girl. I feel very fortunate to have this responsibility and I am excited about the opportunity to represent our school and help make it happy, welcoming and a positive place for everyone.

As a Head Girl, I hope to lead with kindness, respect and understanding. I believe that being a good leader is not about being the loudest person in the room, but about listening to others, working as a team and making sure that everyone is feels valued. I will always try my best to be approachable and friendly so that pupils feel

comfortable sharing their ideas, worries and achievements with me.

I hope to lead by example and inspire others to believe in themselves. Whether I am welcoming new children or supporting other pupils, I will help everyone to become a brighter student.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am so excited for the year ahead and all that we can achieve together.

Kind regards,

Leah.

Yesterday, Tricia Bastable from Watford Schools Trust delivered a thoughtful assembly on Harvest and its meaning for Christians. The children engaged beautifully and reflected on themes of gratitude, giving and community.

The PTA also met with Ms Batliwala yesterday and have already begun preparing for the Christmas Fair and other exciting events planned for this year. Dates for upcoming activities can be found at the end of the newsletter. Their next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th November at 9am in the school hall. Please feel free to join- new faces are always warmly welcomed.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Khindey

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

Congratulations

Headteacher Award

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

Teo
Class: Walter Tull

Abdullah
Class: Florence Nightingale

Yousuf
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Jessica
Class: Ernest Shackleton

Tony
Class: Martin Luther King

Shanzay
Class: Greta Thunberg

Sreeya
Class: Malala Yousafzai

Najam
Class: Usain Bolt

Attendance Award- Ernest Shackleton

Attend Today,
Achieve Tomorrow
Every School Day Counts!

National Target- 95%
Whole School Target - 96%
Whole School Attendance- 96.9%

Walter Tull	96.7%
Florence Nightingale	98.5%
Queen Elizabeth II	98.9%
Ernest Shackleton	96%
Martin Luther King	98.6%
Greta Thunberg	97.1%
Malala Yousafzai	95.7%
Usain Bolt	94%

Golden Table Award

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

Mehmat
Class: Walter Tull

Hea
Class: Florence Nightingale

Alyaan
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Ashrita
Class: Ernest Shackleton

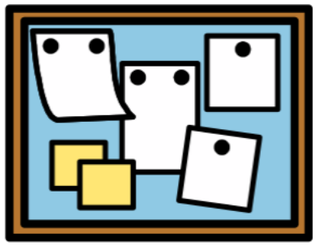
Tawassul
Class: Martin Luther King

Aditya
Class: Greta Thunberg

Alizeh
Class: Malala Yousafzai

Abdul
Class: Usain Bolt

Notices



We are nut free school.
Please be aware of the products you are sending in and ensure there are no nuts

A reminder that if your child is in Years 3 and 4 please stay with them on the playground until the bell rings at 8:50am.

If you would like to update the Permission slips for another person (other than the parent) to collect your child, please collect a letter from the school office

<u>PE Lessons – Autumn Term</u>

Please ensure that your child comes to school in their correct PE kit when they have PE.

Year 3	Monday & Wednesday
Year 4	Tuesday
Greta Thunberg	Thursday & Friday
Marin Luther King	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 6	Monday & Friday

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Wednesday 30th September	Malala Yousafzai Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am Year 5 Cross Country Competition
Tuesday 13th October	Individual/Sibling Photographs Parents Evening 4pm-7:10pm
Thursday 15th October	Parents Evening 3:40pm-5:00pm
Tuesday 20th October	Greta Thunberg Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am Year 3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum Year 6 Trip to Lincolnsfield
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.

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 CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website