Chater Junior School

Making lives better

Friday 4th September 2026

"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships and new challenges."

Denise Witmer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

I am delighted to welcome back all our returning parents and carers and to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 3 families. I look forward to getting to know your children over the coming months and working together to support them throughout the year. It was a pleasure to see the children return to school on Wednesday. They have settled quickly into routines and have made a positive start to the new academic year.

I would also like to welcome back Mrs Tomlinson, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, who has returned from maternity leave. If you would like to speak with Mrs Tomlinson regarding your child's special educational needs or disability (SEND), an appointment can be arranged through the school office.

I am delighted to share that our school has achieved the **School Games Gold Award**. This recognises our commitment to providing high-quality PE, sport and physical activity opportunities for all pupils. A special thank you to Mrs Rees for leading and coordinating PE and for organising the many additional sporting events and competitions that our children enjoy.

Welcome Meetings for Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all parents and carers to attend our upcoming welcome meetings next week. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, learn more about the curriculum for the year ahead and ask any questions you may have. Please arrive promptly at the following times:

Wednesday 9th September

- Year 6 Parent/Carer Meeting (including secondary school information): 9:15am to 9:45am
- Year 5 Parent/Carer Meeting (including secondary school information): 2:45pm to 3:15pm

Thursday 10th September

- Year 3 Parent/Carer Meeting: 9:15am to 9:45am
- Year 4 Parent/Carer Meeting: 2:45pm to 3:15pm

School Development Priorities

Our School Development Priorities have now been refined in line with the new Ofsted framework and are available to view on our website under the **Our School** section.

While there are some refinements, our core priorities remain broadly unchanged. We will continue to focus on delivering the very best curriculum and high-quality teaching, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for all pupils, and supporting our dedicated staff with the skills and resources they need to do what they do best.

Routines and Expectations

I remain immensely proud of our pupils, who continuously represent themselves and our school to a very high standard. A new academic year provides an opportunity to start as we mean to go on, and I would therefore appreciate your support in ensuring that all children arrive at school in full school uniform and are properly equipped for learning.

As outlined in our Parent Handbook, **jewellery, earrings, nose piercings and nail varnish are not permitted in school**. These items present a health and safety risk, both during PE lessons and other school activities, and the school cannot take responsibility for their security.

Small stud earrings are acceptable only if your child can remove them independently for PE lessons. Please also ensure that children wear **black school shoes** rather than trainers with their school uniform, unless it is a designated PE day.

As a reminder, we are a **mobile phone-free school**. In addition, **smartwatches are not permitted**.

Attendance and Punctuality

While attendance at our school is generally good, we are placing a renewed emphasis on improving attendance even further this year. Excellent attendance and punctuality are vital to your child's success, and I appreciate your partnership in achieving this goal.

We understand that children will occasionally be unwell; however, regular attendance is essential for good progress and positive social development. We ask that families avoid arranging appointments during school hours wherever possible.

Our expectation is that pupils achieve an attendance rate of **97% or above**, giving them the best opportunity to make excellent progress. Attendance is monitored regularly, and families will be contacted if concerns arise.

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please email admin@chaterjm.herts.sch.uk with full details or telephone the school between **8:45am and 9:15am**. If no reason is provided for an absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

Children who have experienced vomiting or diarrhea should not return to school until **48 hours after their last episode**.

It is also very important that pupils arrive and are collected on time.

- School begins at **8:50am** and ends at **3:20pm**.
- The school gates open at **8:35am**.
- Please remain with your child until the bell rings at **8:50am**, unless they have written permission to walk to and from school independently (Year 5 and Year 6 pupils only).
- The main school gates close at **8:55am**.
- Class registers close at **9:00am**.

Arriving late can be distressing for a child and disruptive to the learning of the whole class. We ask all parents and carers to make every effort to ensure children arrive on time, with the correct equipment, ready to learn.

Celebrations

A reminder that, from September, we are no longer able to accept edible treats in school. If you would still like your child to mark a special occasion, you are welcome to provide non-food items such as stickers, pencils, themed erasers or small trinkets. Please refer to the letter sent on Tuesday for further information, which is also available on the school website.

After-School Clubs

A letter was sent yesterday regarding **Game On after-school clubs**. Please read this carefully, as a number of changes have been made. Further information regarding additional school clubs run by staff will be shared next week.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Please take the time to check the Autumn Term diary dates at the end of this newsletter and on our school website. These dates will be updated regularly throughout the term, so I encourage you to refer to them frequently to ensure you are aware of upcoming events, meetings, trips and important school information.

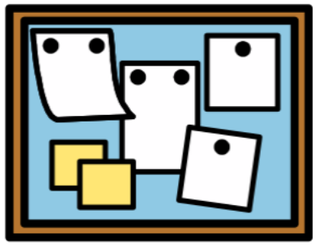
Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community. I look forward to working together to ensure the success, happiness and wellbeing of all our pupils throughout the year.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Khindey

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

PE Lessons – Autumn Term

Please ensure that your child come 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 2nd September	**Autumn Term begins.**
Tuesday 8th September	Bee Zee Healthy Eating Assembly **Bee Zee Parent Workshop 9:30am-10:30am** Year 4 Joy of Moving sessions commence
Wednesday 9th September	Welcome to Year 6 parent/carer meeting-: 9:15-9:45am (including secondary school information). Welcome to Year 5 parent/carer meeting 2:45-3:15pm (including secondary school information).
Thursday 10th September	Welcome to Year 3 parent/carer meeting-: 9:15-9:45am Welcome to Year 4 parent/carer meeting 2:45-3:15pm
Tuesday 22nd September	Rabbi Aaron Goldstein-Rosh Hashanah Assembly
Wednesday 23rd September	**Year 6 PGL parent information meeting**
Thursday 24th September	Flu Vaccinations session 1
Tuesday 29th September	**Malala Yousafzai Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am**
Tuesday 6th October	Tricia Bastable- Harvest Assembly
Tuesday 13th October	**Individual/Sibling Photographs** **Parents Evening 4pm-7:10pm tbc**
Thursday 15th October	**Parents Evening 3:40pm-5:00pm.tbc**
Tuesday 20th October	**Greta Thunberg Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am**
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 16th November to Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying week- Break the Silence
Thursday 19th November	Flu Vaccinations session 2
Thursday 10th December	Christmas School Lunch
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Performance 1 2:00-3:00pm tbc
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Performance 2 9:30- 10:30am tbc
Friday 18th December	**End of Autumn Term- school finishes at 1:15pm.**