

CHAMBERSBURY NEWS

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Working together to become change makers

5th September 2025

Welcome back!!!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been brilliant to see so many of you completing the Chambersbury Challenges! I am sure that you are all now feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you back to school for the start of the 2025–2026 year. A special welcome goes to our new families and staff joining the school community – we're delighted to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks.

The beginning of a new school year is always filled with excitement, anticipation, and a little bit of nervous energy – and that's perfectly natural. Our dedicated staff have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare engaging learning environments and a curriculum full of inspiring opportunities to help every child thrive.

We are proud of the strong partnerships we have with our families and community, and we know that by working together, we can make this year a truly successful one for all.

On the note of partnerships, please look out for our P.A.T.CH team who will be available on the playground, afterschool on Monday to share more about what they do and how you can get involved to benefit your child and the school.



Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
92.6%	96.3%	93.8%	94.5%	95.1%	94.0%	94.2%	94.5%

ATTENDANCE 2025-2026—WHOLE YEAR

Paper Newsletter

You may be surprised to be receiving this newsletter as a 'hard copy' this week - our usual means of sending out the newsletter is by e-mail, partly to ensure all parents receive it as well as reducing printing costs. We felt that by having a physical copy for the first week of the term it might help remind everyone to read it. Throughout the year, please be a good friend to your fellow parents by reminding them of key events/information in case they have missed something.

A message from the Chair of Governors

Welcome Back, Chambersbury!

Welcome back to a new school year at Chambersbury Primary! I hope you all had a fantastic summer.

On behalf of the governing board, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families and a special welcome to our new Reception parents. We're also delighted to welcome our new teachers: Mrs. Gallagher and Miss Fawkes in Year 5, Mr Bartlett in Year 3 and Mrs. Wright in Year 6.

Last year, Mr. Payne's arrival as head teacher brought about some changes, and this year we're excited to build on that foundation. Our goal is to create a school community where everyone thrives and to nurture the "Chambersbury Change makers" of tomorrow.

A huge amount of work took place over the summer, especially in the reception classroom. A big thank you to Mr. Payne and our Site Manager, Mr. Philips, for their hard work, and to Miss Alford and Miss Wallis for getting everything set up so beautifully for our new students. If you haven't seen the new classroom yet, Mr. Payne will be arranging a chance for parents to view it soon.

The governing board also saw some significant changes. We said goodbye to three long-serving governors, and I want to thank them for their dedication to the school over the years. We've been fortunate to not only replace them but also to grow the board. We now have seven governors: three parent governors, two external governors, and two staff members. We are also advised by an external governance professional from Herts for Learning. Additionally, a long-standing parent governor, Stephanie Mitchell, was voted in as Vice Chair. This strong team will be a great asset in supporting Mr. Payne as we make improvements to the school.

This year, our key priorities are to continue the excellent work on safeguarding, make further improvements to the school building to provide the best possible environment for both pupils and staff, and focus on pupil progress. We expect all children to be making good progress with their learning. All of these efforts are to ensure the school is OFSTED ready, as we anticipate an inspection this academic year.

I wish you all the best for the year ahead. Please feel free to say hello if you see Stephanie or me on the playground!

Kind regards,

James, Chair of Governors

School Uniform

At Chambersbury, we believe our school uniform is much more than just a set of clothes. It plays a vital role in creating a sense of belonging, pride, and equality among our pupils.

Wearing the uniform helps children feel part of a team. It encourages them to take pride in their school and to represent it with respect—both in and out of the classroom. Uniforms also promote fairness by reducing peer pressure and competition over clothing choices, helping every child feel included, no matter their background.

Uniforms support a positive learning environment too. When children come to school dressed and ready to learn, it sets the tone for the day ahead—helping them focus, feel confident, and understand the difference between school and home life.

We kindly ask for your continued support in maintaining our high standards of uniform. By doing so, we work together to promote a calm, focused, and respectful school culture that benefits every child.

Our uniform expectations can be found on our website:

<https://www.chambersbury.herts.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

Attendance Procedures

You may have seen in the news Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, talking about the importance of school attendance. She went on to say that schools and parents should "double down" to get children into classrooms at the start of the 2025 term and that "Every day of school missed is a day stolen from a child's future." Whilst we do not get involved in politics, our own experience shows that pupils who attend regularly and on time have better relationships and academic outcomes. Please work together with us, to ensure your child is at school every day.

If your child is absent, we will:

- Telephone or text you on the first, and every subsequent day of absence, if we have not heard from you. However, it is your responsibility to contact us.
- If we are unable to make contact with parents by telephone, we will telephone emergency contact numbers, send letters home and a home visit may be made, in the interests of safeguarding.
- The Local Authority will be informed if no contact has been made with parent/carers by the 10th day of absence (or sooner if deemed appropriate). Schools are also under a safeguarding duty, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002, to investigate any unexplained/unauthorised absences. At this point your child will be considered to be "absent from education".

If absence continues, we will:

- Write to you if your child's attendance is below 95% / causing concern and/or where punctuality is a concern.
 - Arrange a meeting so that you may discuss the situation with us.
 - Consider and offer reasonable adjustments.
 - Offer a Families First Assessment to ensure appropriate support is considered.
 - Create a personalised robust support plan, such as an attendance contract, to address any barriers to attendance and make clear each person's role in improving the attendance patterns of your child.
 - Signpost support to other agencies or services,
 - Seek advice, guidance and support from the Local Authority Statutory Attendance Support Team and consider appropriate legal sanctions, if attendance deteriorates following the above actions.
- There is now a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England, of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

PE days

PE is taught by a dedicated sports coach and by class teachers. To avoid lost learning time (and lost clothing!), last year we allowed pupils to attend school on PE days in their PE kit – this is still the case this year. Please be reminded that following the guidance of the PE association, pupils must remove earrings for PE lessons.

This term class PE lessons are on the following days:

Reception (starting Monday 15th September): Monday
Year 1: Monday and Tuesday
Year 2: Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 3: Monday and Wednesday
Year 4: Thursday and Friday
Year 5: Thursday and Friday
Year 6: Tuesday and Friday

Meet the Teacher

Our virtual Meet the Teacher sessions will inform you about the year ahead and the expectations for each year group. Please ensure you attend these so that you are able to get to meet your child's class teacher, know how to support your children this year and what to expect. This will be held on Microsoft Teams, a link will be sent out for these.

Reception: Tuesday 16th September at 17:00
Year 1: Tuesday 16th September at 16:30
Year 2: Thursday 18th September at 16:30
Year 3: Monday 15th September at 16:30
Year 4: Wednesday 17th September at 16:30
Year 5: Wednesday 17th September at 17:00
Year 6: Thursday 18th September at 17:00

Healthy Snacks/Packed lunches

Please be reminded that snacks should be of a healthy nature (e.g. fruit, vegetables, etc.) and not contain nuts. Equally packed lunches should be nutritious and set pupils up for an afternoon of learning. School dinners are available with a variety of choices.

Meet the Headteacher

On Thursday 25th September at 18:00, we will hold a 'Meet the Headteacher' talk in the school hall – in this talk, we will reveal our targets for the year, discuss our approach to behaviour management, explain the role of different members of staff and share how we can all work together for the benefit of your children/our pupils. You can book a space at this talk through Arbor, Trips (This talk is not suitable for children to attend).

Reception Classroom

If you follow any of our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), you will have seen that we have completely refurbished our Reception Classroom over the summer. This has included new flooring and redecorating as well as new furniture and resources. If anyone would like to visit our Reception classroom to see how amazing it is, you are welcome to pop in after school next Friday.

Some of the items of furniture that we no longer need are too good to be simply thrown away so we have placed them in our car park; if you would like to take them, feel free to help yourselves.



Welly Boots

As part of the OPAL project we allow pupils to use the school field in all but the most extreme weather. In order for them to go onto the field they need to be wearing welly boots to avoid ruining their school shoes. Most pupils took their wellies home at the end of the year so now would be a good time to bring them back in.

Transition Toys/fidgets

Whilst some pupils may require transition toys or fidgets as part of their provision, this should be agreed with the class teacher and/or Mrs Gerber (SENDco). As a general rule, pupils should not be bringing toys/fidgets into school as they cause distractions and can go missing.

Key Events:

Monday 8th September-Friday 12th September — Art week

Monday 8th September — Meet the PATCH

Tuesday 9th September — Visiting Artist

Thursday 11th September — Mad Science assembly

Friday 12th September — Reception Room Open

Monday 15th September — Year 3 Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 16th September — Year 1 Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 16th September — Reception Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 17th September — Year 4 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 17th September — Year 5 Meet the Teacher

Thursday 18th September—Year 2 Meet the Teacher

Thursday 18th September—Year 6 Meet the Teacher

Thursday 25th September — Meet the Headteacher

Friday 3rd October — School tours

Saturday 4th October — School tours

Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025 — Half term

Red signifies new events/dates

CHALLENGE
SPORT & EDUCATION

CHAMBERSBURY AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE

Daily after school childcare
until 6pm each day for
children in Reception -
Year 6

Outside sports

Inside games /
activities

Flexible Booking

BOOKING / MORE INFO

Click [HERE](#)

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