

CHAMBERSBURY NEWS

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Working together to become change makers

23rd May 2025

Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) and Free School Meals

Have you checked recently to see if you are eligible for free school meals or for the school to receive pupil premium funding to support your child?

Using the following link, it only takes a few minutes: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/At-school/Free-school-meals/Free-school-meals.aspx>

I would encourage everyone to check, regardless of whether you think you are eligible or not.

Cultural Diversity Day

This week we celebrated cultural diversity day by having a dinner menu from different cultures. In the future we plan to make days like this much more of an event so that they are inclusive for everyone.

At Chambersbury we celebrate and enjoy learning about each others cultures and backgrounds — with the British Values underpinning the respect we have for each other.



Tutoring

I am often asked throughout the year whether it is worth parents getting a private tutor for their child; my view of this comes from the tutoring I have completed myself in the past. Tutoring can be hugely beneficial to pupils, not only because gaps in learning can be strategically targeted but also because of the increased confidence in their learning it can give pupils.

We have teamed up with 'Teach Me Please,' to offer tutoring at Chambersbury. A free trial session will be held on Friday 6th June - to take advantage of this, and find out more, please see the attached leaflet.

TeachMePlease

Nursery Closure

You will remember earlier in the year we announced that we were looking into closing our Nursery due to low numbers over the past few years; this has now gone to public consultation and you will have received an e-mail about how to share your views.

ATTENDANCE 2024-2025—WHOLE YEAR

Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole
54.4%	92.8%	88.8%	92.7%	94.4%	94.0%	92.1%	89.2%	91.5%

Better Behaviour

With school teachers in Suffolk going on strike over poor pupil behaviour last week (the BBC article can be read here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80kvr5pddvo>), I think it is worth reflecting on the proactive and positive steps we have taken at Chambersbury to ensure behaviour standards are high and that when behaviour does not reflect our values, it is managed appropriately.

At Chambersbury we follow the Therapeutic Thinking approach to behaviour management (more information about this approach can be found here <https://therapeuticthinking.co.uk/>) This approach is ingrained in our behaviour policy which was put in place in the Autumn term and has been regularly reviewed since. The impact of introducing this, is that the number of behaviour incidents in the Spring term was less than the Autumn term and the number of behaviour incidents in the Summer term is currently lower still. If you are not familiar with our behaviour policy, it can be found on our website.

We regularly work with our colleagues at Dacorum Education Support Centre (<https://www.desc.herts.sch.uk/>) who have worked directly with pupils as well as delivering staff training. Robin Launder (The Behaviour Buddy) has provided our staff with evidence-based behaviour CPD and kindly sends us a weekly behaviour tip. Our senior leadership team has worked closely with the Therapeutic Thinking team to reflect on our practice and support us in creating strategies and plans for individual pupils. On our next training day, all staff will receive further training in the Therapeutic Thinking approach by our two Therapeutic Thinking tutors (myself and Mrs Good) developing further consistency across the school. Over the course of this year, we have employed the support of an art therapist, the Dream Believe Achieve project, a pastoral support worker as well as accessed other additional support, such as that of the school nursing team and mental health support team to provide provision for those pupils that have required it. We also released Mrs Ahluwalia, our school SENCO, from her teaching responsibilities so that she has been able to focus on ensuring that special educational needs are being met.

There have been opportunities for parents to engage in the school and find out about our approach to managing behaviour and the support on offer – such as the Behaviour Briefing earlier in the year and the police coffee morning. We understand that we need parents working TOGETHER with us for behaviour standards to remain high. ‘Those who exert the first influences on the mind have the greatest power.’ Horace Mann. Parents can, and must, support the work we do by teaching and modelling to their children the school values Together, Honesty, Patience, Forgiveness, Kindness and Caring, as well as upholding the British Values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual liberty, Mutual Respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Often when we think of behaviour, we are referring to the negative or detrimental behaviours however, the vast majority of Chambersbury ‘Change makers’ have never displayed any of these – their valued behaviours are regularly celebrated and recognised. Our engaging, enriched curriculum, additional opportunities and loving culture is a testament to that end.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to continue to improve our school, enabling all pupils to succeed.

Instagram

Thank you to all of you that have followed our Instagram page, been interacting with our stories and sharing our posts — you may have spotted us using the hashtag #Hemelsbestkeptsecret and I truly believe that is what we are and now is the time to share with everyone the quality of education and experiences on offer at Chambersbury.

I must say, something that has particularly made me smile this week is when our posts receive comments signed off with, ‘xx.’ Whilst it may not be mentioned explicitly in our values or vision, we are a school that is full of love and I’m so pleased to see this replicated. xx

Climate Action Plan

You will have received an e-mail from Mrs Gerber about our Climate Action Plan — every school will be required to be working towards reducing their impact on climate change from September, however, we are ahead of the game and leading the way.

Year 1 Phonics Afternoon

Mrs Dibble held a brilliant phonics session for parents on Thursday afternoon - it is great to have parents working TOGETHER with us to ensure pupils are getting the most from their time in school.

There is more information regarding phonics here on our website:

<https://www.chambersbury.herts.sch.uk/phonics-information-for-parents/>

Story Time

Those of you that check our website regularly will have noticed the new 'Story Time' page - we plan to add more videos to this page of staff and pupils sharing books so that everyone is able to listen to a story being read to them. Reading and sharing books everyday opens up a whole world and will help our pupils to develop their cultural capital.



Meet Decorum Family Services

On Wednesday 11th June, Decorum Family Services will be holding a session for parents at 14:30. In this session you will be able to meet the team, find out more about what support they can offer and talk freely and openly about any challenges you are facing.

Please do take advantage of this session as we all work TOGETHER for the benefit of our pupils.

Decorum Family Services aim to empower, support and challenge families, children and young people to thrive. They do this by working in partnership with local schools and external agencies to enable positive change and improve outcomes. The service is confidential, non-judgemental and family-led.

Chambersbury Pupils Progress — better than the National Average!

Last week I mentioned the progress made by Year 4 in their times tables knowledge this year and I wanted to elaborate a bit more on this.

At the end of the Autumn term, our pupils were achieving an average score of 9.17 out of 25, they are now averaging 16.14. This level of progress is significantly greater than the national average and greater than the Hertfordshire average. This level of progress doesn't happen by luck.

Please ensure if you have a child in Years 2-6 that they are regularly practicing on Times Tables Rockstars.

The Maths National Curriculum states that:

Year 2 pupils must recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.

Year 3 pupils must recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.

Year 4 pupils must recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 .

If your child is not able to meet these standards yet, of course we will teach them, but please also follow this up at home and regularly use times tables songs, apps, etc.

Camp iRock comes to Chambersbury!

Children love being at Chambersbury and now they can attend during the summer holiday! Camp iRock is coming to Chambersbury!

Camp iRock is an action-packed, week-long (Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August), holiday camp, filled with music, fun and creativity... ending in a show-stopping Friday concert for parents to enjoy.

Check the attached leaflet for more information.

EHCP (Educational Health and Care Plan) with Sarah Palmer, Partner at Enable Law
Monday 16th June; 8.15-9.30pm via Teams

We have been working with our friends at Playskill to offer Chambersbury parents the opportunity to receive training about Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP) . This training session will provide an overview of the EHCP's to include how to gather evidence, navigate the application process, and effectively interact with the local council. Participants will also explore strategies for securing an appropriate school for their child and generally advocating for their child's needs and the provision necessary to meet those needs. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

Playskill are offering this at £10; the following link can be used to book your place:
<https://forms.office.com/e/F3KJUQxU0Z>

Sports Day

You will be receiving information about our Sports Day shortly. Whilst there is no statutory requirement for schools to hold a sports day, we do so because we know that it brings the community together and gives pupils an opportunity to showcase their sporting talent.

Having been a PE lead in 4 schools myself, I am well aware that with approximately 150 families (we have 199 pupils on roll), we are unable to please everyone and there will be differing opinions of how sports days should take place. Whether or not you agree with how we organise and run sports day this year, please do understand that we run it not for our own benefit but for the best interests of our pupils. Miss Cope has put in an incredible amount of work into the organisation of this years sports day and has considered the feedback from last year — there are some changes to how it is being run which we believe will be an improvement (again, I am sure that these changes wont necessarily align with everyone's opinions).

I would like you to join me in thanking Miss Cope in advance of sports day for the work she has already put in — organising a DJ, working with partners at Abbots Hill and at Longdean and pulling everything together takes time, effort and dedication.

Photographer Feedback

Today we had our class photographs taken, our pupils looked great in their smart school uniform and hair styled. Thank you for going to the effort of preparing them for this. The photographer gave us some feedback which was that our pupils were fantastic, well behaved and listened well. She particularly commented on Reception as being the quietest, calmest Reception she has had the pleasure to work with!

Abbots Hill Visit

Today we had 13 Abbots Hill girls visit our school, they worked around the school supporting pupils learning, organising activities and were a brilliant help. Our relationship with Abbots Hill has grown very strong over the course of this year and long may this continue.

Thank you Abbots Hill!

Key Events:

Monday 2nd June — INSET Day

Monday 2nd June - Friday 13th June — Year 4 MTC assessment

Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th June — Residential trip

Monday 9th June - Friday 13th June — Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Monday 9th June — Year 4 Box Moor trust trip

Tuesday 10th June — EYFS Pirate day

Wednesday 11th June — Meet Decorum Family Services

Thursday 19th June — Year 1 Great Fire of London workshop

Monday 23rd June — Sports Day

Monday 7th July — Year 5 & 6 production

Tuesday 8th July — Year 5 & 6 production

Wednesday 9th July — End of Year reports sent to parents

Thursday 10th July — Transition Day

Monday 14th July — iRock Concert

Tuesday 15th July —Year 2 graduation

Tuesday 15th July — EYFS Teddy Bears picnic

Tuesday 15th — Year 6 graduation

Wednesday 16th July — Year 6 BBQ and water activities

Friday 18th July — Leavers assembly

Friday 18th July — End of term for pupils at 13:30

Red signifies new events/dates



TeachMePlease

Tutoring for ages 6+



Engage, Enjoy,
Empower!

Introducing afterschool tutoring @ Chambersbury
Primary School!



Parent
My son goes to school
happy knowing he has
sessions on that day!

STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025!
Free trial session on Friday 6th June
3:15pm - 4:15pm



Maths

English

Reading

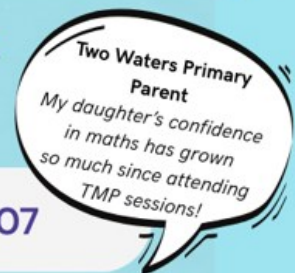
www.teachmeplease.co.uk

Contact us for info!



info@teachmeplease.co.uk

07591 - 115 - 207



**Two Waters Primary
Parent**
My daughter's confidence
in maths has grown
so much since attending
TMP sessions!

BECOME A
ROCK STAR
THIS SUMMER

Looking for summer holiday plans?

Camp iRock
is here!

28th July to 8th August



Ages
5-12

8:30am-4:30am

Camp
iRock



Form a band and rehearse together



Learn to play popular songs on real instruments - drums, keyboard, guitar and vocals



Write and record their own original song



Starring in their own music video



Perform in a live concert at the end of the week



Play music games, make friends and have loads of fun!



- 50% off siblings
- Armed Forces discount

www.irockschool.com/camp

Limited edition add-ons available now!





ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING
SPORTS SHOE NETWORK

Need sports shoes for sport or walking shoes for DofE?

We're a charity that collects preloved sports shoes and gives them out for **free** to people locally.

We hold Pop In's at our storage container in Grovehill. We have all sizes of trainers and astro boots available. We also have a limited supply of walking boots and football boots.

Dates and Times:

Thurs 29th May - 9am-12pm

**Every Tuesday from 3pm - 5.30pm,
starting Tuesday 3rd June**

**The Green Container
Active Hub, Redbourn Road,
Hemel, HP2 7BA**

e: contact@1impossiblething.com



@1impossiblething



@oneimpossiblething

www.1impossiblething.com

School year (2025/26) - Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - INSET Day
Thursday 4th September 2025 - All pupils return

**Half term holiday: Monday 27th October 2025 -
Friday 31st October 2025**

Friday 28th November 2025 - Occasional day
(school closed)

Monday 1st December 2025 - INSET Day
Friday 19th December 2025 - End of term (pupils finish
at 13:30)

**Christmas holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 -
Friday 2nd January 2026**

Spring term

Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026 - INSET Day
Wednesday 7th January 2026 - All pupils return

**Half term holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 -
Friday 20th February 2026**

Friday 27th March 2026 - End of term
(pupils finish at 13:30)

**Easter holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 - Friday
10th April 2026**