

CHAMBERSBURY NEWS

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Working together to become change makers

14th March 2025

ATTENDANCE 2024-2025—WHOLE YEAR

Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole
53.3%	93.2%	88.1%	93.8%	94.3%	94.2%	97.2%	88.8%	91.6%

Science week

This week has been National Science week and we celebrated this on Thursday. Mrs Dibble, our science leader, planned and organised a range of practical science learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom for our pupils so that they could immerse themselves in what it was to be a scientist. Our pupils have excellent scientific knowledge and it has been lovely to hear them talking about the experiences they have had with their parents such as going to the Greenwich Observatory and the Science Museum in London — if you haven't visited these places, they might make ideal day trips in the Easter break!

School Effectiveness Advisor

In last weeks Newsletter I mentioned that I had requested for our School Effectiveness Advisor (SEA) to come in and capture the progress we have made this year. The SEA spoke with pupils, looked at books, observed lessons, met with teachers and spent time with the governing body, leaving no stone unturned. As expected, this was a very positive visit and we received great feedback particularly around the work we have done with writing across the school and with behaviour (including the progress made with OPAL). When I have the full, official, written report back, I will share some quotes with you all.

Moderation

As part of our relentless drive to improve pupils academic outcomes across the school, this week I commissioned Hertfordshire's assessment team to moderate our teacher assessments to ensure these are as accurate as possible and so that we are helping our pupils make rapid progress. The three days of moderation have been very productive and have confirmed our teachers judgements; we will continue to push forward with raising standards and help all pupils to be ready for the next step in their academic journey. With this in mind, I sometimes get asked by parents whether or not I can recommend any tutors for their children outside of school — unfortunately I cannot recommend any specific individuals however, having previously been a tutor myself I do feel that tutoring is often beneficial to pupils and can support their confidence as much as their capability.

Phonics

I spent some time this week talking to Year 1 pupils about their phonics learning and I was extremely impressed with them; they were able to confidently tell me about trigraphs, split digraphs, alternative sounds and phoneme/grapheme correspondence — very impressive!

Swimming

Swimming began for our pupils this week and this has gone brilliantly well. Our pupils have enjoyed their small group sessions in the heated pool, learning a range of swimming strokes and techniques. Pupils have been excited and eager for their swimming sessions and we hope that the skills they are learning will support them long after their time at Chambersbury.

Behaviour

Furthermore to the positive information shared in the previous newsletter regarding behaviour, I can also let you know that last week there were just 11 incidents of behaviour across the school. This is an incredibly low number of incidents and whilst we will of course continue to monitor, teach and address behaviour, I am confident that our approach is working and that this is enabling us to focus even more on teaching and learning.

Holiday leave

There are 13 weeks a year in which the school is not open to pupils — I am aware that the costs of hotels, flights etc. increase during this time and whilst this feels deeply unfair if you are planning to have a family holiday, please book it for during this time. I am unable to authorise absences for holidays during term time although appreciate the challenges that parents face.

Reminder

I am looking forward to seeing parents at the taekwondo workshop on Wednesday morning — head to the school office straight after drop off.

If you haven't attended a coffee morning or workshop this year, this is another chance for you to do so.

Wraparound Care Update - Please Read
Summer Term After School Childcare Challenge will be starting an after-school childcare provision at Chambersbury Primary School, exclusively for Chambersbury students.

Voluntary Contributions

As a school we are only given a set amount of funding each year. This funding is used for a whole range of expenditure from energy bills to staff costs. When we arrange events and experiences for pupils to enhance their cultural capital and knowledge of the world, such as school trips etc. we have to pay additionally for these. Without asking for and receiving voluntary contributions we would be unable to provide these opportunities for the pupils. If you are having trouble with payments, please speak to Mrs Norton in the school office and we will try to support you as much as we can.

Key Events

Wednesday 19th March — Parent taekwondo workshop

Thursday 20th March — Year 1 Hudnall Park Trip

Friday 21st March — Comic Relief/Red Nose Day

Monday 31st March — iRock Concert

Tuesday 1st April — Year 2, 3 & 4 production

Wednesday 2nd April — Year 2, 3 & 4 production

Friday 4th April — P.A.T.CH Creative Hair Day

Friday 4th April — End of term at 1:30

Monday 21st April — Bank holiday

Tuesday 22nd April — Summer term starts

Friday 2nd May — Class photographs

Tuesday 6th May — Year 3 Verulamium trip

Thursday 8th May — EYFS Maths parent workshop

Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May — Year 6 SATs

Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th June — Residential trip

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

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

Red signifies new events/dates

iRock Concert

Our iRock bands have been busy jamming throughout this term and it is almost time for their big concert, which is at 9:00am on Monday 31st March.

All parents are invited and encouraged to come into school to watch this concert, regardless of whether your child is in one of the bands or not.



JOIN THE FUN

There are spaces in bands at your school



iRock

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Get ready for Summer term: spaces are available for your child to join an iRock band at their school!

What is iRock? At iRock, children experience the thrill of being in a band! Led by our passionate and professional Band Coaches, our weekly in-school band sessions are open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6.

Music for all. iRock aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every child feels they belong. Each week, children develop their musical skills, confidence, and teamwork as they work towards exam-free music qualifications – celebrating progress without the pressure of formal exams.

Feel like a rockstar! The excitement culminates every term in a live concert where children perform as a band for their families and peers. These performances are more than just a showcase—they're an opportunity for children to build self-esteem, enhance their confidence, and experience the joy of accomplishment.

iRock isn't just about music; it's about helping children thrive cognitively, socially, and academically through the power of music.

Key information:

- **No experience needed** and all instruments are provided
- Parents/guardians can access our **online portal** for updates, pictures and videos
- Hassle-free **monthly subscription** that can be cancelled at any time with a **first lesson money-back guarantee**.

Head to <https://www.irockschool.com/enrol> to check availability and start your child's iRock journey!

Joshua Franklin
Founder
iRock School of Music



Choose from...



GUITAR



VOCALS



KEYS



DRUMS



CLICK HERE

ENROL NOW

Enrol Online

www.irockschool.com/enrol

We're here to help!

Call Us: 0330 174 2655

Email Us: info@irockschool.com

Summer Term After School Childcare

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Challenge are delighted to start delivering an after-school childcare provision at Chambersbury Primary School, exclusively for Chambersbury students.

The club will run Monday - Friday from the end of school until 6 pm.

Challenge is experienced in running wraparound childcare, and we currently deliver this service in several other schools. Challenge also delivers PE at Chambersbury, and whilst the childcare team differs from your normal PE deliverers, we all understand the school's ethos.

About the Club Inside Activities: We will have a range of puzzles, Lego, tabletop games, chess, board games, and arts and crafts activities on offer inside. **Outside Activities:** sporting activities and creative games **Snacks:** Fruit and healthy snacks will be provided (Children can bring their own). We do not offer meals or want to replace an evening meal for a child **Flexible:** We accept same-day bookings, and if you need to cancel, as long as you notify us before the start of the course, we will offer you either a voucher for a future day or a cash refund. If you would prefer a refund, we will discount £3 from the refund

Booking

You can book either ad-hoc days or block bookings, e.g., every Monday. Booking for the summer term will be available from Monday, 17th March, by clicking [here](#).

Prices

Collection before 5pm = £9

Collection before 6pm = £12

As mentioned above, if you wish to cancel a booked session, as long as you notify us via message, call or email, we will refund your booking. We accept payment via credit/debit card, childcare voucher or Tax Free Childcare.

Moving Forward

This is a new course. Regardless of numbers/demand, we will run until May ½ term. However, if families have insufficient demand to make the childcare sustainable beyond this point, we will notify all parents by Friday, 16th May.

If you have any questions, please email us at info@challengesporteducation.co.uk or message / WhatsApp 07719 315 932