

CHAMBERSBURY NEWS

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Working together to become change makers

17th January 2025

In last weeks newsletter I wrote about assessment data and shared the leaderboard for TimesTables Rockstars (TTRS) - I am pleased to say we have made even more progress with this with more pupils achieving the required speed for recalling their timestables this week.

Learning - knowing and remembering more - is our core business. We have a carefully constructed curriculum that pupils progress through, with learning building year on year. With such a wide range of exciting and unique opportunities on offer at Chambersbury, we hope that we are giving the pupils the cultural capital needed to be able to engage with their learning and make links with what they have learnt previously.

Our focus this term is to support our pupils with their 'easy wins' - what small steps of learning will help them to make big steps of progress.

At home, sitting around the dinner table is a great opportunity to talk about learning - you may want to ask questions such as:

'What have you learnt today?'

'What learning are you working on?'

'What can you do now that you couldn't do before?'

ATTENDANCE 2024-2025—WHOLE YEAR

Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole
51.8%	92.4%	91.1%	94.1%	93.3%	94.5%	93.1%	88.9%	92.1%

P.A.T.CH Working Party

On Saturday, we held a working party which was supported by parents, local residents, members of the Chambersbury Lane Resident Association and school staff. **Together** we were able to construct additional benches for the playground to enable pupils to have somewhere to change into their welly boots, we also moved the mud kitchen to a new location and undertook some gardening work to improve our school environment.

I hugely appreciate the time given by all those that support our school and are working with us to make our school the best it can be — thank you.



Coffee Morning

On Tuesday we held a coffee morning in conjunction with the mental health support team, this was well attended and was an opportunity to find out about the support available for families as well as have an informal chat and discuss school life, including meeting Mr Dodd.

We discussed various aspects of what happens at Chambersbury including how we are helping our pupils to make progress in their learning, how our work supports transition to secondary schools and how the OPAL project is developing.

Our next coffee morning is being held on Monday 27th January by Mrs Stevens and will focus on timestables.

Reception Places

Applications for Reception places in our September 2025 cohort closed on Wednesday; I can now let you know that there have been a staggering 68 applications for the 30 places we offer! Such a high number of applications show the popularity of our school and that a Chambersbury education is truly irresistible.

Football

On Tuesday afternoon our football team headed over to Bovingdon for a league match - the match was of a very high standard with many of the players demonstrating their skill and agility. On this occasion, Bovingdon won the match. Our team have a number of other exciting fixtures lined up which we will update you on.

Abbotts Hill

Today we had pupils and staff from Abbotts Hill join us, they are working with pupils in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 each Friday for the next 8 weeks.

Pupils in Year 1 will be working on applying their phonics and developing their reading skills. Year 4 will be securing their timestable knowledge, ensuring they're properly prepared for the requirements of the MTC. Year 6 pupils will be editing and improving their writing so that they are able to communicate their thoughts and ideas clearly.

Key Events

Monday 13th January - Friday 31st January — Year 4 Official, Unofficial, Multiplication Timestable Check

Monday 20th January—Year 5/6 bikeability starts

Monday 27th January — Timestables and tea with Mrs Stevens

Wednesday 29th January — Behaviour Briefing

Monday 3rd February — Police Knife crime coffee morning

Friday 7th February — NSPCC's Number day/ cake sale

Monday 10th & Thursday 13th February — Teacher/Parent consultations

Thursday 13th February — Dacorum Family Services coffee morning

Friday 28th February — PATCH Race night

Monday 10th March — Swimming lessons begin

Friday 15th March — Comic Relief/Red Nose Day

Red signifies new events/dates

Year 5/6 Bikeability

Next week some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils will be taking part in Bikeability, this will support them to stay safe beyond our school gates and ensure that they have the skills needed to cycle on the local roads.

You may see our pupils out and about next week enjoying these bikeability sessions - feel free to give them a wave but please don't distract them

Clubs

We have over half our pupils attending a club this term which is absolutely fantastic!

With such a variety of clubs on offer from multisports to Mad Science we hope there really is something for everyone. If there is a certain club that you think we should offer please mention it to me at a coffee morning or on the playground or ask your child to mention it to their house captain.

Attendance

On the last newsletters, I asked for all parents to help us in ensuring that all pupils are attending school each and everyday unless they absolutely have to be off - we are having a drive on attendance as the evidence shows that pupils that attend school more regularly have better learning and social outcomes.

As always the Chambersbury community has responded brilliantly, our attendance this week has improved by 5% over last week! This is a fantastic response and show what we can achieve when we work together.

I urge all parents to continue to bring their children to school, on time, everyday.

OPAL

We have purchased some new equipment for our Outdoor Play and Learning Project (OPAL), this included new hula hoops and playground chalks for the pupils to play with.

These resources are not only fun for pupils to play with but also help them build up their core stability which helps them have the strength required to write when sitting at a desk. By having playground equipment pupils are able to learn to take turns, compromise and communicate with each other.



3 Step Process

In assemblies this week, we have gone through the behaviour policy with the pupils to ensure all are familiar with it and understand the consequences for both valued and detrimental behaviours. We particularly highlighted the 3 steps process that we encourage pupils to follow when they have disputes with other pupils. This 3 steps process involves:

1. *Politely ask the person to stop the behaviour.*
2. *Warn them that an adult will be told if it continues.*
3. *Inform an adult if the behaviour persists.*

We have again further increased the number of adults that are working with our pupils at lunchtimes with Mr Dodd joining the team - Mr Dodd is taking an active, focused role in encouraging and supporting play.

NSPCC World Number Day

Whilst it is still a few weeks away, I wanted to give you plenty of notice of our NSPCC World Number Day events and cake sale (so that you have time to perfect your recipes!)

On Friday 7th February, we will be holding an assembly about the NSPCC and the support they offer children, this includes teaching pupils the number (0800 1111) that they can call for confidential advice and support whatever their worry, whenever they need help if they have concerns. We will also be using the NSPCC PANTS resources in lessons:

Privates are private,
Always remember your body belongs to you,
No means no,
Talk about secrets that upset you,
Speak up, someone can help.

After school we will hold a cake sale, with all funds being donated to the NSPCC. We would like parents and pupils to bake cakes with a number based design, that can then be donated and sold by our charity representatives and school council. Cakes should be dropped to classrooms on the morning of the Friday 7th February, with a full list of ingredients - please remember we are a nut free school.