

# CHAMBERS BURY NEWS

[WWW.CHAMBERSBURY.HERTS.SCH.UK](http://WWW.CHAMBERSBURY.HERTS.SCH.UK)



*Working together to become change makers*

**15th November 2024**

I know there has been some conversation on the playground this week regarding us not holding a non-uniform day today. There are a number of reasons behind our decision for this which I hope parents will understand and support.

Obviously, we are unable to collect for and promote every charity event; so far this year we have collected for harvest, for PATCH and most recently the Royal British Legion. We are also aware of how much and how often we ask parents to contribute towards school activities, such as school trips, after school clubs, Irock, and later in the year swimming and hopefully bikeability.

I am also aware that non-uniform days can cause additional pressure on families and lead to lower attendance as pupils without the latest fashion can feel left out and uncomfortable. Due to the nature of non-uniform days, behaviour standards often slip with pupils feeling dysregulated and thrown by the change of routine. Having said this, there may be occasions when a non-uniform day is appropriate and we will give advanced notice of these.

Unfortunately, as you will be aware, school budgets have become tighter and tighter along with the cost of living crisis that has affected us all, therefore much of our fund raising this year will be to support the PATCH and provide for our pupils at Chambersbury. To give an example, in the summer term school trips cost the school in excess of £800 as contributions received didn't cover the costs of the trips.

To support with our charity work, I am looking to appoint two Year 6 Charity Representatives to support with decision making as to which charity events we take part in.

## **ATTENDANCE 2024-2025—WHOLE YEAR**

Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole
62.9%	94.3%	90.8%	95.6%	95.2%	93.4%	94.5%	87.6%	92.7%

<https://www.chambersbury.herts.sch.uk/attendance/>

### Farewell to Mrs Stephens

Later this term, we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Stevens who has worked at Chambersbury for 12 years. Mrs Stephens has taught and supported so many of our pupils over the years enabling them to become 'change makers.' I would like to personally thank Mrs Stephens for helping me learn the routines and ways of Chambersbury. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Stevens all the best with her future adventures!

### Designated Safeguarding Lead

Well done to Mrs Stevens who has completed her Designated Safeguarding Leader training this week. She now joins Miss Alford and Mrs Ahluwalia as my Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and child protection is an absolute priority in our school, and we always put it at the forefront of everything we do.

### Christmas Key Events

Monday 18th November — **Year 2 Victorian Day**

Tuesday 19th November — Year 6 Bletchley Park

Thursday 21st November — **Year 3 & Year 4 Chiltern Open Air museum**

Thursday 21st November — **School Nursing service coffee morning**

Tuesday 26th November — **Year 2-6 cinema trip**

Thursday 28th November — **Year 5 Hampton Court trip**

Wednesday 4th December — **Christmas Disco**

Monday 9th December — **Irock Concert**

Tuesday 10th December — **Nativity production**

Wednesday 11th December — **Nativity production**

Thursday 12th December — **Christmas jumper day & Christmas dinner day**

Thursday 19th December — **Panto**

Friday 20th December — **end of term**

### Times Table Rock Stars

On average, our pupils can correctly answer times questions in 4.83 seconds, with our fastest pupil answering them in under 1.12 seconds!

All pupils in Years 2 – 6 have logins for Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) which they can access and play online. The questions they are asked are automatically adapted to their own learning needs.

It would be fantastic to see all pupils logging in and rocking those times tables, especially those pupils in Year 4 who will undertake the MTC later in the year.

### Remembrance Day

On Monday, our pupils from all year groups were incredibly respectful in holding a 2 minute silence on the playground. They were a real credit to our school.

We reflected on the sacrifices made by others to help us live in peace and with freedom. As well as this pupils considered how we can learn from the past to ensure ongoing harmony in our own community.

Thank you to the Year 6 pupils who had been selling poppies in the lead up to Remembrance day, the money raised from this goes directly to the Royal British Legion.

**Reminder: I am looking forward to seeing you all at the school nursing coffee morning on Thursday (21/11/24).**

### OPAL Update

This week we had a visit from the OPAL advisor to review our progress within the project and plan the next phase.



It was pleasing to receive such positive feedback on the high levels of adult interaction with pupils, increased use of the lunchtime resources (including opening our library and computing suite), and the introduction of a sports coach.

As we continue to expand our project we are looking to provide opportunities for pupils to dress up, listen to music and create a digging area.

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Next week, we will be beginning a project with DBA. The 'DBA Project' is a nationwide organisation that specialises in providing holistic and person-centred mentorship to young people in schools and other statutory organisations. The team from DBA will be available during Monday and Friday break times, to offer pupils advice and support.



### Governors Advert

We are still looking to recruit school governors (who are not parents of pupils at the school). If you know someone that might be interested in taking up one of these roles please direct them to our advert:

[https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view\\_governor\\_98790.htm](https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view_governor_98790.htm)

## Christmas Dinner – Thursday 12th December 2024

Our Christmas Dinner Day will be on Thursday 12th December and all children, including Nursery, are welcome to join us.

If your child would like to have the school Christmas dinner please go onto Arbor, and into Trips to order it. You will see that there are only two options on this day:

- Turkey – Red Option
- Vegetable Wellington – Green Option

Please sign up on Arbor to only the Red option if your child would like Turkey or only the Green option if your child would like Vegetable Wellington.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 or in receipt of benefit related free school meals there is no charge for the Christmas meal, but you must still order the red or green option.

If your child is in Nursery there is a charge of £2.53 which needs to be paid at the time of ordering. Children in Nursery will need to be picked up at 12.30pm on this day from the nursery classroom door.

If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 and is not in receipt of benefit-related free school meals there will be a charge of £3.34 which needs to be paid at the time of ordering. If you have already paid for the whole term a credit of £3.34 will be carried forward to next term.

We would like to encourage all children to have a school Christmas dinner but if they would prefer to bring a home-packed lunch this can be done.

All Christmas Dinners must be booked by Monday 25th November.

Thank you Mr Austin and Miss Rowe

Mr Austin and Mrs Rowe have kindly sourced us a variety of seeds to plant across our school site to enhance the habitat for our pupils and for wildlife — some of this habitat improvement work will be completed by our PATCH volunteers as well as our pupils; if you are interested in volunteering please speak to Mrs Stevens.



Childcare survey

Don't forget to complete our childcare survey so that we can assess parents requirements:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8BNFLC>

The survey will close on Monday.

School Tours

School tours for prospective Reception parents have begun this week. Showing visitors around our school fills me with so much pride. On the tour this week, one pupil took the time to talk to us about how much he enjoys music in the school, a Year 6 pupil showed their house captain badge and another pupil explained their maths work to us!