

The Chancel

CHIRPER

#513



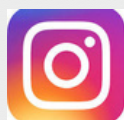
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Follow our socials



@Chancel Primary



@ChancelPrimarySchool
(NEW)



COMING SOON

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

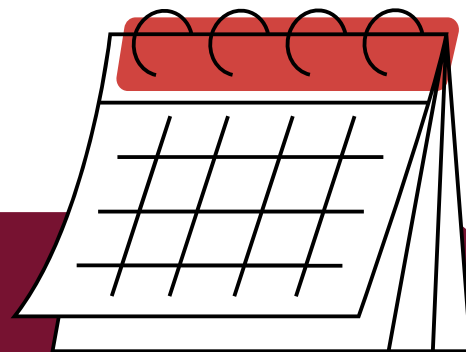
Walking Home From After School Clubs

As the evenings are now darker, we kindly remind parents that all children must continue to be collected from after school clubs and should not walk home independently.

This will remain in place until next half term, when Year 5 and Year 6 children will be permitted to walk home from after school clubs. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.



Dates For Your Diary



JANUARY

Friday 30th - PTFA Meeting @2.30pm

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th - Valentine's Discos (KS1 3.30-4.45pm / KS2 5.00-6.15pm)

Wednesday 11th - Y5 OEC & Y6 OEC/SATs Meetings @5pm

Thursday 12th - Parent Council Meeting (2pm)

Saturday 17th - Chinese New Year

MARCH

Wednesday 4th - Holi Festival

Thursday 5th - World Book Day

Friday 6th - Progress Reports Home @3.30pm

w/c Monday 9th - Science Week

w/c Monday 9th - Year 6 at Standon Bowers

Thursday 12th - Year 3 Trip to Botanical Gardens

Monday 16th - Parents' Evening

Tuesday 17th - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 18th - Friday 20th - Year 5 to Laches Wood

Thursday 19th - SEND Parent Consultations – (9.30 – 3.30pm)

Friday 20th - Red Nose Day

Monday 23rd - KS2 Easter Egg Competition entries in

Tuesday 24th - KS2 Easter Egg Competition judged

Tuesday 24th - Easter Bonnet Parade @ 2.30pm

Wednesday 25th - Year 4 trip to Wroxeter

Thursday 26th - Rocksteady Concert @ 2.30pm

Friday 27th - Easter Service - St Augustine's @ 10am





**WHAT'S
NEW?**

Y5 OEC & Y6 OEC/SATs Meetings

We would like to invite parents and carers to attend one of two information meetings taking place at school on Wednesday 11th February at 5:00pm.

Year 5 Parents Meeting This meeting will provide information about the upcoming Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) visit to Laches Wood.

Year 6 Parents/Carers Meeting This meeting will cover details of the OEC visit to Standon Bowers and will also include important information about the Year 6 SATs.

All of the content that will be discussed in these meetings has already been shared with the children in school. We kindly ask that children do not attend the meetings with parents or carers, as this will help ensure there is enough space and allow parents/carers the opportunity to ask questions freely.

We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you there.

Valentine's Disco



We are excited to announce that our Valentine's Disco will be taking place on **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. This is always a fun and popular event, and we are looking forward to celebrating with the children.

Ticket cost: £5.00 Payment: via ParentPay

Reception and Key Stage 1: 3.45pm – 4.45pm

Children in these year groups will remain in school at 3.30pm to get changed. A snack and drink will be provided.

Key Stage 2: 5.00pm – 6.15pm A hotdog and drink will be provided.

Please note that Nursery children are not included in this disco.

We hope as many children as possible will dancing and fun. Further details will be

be able to join us for an evening of music, shared closer to the date.



KS2 Tuck Reminder

A reminder that our Key Stage 2 Tuck Shop has reopened after Christmas and is now running every day. Children can enjoy a warm snack or a healthy treat during break time, all at pocket-friendly prices. The menu is simple, delicious, and a great option for a mid-morning boost.

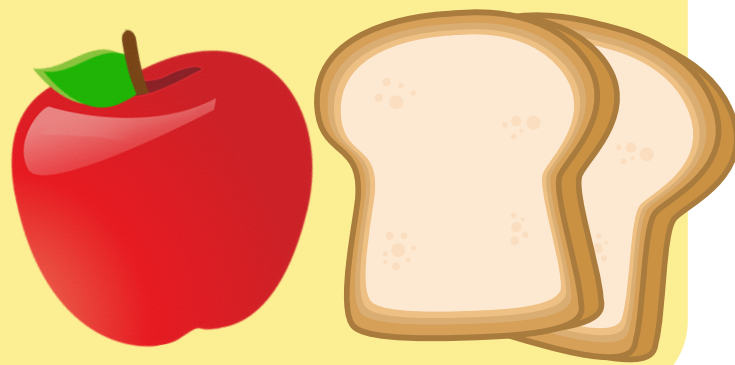
Here's what's on offer:

Hash Brown – 50p

Toast – 30p

Milkshake – 70p

Piece of Fruit – 50p



Thank you for supporting our school tuck shop!

Changes to Lunch and BASC Prices

We would like to let parents and carers know about some upcoming changes to the cost of school lunches and our Before and After School Club (BASC) sessions.

Over the past few months, we have been reviewing the prices charged by other local schools, as well as the rising cost of food. After careful consideration, we have made the decision to adjust our prices from 1st April 2026.

School Lunches - To ensure we can continue providing nutritious, high-quality meals, the price of a school lunch will increase to £2.75 per meal.

As part of our review, we compared our prices with nearby schools:

- Hob Hill: £3.00
- Chase View: £2.76
- The Croft: £3.20
- St Joseph's: £2.70

We have aimed to keep our new price as affordable as possible while still covering increased costs.

Before and After School Club (BASC) - The rise in food and running costs has also affected our BASC provision. To continue offering a safe, welcoming environment for children before and after school, the fees will be updated as follows from 1st April 2026:

Morning session: £6.00

Half session (3:30–4:45pm): £6.00

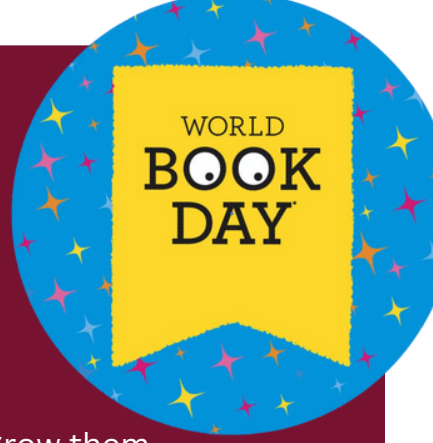
Full session (3:30–5:45pm): £8.00

We remain committed to providing high-quality care and activities for all children who attend BASC.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



World Book Day Costume Donation



At Chancel, we know how important it is for every child to feel included in special school events – and we also understand that dressing-up costumes can be expensive and children can quickly outgrow them.

Following the success of our Christmas jumper rail, we are now kindly asking families to donate any unwanted or outgrown dressing-up costumes. These could include storybook characters, traditional costumes, or any outfits suitable for World Book Day.

In the lead-up to World Book Day, we will display the donated costumes on a rail in the school lobby. Parents and carers will be very welcome to help themselves to anything their child might enjoy wearing, giving every child the chance to take part and feel confident on the day.

If you have costumes at home that your child no longer needs, we would be very grateful if you could bring them to the school office. Please ensure all items are clean and in good condition so they can be enjoyed by others.

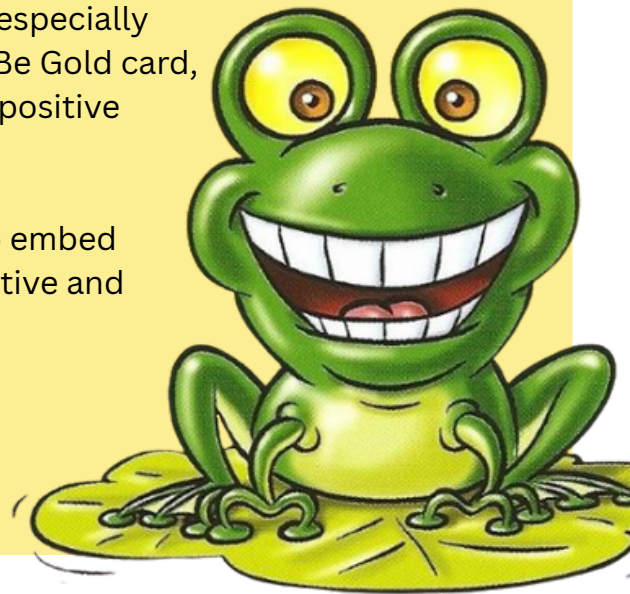
This is another way we aim to support our Chancel community, helping to make special days inclusive, fun and accessible for all our children.

Good To Be Green

We are delighted to share that after a three-week trial of our Good to Be Green approach, the children have engaged with it extremely well. They have quickly understood how the system works and are using it confidently as part of their everyday school life.

Children are enjoying reflecting on their choices and are keen to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours throughout the day. Many are especially motivated by the opportunity to be awarded a Good to Be Gold card, which has been a lovely way to recognise and celebrate positive behaviour.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to embed this approach across the school to promote a calm, positive and respectful learning environment for all.



Trips



Year 4

Wroxeter Roman City

As part of their exciting History topic, Year 4 will be visiting Wroxeter Roman City on Wednesday 25th March 2026. This trip will provide pupils with a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life as they explore one of the most significant Roman sites in Britain. The cost of the visit is £21, payable via ParentPay.



During the spring term, the children will be studying “The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.” The trip will support their understanding of: Julius Caesar’s attempted invasions in 55–54 BC; The Roman Empire by AD 42 and the strength of its army; The successful invasion by Claudius and subsequent Roman conquest; The building and purpose of Hadrian’s Wall; British resistance to Roman rule.

This visit promises to be an engaging and memorable part of the children’s learning. We are looking forward to a fantastic day of discovery at Wroxeter!

Year 1

Trentham Gardens

Year One will be visiting Trentham Gardens on Thursday 23rd April 2026, taking part in a variety of Natural Art activities. The children will be experimenting with different shapes, patterns, colours, and textures in nature which will support their topic of understanding seasonal changes. The children will also be able to take part in a barefoot walk, explore a hide and speak maze, discover beautiful wildlife and may even be able to catch a sight of Trentham’s own family of beavers.

The cost of this visit is £24.00 per child. Children will be required to wear full school uniform and waterproof coat.

All children will be provided with a packed lunch from school.



Trips



Year 3

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Year 3 will be visiting the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on **Thursday 12th March 2026** as part of their topic work on The Rainforest. During the visit, the children will have the opportunity to take part in a guided workshop where they will learn more about the different layers of the rainforest and the incredible plants and animals that live there. They will be able to explore the tropical glasshouses, discovering a wide variety of exotic plants first-hand, and see how the rainforest environment is recreated.

As part of the day, children will also enjoy walking through the beautiful gardens and having the chance to spot a range of unusual and interesting species. This will be a valuable and exciting opportunity to support their classroom learning with real-life experiences.

The cost of the trip is £29.00. Children will need to wear full school uniform with suitable footwear and a waterproof coat. A packed lunch and drink will be required, which children should bring with them from home.



Year 2

Twycross Zoo



Year 2 are very excited to be visiting Twycross Zoo on **Tuesday 16th June 2026** for a fantastic day of learning and adventure. During the visit, children will have the opportunity to listen and learn from the zoo's expert Discovery and Learning Rangers, who will help bring the amazing world of animals to life.

The children will explore the zoo and discover over 500 animals from 125 different species, including big cats, monkeys, apes, birds and some of the rarest species on the planet. This visit links perfectly with our learning in school and promises to be a memorable and inspiring experience for everyone.

Children must wear full school uniform on the day and will need a waterproof coat and suitable footwear. A packed lunch will be provided by school for all children.

The cost of the visit is £28.50, which is payable via ParentPay.



Residentials



Year 5 - Laches Wood

We are excited to announce that Year 5 children will have the chance to take part in a residential visit to Laches Wood from **Wednesday 18th March to Friday 20th March 2026**. The trip will include a variety of fun and challenging activities, as well as all meals. Parents will need to arrange transport for their child to and from Laches Wood.

A deposit of £50.00 was required by **Thursday 23rd October 2025** to secure your child's place.

The full payment of £167.00 must be made by **Monday 9th March 2026**. (Children who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive a subsidy; the school office will contact those families directly.)

If your child does not intend to go, please inform the school office by **23rd October 2025**. After this date, parents will be charged the full amount.

We are looking forward to a memorable trip and hope as many Year 5 children as possible can join us.

Year 6 - Standon Bowers

We are delighted to announce that our Year 6 children will have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Standon Bowers from **Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March 2026**.

This exciting trip will include a wide range of activities and all meals. Transport will be provided by the school.

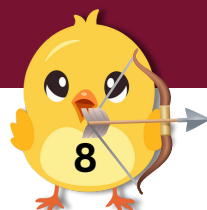
A deposit of £50.00 was required by **Thursday 23rd October 2025** to secure your child's place. Payments can be made via ParentPay, starting from as little as £5.00 upwards.

The full payment must be received by **Friday 27th February 2026**.

The total cost of the trip is £280.00 (subsidised for children eligible for Free School Meals).

If your child does not intend to go, please inform the school office by **23rd October 2025**.

This promises to be a fantastic experience for our Year 6 pupils, and we hope all children will be able to take part.





AWARDS



Stars



Warriors



Reception

Toby & Oscar

Persephone

Year 1

Arthur & Theo

Thomas

Year 2

Isaac & Ivy

Coral

Year 3

Jaxon & Olivia-Rae

Phoebe-May

Year 4

Junior & Ollie

Brooklyn

Year 5

Hugo & Alfie T

Penny

Year 6

Freddie & Eppy

Amber

Arrive On Time At Ten To Nine
Make Every Minute Count



1st

Kingfishers

2nd

Chaffinches

3rd

Toucans

4th

Kestrels

5th

Robins

6th

Eagles

7th

Owls

190

School days in each academic year

0 days absence

100% attendance

184

Days of education

6 days absence

97% attendance

181

Days of education

9 days absence

95% attendance

171

Days of education

19 days absence

90% attendance

152

Days of education

38 days absence

80% attendance

Shugborough

273

Trent

248

Augustine

WINNER

304

Wolseley

236





Recommended Reads - EYFS & KS1

Nursery



A Home Is A Nest by Emma Carlisle

A Home is a Nest focuses on British birds and animals bringing up their young in cosy, safe nests and homes in the wild alongside the young family of humans who feature in the background. The rhyming narrative takes young readers gently through the seasons, and the illustrations provide clues about nature's activities, usually hidden from view from us all but on full display in the book, thanks to the artist's gentle illustrations.

Reception



Pumpkin by Helen Cooper

Cat, Duck and Squirrel live in an old white cabin, with a pumpkin patch in the garden. Every day Cat slices up some pumpkin, Squirrel stirs in some water and Duck tips in some salt to make perfect pumpkin soup... until the day Duck wants to do the stirring...

A funny, rhythmical story about friendship and sharing, with fabulous animal characters, illustrated in glowing autumnal colours, which received rave reviews.

Year 1



The Boldest White by Ibtihaj Muhammad, S. K. Ali

Friday is Faizah's favourite day of the week – she prays with her family at Jumma and then she goes to fencing class. When nobody's watching, Faizah is the best fencer in the world. But there's a tournament coming up just before Eid, and with everyone watching, Faizah is worried she won't be brave enough to compete. Can her big sister Asiya help her find a way to be her boldest self? An important and uplifting story about faith in religion, in family, and in yourself: to be bold in order to lead, to help, and to grow.

Year 2



Luna And The Sky Dragon by Bethan Woollvin

Luna loves the sky and finding out about all the wonders she can see above her. But the villagers can't stop worrying about the mythical Sky Dragon – a fearsome creature who is said to dwell in the sky.

Can Luna share her love of the sky and show the villagers that the Sky Dragon is nothing to be afraid of?

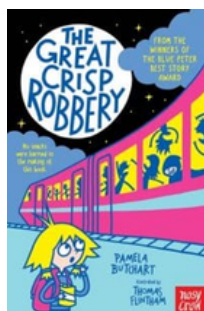
Featuring real constellations as well as facts about the milky way, eclipses, comets and other astronomical delights.





Recommended Reads - KS2

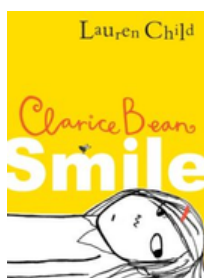
Year 3



The Great Crisp Robbery by Pamela Butchart

Another hilarious tale of primary school life from the Blue Peter award-winning team. Nothing is as it seems for Izzy and friends, and the drama is always off the scale. Izzy and friends are excited to find that their school trip involves an overnight train ride. But when they get on board, they're shocked to discover that everything is strange. And the bunk beds are tiny! And then their teacher disappears. Miss Jones has been kidnapped!

Year 4

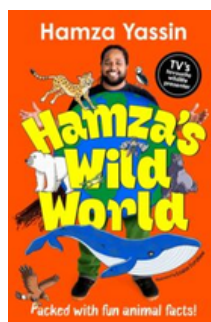


Clarice Bean: Smile by Lauren Child

At the moment I am daydreaming about inventing something exceptionordinarily good that could change the world for the better, because of all the things, it's the better that's needed. And if you are thinking I'm too small to make a difference then remember the plankton – they are one of the tiniest creatures on the planet but without them where would we be? Probably living on Mars.

The utterly wonderful Clarice Bean is thinking about the endangered things: the big creatures, the little creatures, the plants and the trees. But it's not just the planet that needs help – there's her whole family too . . .

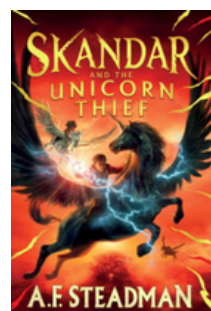
Year 5



Hamza's Wild World by Hamza Yassin

Hamza's Wild World', is jam-packed with interesting facts about animals, from carnivores to herbivores, predators to prey. The book starts with a highly interesting and inspiring mini autobiography, and his personal story would resonate with many pupils. The next section of the book covers humans, tackling our animal attributes head-on. The rest of the book is split into chapters covering all areas of animal existence, including sensing, communication, breeding and biodiversity. Each chapter is interspersed with fact pages, descriptions of Hamza's favourite animals and his encounters with them, animal factfiles, and Hamza's nature heroes. The book finishes with some advice for children on how they can become involved with nature, suggesting links and groups to become involved with.

Year 6



Skandar And The Unicorn Thief by A.F Steadman

Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero.

But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined. A dark and twisted enemy has stolen the Island's most powerful unicorn – and as the threat grows ever closer, Skandar discovers a secret that could blow apart his world forever...





Safeguarding



Our most important role at Chancel is keeping the children safe and protecting them from potential harm. Safeguarding the children is everyone's responsibility and is best achieved through working in partnership as a school community.

The safeguarding staff at Chancel are:

- *Mrs Palmer - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)*
- *Mrs Watson and Mr Newton- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs)*
- *Mr Sparkes- Safeguarding Governor*
-

If you are worried about a child's well-being or believe they may be at risk of harm, you should report this concern to school, either by personal visit, email or telephone. You can also contact:

- *Staffordshire Families Integrated Front Door (SFIFD) - 0300 111 8007*
- *Staffordshire Police - 101 or 999*

If you are contacted by staff about a safeguarding concern, please do not be offended. We are sure you would rather we take every precaution to ensure the children's safety. We are also here to support you, should you have any concerns or difficulties.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

CONTACTING CHILDLINE

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Call us on 0800 1111 or chat to us online.

You can also [speak to Childline in Welsh](#).



SPEAKING TO CHILDLINE

Childline is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, so you can speak to us any time.

Our counsellors are here to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. You can call us for free on 0800 1111 or speak online using the 1-2-1 chats. If you're deaf, you can also use BSL via an interpreter.

You can also send us a message after signing up for a private Childline account. We'll answer your message within a day.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



SEND & inclusion

Any questions or concerns regarding Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?
Please speak to our SENDCo, Miss Miller, or drop-in to see Mrs Palmer on Friday mornings
between 9.15-9.45am.



WEEKLY SOFT PLAY!

At: The Play Shed,
Newport Rd, Stafford ST16
2EX (at the end of the
Tesco Extra car park.

Every Wednesday in term
time 5-6pm
£2 contribution per child,
siblings welcome.



Many autistic children love soft play but it can be an overwhelming experience during usual opening hours. This is a session exclusive to NAS Stafford and closed to members of the public. You don't have to book, you can just come along. Suitable for children up to 13.

An opportunity to meet other families, create connections and forge friendships!

email: stafforddistrict.branch@nas.org.uk for more details.



Menu

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Option	Creamy bacon and cheese pasta with garlic bread, peas & sweetcorn.	Pepperoni pizza served with wedges and mixed vegetables or salad.	Roast chicken served with roast potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables and gravy.	Chicken noodles with prawn crackers and sweetcorn.	Fish fingers and chips served with baked beans or peas.
Vegetarian Option	Cheese and tomato pasta served with garlic bread, peas & sweetcorn	Margherita pizza served with wedges and mixed Vegetables or salad	Quorn roast served with roast potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables & gravy.	Quorn noodles with prawn crackers and sweetcorn.	Cheese and bean wrap served with chips and beans or peas.
Pudding	Chocolate orange shortbread	Treacle sponge with custard	Strawberry cheesecake	Donuts and fruit	Crispy cookie
Available Daily					
Jacket Potato with fillings: tuna, cheese or baked beans. Sandwich or bap with fillings: ham, tuna or cheese Fresh bread, salad, fruit, milk & yoghurt					



Positive Global Citizen

What is a positive global citizen?

A positive global citizen is someone who actively contributes to making the world a better, more equitable, and sustainable place, recognising their role within the global community. This means being aware of global issues, respecting cultural differences, and taking responsible actions that benefit people and the planet.

Key qualities of a positive global citizen:

- **Awareness:** Understands global issues like poverty, climate change, human rights, and inequality.
- **Empathy and Respect:** Appreciates diverse cultures, beliefs, and perspectives.
- **Responsibility:** Recognises how personal choices (e.g., consumption, travel, communication) impact others globally.
- **Action-Oriented:** Engages in activities that support positive change—volunteering, ethical consumerism, advocacy, or education.
- **Collaboration:** Works with others, across borders and cultures, to solve shared problems.
- **Sustainability-Minded:** Supports practices and policies that protect the environment and promote long-term well-being for all.

Examples of positive global citizenship:

- Donating to or volunteering with organisations addressing global issues.
- Reducing carbon footprint and supporting sustainable brands.
- Speaking out against injustice or discrimination.
- Learning about and celebrating cultures different from your own.



Mary Anning

Mary Anning was a curious and determined fossil hunter from England who made important scientific discoveries over 200 years ago. She grew up near the seaside and spent her days searching the cliffs for fossils, even as a young child. Many of the fossils she found helped scientists learn more about dinosaurs and animals that lived millions of years ago.

At a time when girls were not often recognised for their work, Mary never gave up on her love of learning. Her discoveries changed the way people understood the history of life on Earth.

Mary Anning reminds us that curiosity, hard work, and a love of learning can lead to amazing discoveries — no matter how old you are.



Meet The Teaching Team



Mrs Allerton



Miss Jones



Mrs Wakelam



Miss Miller



Mr Newton



Mr Wincup



Mr Leese



Mrs Watson



Mrs Gamble



CONTACT US



Developing the citizens of tomorrow through the best education of today

Telephone: 01889 228710

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