The Chancel CHIRPER



#541

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Follow our socials

@Chancel Primary

@ChancelPrimarySchool (NEW)

COMING SOON

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Stay Safe on Bonfire Night!

Bonfire Night is lots of fun, but remember to stay safe!

Bonfires:
Keep well back from the fire and let adults take care of it.

Fireworks:
Only grown-ups should light them. Watch from a safe distance!

Sparklers:
Wear gloves, hold them at arm's length, and put them in water when they're done.
Have fun, stay safe, and enjoy the fireworks!

Upcoming Events at Chancel Primary School

Learn • Grow • Achieve • Together

Important dates for your diary!

OCTOBER

Wednesday 14th
Tempest – Individual & Sibling Photos
Throughout the school day, all children will have their individual photographs taken, as well as photographs with siblings who attend the school.

Wednesday 14th
Nursery and Reception Open Evening @5pm
All prospective parents whose children are due to start in Nursery or Reception in September 2027 are invited to visit school to meet staff and take a tour of Chancel.

Friday 16th
Flu Immunisations
The NHS team are in to administer the Flu immunisations for pupils in Reception to Year 6. You should have received a link to sign your child up.

Monday 19th
Y5 Derby Open Centre
Year 5 will be visiting the Derby Open Centre as part of their Religious Education Curriculum.

Tuesday 20th October
EYFS Halloween Stay and Play
Parents/carers of pupils in EYFS are invited to join their child at a stay and play.
Ducklings 9.30- 10.15am; Puffins 9.15 – 10.00am; and Reception is 9.15 – 10.15am.

Wednesday 21st
Harvest Service
Parents/carers of pupils in Reception, KS1 and KS2 are invited to 'The Harvest Service' which will be held at St. Augustine's Church at 10am.

Thursday 22nd
Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

Friday 23rd
Inset Day (school closed to pupils)



NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd
Reception Open Morning @10-11am
All prospective parents/carers whose children are due to start in Reception in September 2027 are invited to visit school to meet staff and take a tour of Chancel.

Friday 13th
Children In Need
Pupils will be invited to wear one item of **spotty** clothing on this day and participate in a variety of sporting events, for a donation of £2 (payable via Parentpay).

Friday 13th
Progress Reports Issued
Your child will receive their Progress Report via Class Dojo.

Saturday 14th
EYFS Open Morning 10am-12pm
All prospective parents/carers whose children are due to start in Nursery or Reception in September 2027 are invited to visit school to meet staff and take a tour of Chancel.

Monday 16th
Book Parents' Evening Appointments
Parents/carers can start to book Parents' Evening Appointments by contacting the school office.

Monday 16th
Anti-Bullying Week
Pupils will participate in a wide range of activities in school in support of Anti Bullying Week.

Monday 23rd
Parents Evening 3.40 – 5.30pm

Tuesday 24th
Parents' Evening 3.40 – 5.30pm

Monday 23rd
Christmas Raffle Tickets Go On Sale
We will start selling Raffle Tickets at £1 per ticket (payable via Parentpay). There will be a vast array of wonderful prizes to win.



DECEMBER

Thursday 3rd
Christmas Jumper Day (Hamper Donation)
Pupils are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on this day and donate an item for our Christmas Hampers.

Thursday 3rd
Pantomime (Cinderella)
KS2 will watch the panto in the morning; whilst Reception and KS1 will attend the afternoon performance.

Tuesday 8th December
Christmas Production
Parents/carers of pupils in Nursery Puffins, Reception and Year 1 are invited to watch the Christmas Production. There will two performances at 10am and 2.30pm.

Tuesday 8th
KS2 Movie Munch
Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be invited to stay after school from 3.30pm – 5.30pm to watch a movie. They will be served hotdogs, chips, cake and a drink for £5 (payable via Parentpay).

Wednesday 9th
Reception Trip to Amerton Farm
Pupils in Reception will visit Amerton Farm to meet Santa and take a ride on the train. Payable via Parentpay.

Wednesday 9th
Y2 Christmas Extravaganza @2.30pm
Parents/carers of pupils in Year 2 are invited to join the class for a Christmas Extravaganza.

Thursday 10th
Y1 & Y2 Trip to Conkers
Pupils in Year 1 and 2 will visit Conkers to experience their Winter Wonderland (payable via Parentpay).

Friday 11th
Christmas Fair
The school Christmas Fair will be held after school at 3.30pm. There will be lots of activities and the raffle will be drawn.

Tuesday 15th
Nursery & KS1 Tea With Santa
Pupils in Puffins, Reception, Year 1 and 2 are invited to join us after school, 3.30 – 4.45pm, to meet Santa. They will be served fishfingers, chips, cake and a drink for £5 (payable via Parentpay).

Wednesday 16th
Christmas Dinner Day
Pupils will be able to order a Christmas Dinner on this day.

Friday 18th
Carol Concert
Parents/carers of pupils in Reception, KS1 and KS2 are invited to 'The Carol Concert' which will be held at St. Augustine's Church at 10am.



A busy and exciting term ahead!



Harvest

Rugeley Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Rugeley Community Centre
Burnthill Lane
Rugeley
WS15 2HX
info@rugeley.foodbank.org.uk
07528 447504

Tuesday 27th October 2026

Dear Staff & Pupils at Chancel Primary School.

We are so grateful for the very generous donation of **56kg** worth of food that you have donated towards Rugeley Foodbank.

This past year we have been able to help 1,641 people in crisis with a food parcel.

Thank you for choosing to support us – We really value your consideration, and as a team we were blown away by your contribution.

Yours sincerely,

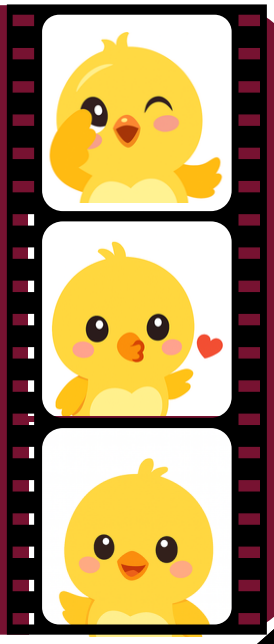
Abi Nevill
Foodbank Manager

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for their generous food donations at our Harvest Service. We are delighted to share the lovely letter of thanks from Rugeley Foodbank, who greatly appreciate your kindness and support in helping families in need.

Photographs

All children have now had their individual and sibling photographs taken, and the proofs have been sent home. If you would like to order copies, please visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk and make sure all payments are made directly to Tempest Photography — not to Chancel School — within 14 days of receiving your proofs.

If your child was absent on the day the photographs were taken, don't worry! The photographer will be returning to school on 23rd November to take any remaining photos. Thank you for your cooperation!



Chancel Primary School

where every child belongs and thrives

This Year's Pantomime

Cinderella

at the Rugeley Rose Theatre

Thursday 3rd December 2026

KS2 @ 10am

Rec/KS1 @ 1pm

Children will be escorted to and from the theatre by staff.

PTFA

With grateful thanks to the PTFA for subsidising this event, the PTFA are paying **£3** per child, so the cost to parents is just **£5** per child.

Now on Parentpay

Sponsored Read

Get ready to get reading! We are holding a whole-school Sponsored Read from 23rd–30th November, with Nursery joining in too. Whether it's books, comics, magazines or even recipes, every bit of reading counts!

We are hoping to raise money to restock our school library with exciting new books. Even better, our Usborne Partner, Kate from The Story Nook, will be adding up to 60% of the sponsorship total in FREE books for Chancel!

There are also four prizes to be won – one for the child who reads the most and one for the child who raises the most sponsorship money in both EYFS/KS1 and KS2.

Look out for a letter with more information and a sponsorship form, which will be sent home during the week commencing 16th November.



CHANCEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Where every child belongs and thrives

Phonics Meeting for Early Years Parents

If you have a child in Ducklings, Puffins or Reception and would like to know how to support their early reading and spelling acquisition, please attend either of our meetings.

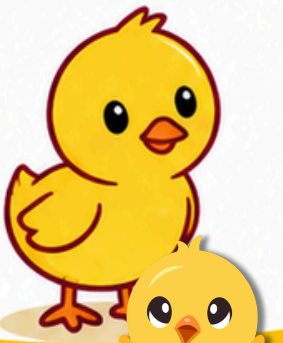
Meeting taking place on

Tuesday 10th November

At **9:15am** and **6pm**

Read Write Inc. Phonics







KS1 Christmas Card Competiton

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been invited to take part in the annual Christmas card competition for our local MP, Josh Newbury.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our younger children to get creative and showcase their festive spirit! The winning design will be used as an official Christmas card and sent to fellow MPs, councillors, local businesses and community organisations across Cannock Chase. Two runners-up will also have their designs featured on the back of the card.



Design sheets have been sent home with children, so please take a look at the information provided and encourage your child to get involved.

All entries must be returned to school by Friday 13th November.

We would love to see lots of fantastic, festive designs from our Chancel children!

Flu Immunisations – New Date Confirmed

Following the cancellation of the original flu immunisation session in October, we are pleased to confirm that the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) will now be visiting Chancel Primary School on Thursday 19th November to administer the annual flu vaccinations to pupils in Reception to Year 6.

If you have already completed an online consent form for your child, there is no need to do anything further. Your consent will automatically transfer to the new session.

The e-consent system will also contact parents and carers who have not yet responded, with reminders about the upcoming session sent closer to the date.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Chancel Primary School

EYFS Open Morning



'The quality of the education in the early years is the strength of the school. The curriculum and environment are vibrant and exciting.'

- Ofsted March 2025

Saturday 14th November
10am – 12pm

Are you a prospective parent or carer whose child is due to start **Nursery** or **Reception** in **September 2027?**



If so, you are warmly invited to visit our school to meet our EYFS team and take a tour of Chancel.

Email: office@chancel.staffs.sch.uk

Phone: 01889 228710

where every child belongs and thrives

Christmas Fair

We are delighted to announce that this year's Chancel Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 11th December from 3.30pm!

The fair will take place throughout the school hall and classrooms, with lots of festive fun for everyone to enjoy. There will be hot chocolate and mince pies available to buy, as well as a selection of Christmas crafts made by our children.



Would you like a stall?
We are also inviting parents, carers and local businesses to have a stall at our Christmas Fair. Stalls will cost £10, and parents are welcome to share a stall with someone else if they wish.

Places will be limited, so if you would like to have a stall, please let us know as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We can't wait to see everyone and get into the Christmas spirit together!

Reception Admissions

Staffordshire County Council

School Admissions and Transport Service
2, Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2DH
Telephone: 0300 111 8007
Email: admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk

October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - ADMISSION INTO RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2027

Applications open on 01 November 2026. **The national closing date is 15 January 2027.**

Please visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions or scan the QR Code for more information.

The online system will ask for a UID number – please click 'No UID', this will allow you to continue with your application.

What you need to know:

- If others share parental responsibility for your child but live at a different address, please ensure you agree on school preferences before applying.
- All the information you need about the admissions process in Staffordshire is available on our website.
- Please read the reverse of this letter carefully before submitting your application online via the website.
- No priority for children in the school nursery and no guarantee that a place will be allocated in the reception class.
- Use our online search and compare tool to explore Staffordshire schools.
- Check if your child qualifies for **free home-to-school travel assistance** at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport.

When applying:

- List **all** the schools you would like your child to attend — including those located **outside Staffordshire**.
- Check each school's **admission arrangements** to understand how your application will be considered.
- Some schools may require **additional information** or a **supplementary form**.

If you do not make an application, your child may be disadvantaged in the school admissions process, even if you have an older child attending your preferred school or live in the catchment area.

Kind regards
Staffordshire School Admissions and Transport Service

Staffordshire County Council

Important points to remember

- **Apply online by 15 January 2027** to ensure your application is considered.
- Visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions and read all the guidance carefully.
- **You must apply**, even if your preferred school already has an older sibling attending, or your child is in the school nursery, or it is your local school.
- **List more than one school preference**. Only listing one does not give you an advantage and could result in your child being placed at a school far from home.
- All applications are processed **at the same time**. There is no priority for first preferences or early submissions.
- Rank schools in **your true order of preference**, not based on where you think your child is most likely to be accepted.
- If your child qualifies for more than one school listed on your application, the one **ranked highest** on your application will be offered.
- Be realistic. It's strongly recommended to include your **catchment area school** (if applicable) as one of your preferences.
- Understand each school's **admission arrangements** to know how your application will be prioritised.
- Some schools may require **additional documents or supplementary forms** (e.g. baptismal certificates).

  It is **your responsibility** to provide these — the Local Authority will not obtain these on your behalf.
- Consider **how your child will travel to school**.

  Most children are **not entitled** to free travel assistance. Check eligibility at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schooltransport
- You will receive your child's school offer on **16 April 2027**. Offers will not be released before this date.

Primary School Reception Application Process

Opens
1 November
2026

The application process for a Reception place for **September 2027** will open on **1 November 2026.**

The easiest way for parents to apply is **online** via:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Closes
15 January
2027

The closing date for applications is **15 January 2027.**

Please make sure you submit your application before the deadline.




THE HART SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER
5:00 - 7:30pm In the Hall
THIS YEAR WE WELCOME BACK
ONE OF THE BIGGEST LOCAL
FESTIVE EVENTS!
OVER 20 LOCAL STALLS TO BROWSE AND SUPPORT
SANTA HIMSELF AND HIS ELVES WILL BE JOINING US!
CARD AND CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED
CHILD-FRIENDLY FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL AGES
HOT FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME
FOR MORE INFO OR TO HOST A STALL(£15)
PLEASE EMAIL - ptfa@hartschool.org.uk

RAISING MONEY

for BBC Children in Need



We're very excited to be supporting Children in Need again this year! The big day is on Friday 13th November, and we have lots of fun activities planned throughout the week to help raise money for this brilliant cause.

Breaktime Fun (Week Commencing Monday 9th November)

All week, children will be able to join in some exciting activities during break times:

- Guess the Sweets in the Jar – 10p a go!
- Guess How Many Spots are on Pudsey – also just 10p a go!
- Bookmarks on sale - 25p each!

Every penny raised will go towards helping Children in Need support children and families across the UK.

Spotty Day – Friday 13th November

On Friday, children can come to school wearing one spotty item if they would like to. Donations for this can be made via ParentPay (£2). During the day, each class will have a special session in the hall packed with fun races, games and activities – a fantastic way to celebrate and make a difference at the same time!

Let's make this year's Children in Need week the best one yet — full of fun, laughter, and kindness!

Poppy Appeal 2026

From Tuesday 3rd November, we have been supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the lead up to Remembrance Day.



Items available:

Paper poppies – any donation
Reflector keyrings – suggested donation 50p
Fabric Wristbands – suggested donation 50p
Slapbands – suggested donation £1
Pencils - suggested donation 50p
Sticker - suggested donation 20p

To make sure everyone has a chance to take part, children will initially only be able to purchase one item, as stock is limited. If items are still available once every class has been visited, children may be given the opportunity to purchase additional items, while stocks last..

Armistice Day

Year 6 will be attending the Armistice Day Commemorations at Rugeley Cenotaph on Wednesday 11th November 2026 from 10:45am. As this is a public event, parents are very welcome to attend.

Please ensure that children come to school dressed in Chancel school uniform, including suitable footwear and a coat. Please note, Year 6 will not be able to purchase tuck from school on this day.



A huge 'thank you' to all of our families who sent in photos of their Halloween costumes!



















WINNER



Trips

Years 1 & 2 Conkers Winter Wonderland



We are delighted to announce that our Years 1 and 2 children will be visiting Conkers Winter Wonderland on Thursday 10th December 2026 for a magical festive adventure!

The children will begin by following the Reindeer Trail, before hopping aboard Santa's Conkerchoo Train and making their way to Waterside. From there, the friendly elves at the Amphitheatre kiosk will be waiting to sprinkle some Christmas magic as the children follow the trail towards Santa's Grotto, where they will have the exciting opportunity to meet Santa!

Children should come to school in school uniform and will need a suitable warm coat and sensible footwear. A packed lunch will be provided by school. The cost of the trip is £22.95 per pupil, which is now available to pay via ParentPay.

Reception Amerton Farm

Our Reception children will be visiting Amerton Farm on Wednesday 9th December 2026 for a magical Christmas adventure!

The children will be escorted by Santa's elves to Santa's Grotto, where they will receive a special gift. They will also have the chance to see Santa's reindeer and other farm animals, as well as enjoying a ride on the farm's train.

The visit will take place during school hours. Children should wear school uniform, suitable footwear and a waterproof coat. A packed lunch will be provided by school.

The cost of the visit is £28.00 per child, payable via ParentPay.

We are sure the children will have a wonderful festive day!



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 17th March to Friday 19th March 2027**. 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 **Monday 19th October 2026** to secure your child's place. The full payment must be made by **Monday 8th March 2027**. (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, you needed to inform the school office by **19th October 2026.** 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 8th March to Friday 12th March 2027.**

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 **Monday 19th October 2026** 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 **Monday 1st March 2027.**

If your child does not intend to go, you needed to inform the school office by **19th October 2026.**

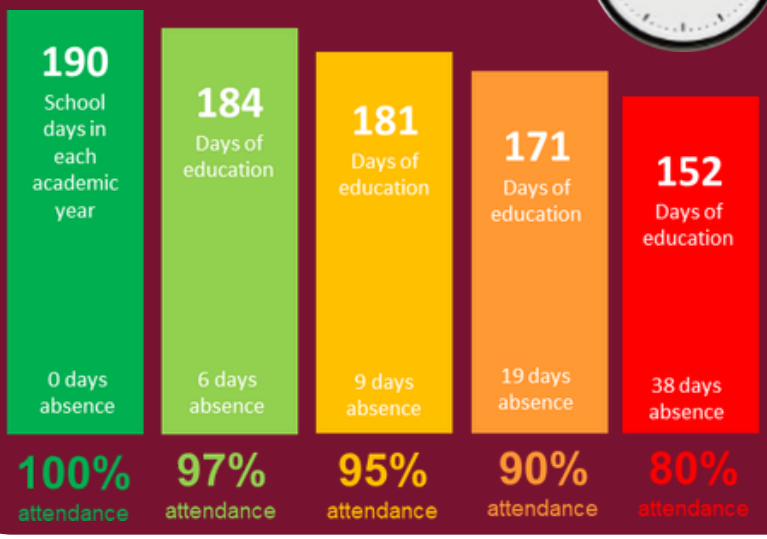
This promises to be a fantastic experience for our Year 6 pupils, and we hope all children will be able to take part.

AWARDS

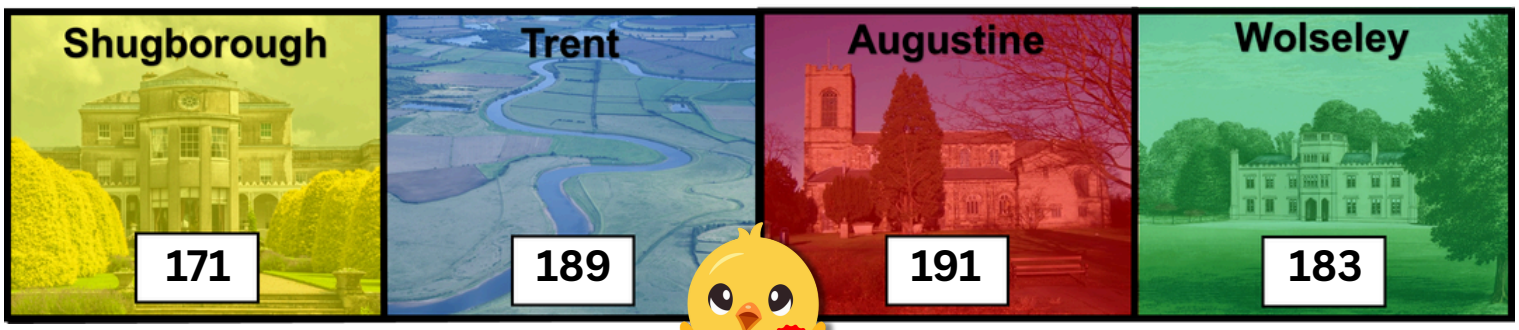
	Stars	Warriors
Reception	Daisy & Rory	Mason H
Year 1	Malia & Ava-Mae	Jaxon
Year 2	Alfie & Carter	Harper P
Year 3	Oscar & Grace	Jamie
Year 4	Louis & Theia	Mya
Year 5	Ollie & Aria	Oscar
Year 6	Declan & Hope	Olly B

Arrive On Time At Ten To Nine
Make Every Minute Count





1st	Kestrels
2nd	Owls
3rd	Kingfishers
4th	Toucans
5th	Chaffinches
6th	Robins
7th	Eagles





Recommended Reads - EYFS & KS1

Nursery



The Circular Square by Simon Philip

The Circular Square is a clever picturebook that will engage young children with its humour and illustrations.

The concept and language used by the author, Simon Philip, mean this is an ideal text for Early Years children. The rhyming story describes all of life's ups and downs and how these shape us, quite literally.

The character of Square does not like his edges or straight sides but chooses to focus on the positives of life. As he does that, he slowly becomes more rounded without even noticing.

This story has a wonderful message about having a positive mindset and showing resilience.

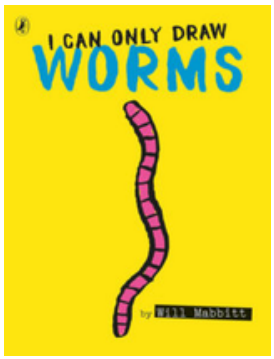
Reception



We Catch The Bus by Katie Abey

Each page is themed around a different type of transport, from buses and trucks to emergency vehicles and rockets, and displays an array of different cartoon examples, while the reader is asked to choose which one they would ride. Added details make the act of choosing on each page fun. On the trains page, for example, a steam train is filled with animals eating spaghetti and doughnuts, while an Elf Express is taking Lego to Santa's workshop, and a slick intercity train driven by a sloth has a swimming pool carriage but also a wolf disguised in grandma's clothing.

Year 1



I Can Only Draw Worms by Will Mobbitt

The format is a simple counting book, but the commentary from the illustrator adds a layer of hilarity that children love – making it a funny counting book with a humorous twist.

The illustrator directly addresses the reader to explain that he can only draw worms, and proceeds to demonstrate by drawing a series of brightly coloured neon wiggly worms. His added commentary promises extra details – such as flying unicorns and an outer space setting – but as he has admitted, he can't draw these details so he teases the reader with the details instead and leaves the rest to the imagination.

Year 2



If I Were Prime Minister by Trygve Skaug

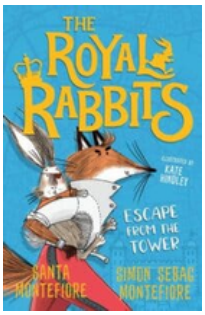
The story follows a young child's imagination and their desires for the community and country that they live in. They go through numerous wishes, including changing the sea to water that swallows plastic, making sure everyone has at least two friends, that every garden has a swimming pool and that woolly jumpers would not feel itchy. The real question is, 'What would you do if you were Prime Minister or Team Captain?'





Recommended Reads - KS2

Year 3

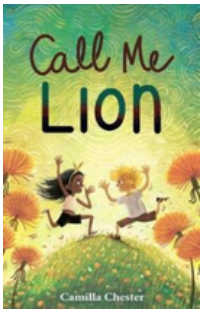


The Royal Rabbits by Santa Montefiore, Simon Sebag Montefiore

Part of a series but also good as a standalone, this story plunges readers into the thrilling world of Shylo Tawny-Tail, the once-shy country rabbit now a proud member of the Royal Rabbits of London. This new adventure sees the Ratzis, a formidable gang of hundreds of large, smelly rats led by the mysterious Papa Ratzi, aiming for global chaos involving the royal family.

Delivering a fast-paced, engaging plot, this fun and accessible book is packed with suspense, humour and daring escapades as Shylo and the Royal Rabbits of London race against time to save the day. This is a fun and exciting series that will keep young readers hooked.

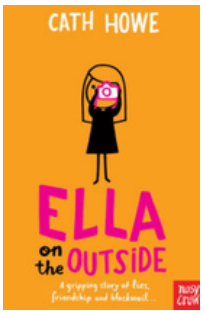
Year 4



Call Me Lion by Camilla Chester

Ten-year-old Leo dreams of performing in the West End. His love of dancing is getting him through the Luton heatwave, but his selective mutism is putting his spot in the end-of-summer dance show on the line. When chatty Richa moves in next door, Leo finds it easy to bond with her. She talks enough for the both of them ... at least to begin with. But when he learns her secret it's clear that Richa needs Leo's support as much as he needs hers. With Richa's help, will Leo be able to follow his dreams? Or will Leo's inability to talk cost him their friendship?

Year 5



Ella On The Outside by Cath Howe

Ella is the new girl at school. She doesn't know anyone and she doesn't have any friends.

And she has a terrible secret.

Ella can't believe her luck when Lydia, the most popular girl in school, decides to be her new best friend – but what does Lydia really want? And what does it all have to do with Molly, the quiet, shy girl who won't talk to anyone?

A gripping story of lies, friendship, and blackmail...

Year 6



The Boy With Big Decisions by Helen Rutter

For as long as Gemma can remember it's been her and Mum against the world. They're as close as can be, but deep down she longs to get to know the rest of her family, the family Mum turned her back on around the time Gemma was born. With the summer holidays approaching, Mum is invited on an adults-only holiday. Gemma spots a chance to uncover the story behind the family rift and convinces Mum to let her stay with Joe. He's the perfect uncle – fun, friendly and generous, and even signs her up for tennis camp. But Gemma can't shake the feeling that he and Gran are keeping secrets. As the truth emerges, can Gemma find a way to bring her family back together?



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 Atkinson- 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.



Gov.UK
Domestic Abuse: statutory guidance

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours. It can but does not have to involve physical acts of violence and can include threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional, psychological, sexual and/or economic abuse. Domestic abuse can involve abuse facilitated and perpetrated online or offline. It is widely recognised that the perpetrator's desire to exercise power and control over the victim is at the centre of abusive behaviours. Many victims will experience abusive behaviours simultaneously, perpetrators may demonstrate a wide range and use different tactics to gain power and control.

Physical abuse, violent or threatening behaviour.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

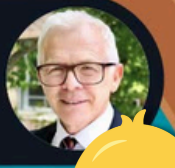
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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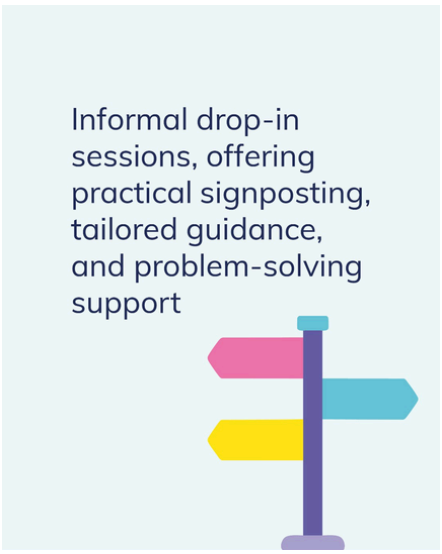
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liab[illegible]ntered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.10.2026

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.





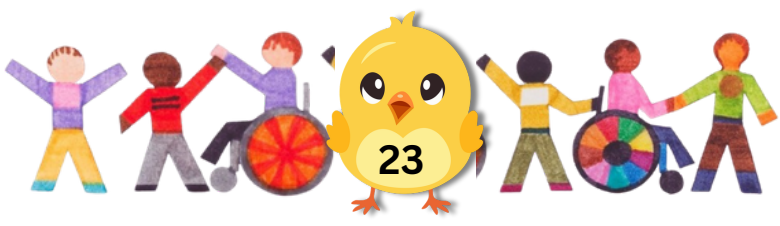






Anna Freud now runs free online sessions as part of the Autism Central programme commissioned by NHS England.

These sessions offer a space for families to reflect and work together, sharing knowledge and skills.



Menu

Week 1					
	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Main Option	BBQ chicken pasta with garlic bread, peas & sweetcorn	Pepperoni pizza served with waffles, beans or veg	All day breakfast	Chicken pie with mash, vegetables and gravy	Chicken nuggets and served with baked beans or sweetcorn
Vegetarian Option	Cheese and tomato pasta served with garlic bread, peas & sweetcorn	Margherita pizza served with waffless, beans or veg	Quorn roast served with roast potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables & gravy. Vegetarian all day breakfast	Vegetarian pie with mash, veg andgravy	Cheese and bean wrap served with chips and beans or peas.
Pudding	Strawberry whip with fresh strawberries	Toffee sponge with custard	Jelly and fresh fruit	Brownie and oranges	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.





Anne Frank

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who lived during World War II. When her family had to go into hiding to stay safe, Anne kept a diary where she wrote about her life, her dreams, and her hope for a better world.

Even though she faced very difficult times, Anne's words remind us about the importance of kindness, courage, and standing up against unfairness. Her diary has been read by millions of people all over the world and continues to inspire others to treat everyone with respect and compassion.

Anne showed that even in the darkest times, we can still believe in the goodness of people and hope for peace.

Meet The Teaching Team



Mrs Allerton | Miss Jones | Mrs Wakelam | Mr Leese



Miss Miller | Mr Wincup | Mrs Watson | Mr Newton | Mrs Gamble

CONTACT US

