



Sept 2025

CHIEVELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

What a brilliant start to the term everyone has had! We are so pleased to welcome our new families to Chieveley school and hope you have had a very warm welcome to our school family.

Already we have had a busy first few weeks settling in our Wrens to school and seeing our new classes move up the school!

Whilst we are welcoming new parents to our school, it is important to note our parking rules on the school site. These can be found on the next page and we advise all parents to follow these to keep our school site safe and are mindful of residents in surrounding roads.

We have so much to look forward to with an exciting term ahead; we are always happy to speak to parents to help and support. Please contact Hayley in the office, or office@chieveleyschool.co.uk in the first instance to arrange a time to speak to us.

Have a fantastic term all!

Mr Harris



DATES FOR THE DIARY

October

Thursday 2nd
Non Uniform Day

Friday 3rd
Inset day

Tuesday 21st
Flu Vaccines

Tuesday 21st 3.30–6.30
Parents Evening

Wednesday 22nd 4-7
Parents Evening

Thursday 23rd
Halloween Disco

Thursday 23rd
End of term

November

Wednesday 5th
Start of term

Tues 11th–Weds 12th
Jays at Ufton Court

December

Wednesday 3rd
Watermill Theatre Trip

Friday 5th December
Christmas Fayre

Thursday 18th at 1.25pm
End of term

GOVERNOR VACANCY

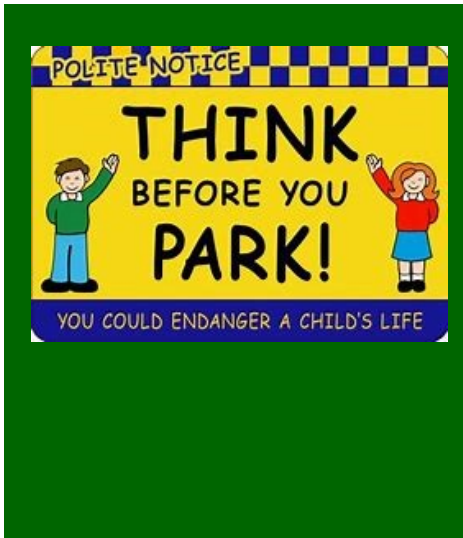
The Governing Board at Chieveley school have a vacancy for a co-opted governor to help with the strategic direction of the school. You do not need to be a parent to be a member of the governing board and we are looking for members of the community who would be interested in taking up this role. We are particularly interested in those with finance skills. If you would like to discuss the role more, please get in touch with the office directly. Thank you!



START OF TERM REMINDERS!

PARKING

We offer a 'kiss and drop' for pupils in KS2, where children can be dropped off in the bays at the front of the school. KS1 children should be collected from their classroom. Parking is available at the village hall, a short walk away. Parking bays are not for cars to idle with their engines turned on as is not safe for pupils walking to and from school. We have also had a number of residents share concerns around parents parking on double yellow lines or leaving their cars running for long periods of time. Please be conscious of Chieveley residents and our environment.



Importance of Attendance

Research commissioned by the Department for Education, shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances.

Think about these questions:

1. If my child has time off at primary school, does it make that much difference?
2. They can catch up eventually, can't they?
3. So a couple of days off isn't that much work missed, is it?

If your child misses school, they miss lessons which may not be repeated. Being absent from school makes it hard to catch up with missed work and effects how well children do.

How much lesson time do they miss when they are off?

- Half day absent = 3 hours of lessons missed.
- 1 day absent = 5 hours of lessons missed.
- 3 days absent = 15 hours of lessons missed.
- 1 week absent = 25 hours of lessons missed.
- 2 weeks absent = 50 hours of lessons missed.

The possible impact for your child.

- They might feel a bit left out.
- They may not know how to do the work.
- They may fall behind and find it difficult to catch up.
- They may have to make friends again.



Finally, here is what it all adds up to.

If your child continues through their whole school life only attending 90% or less every year then their GCSE results **WILL** be affected, see below what the chances are:-

Full Attendance	100%	82% of students achieve 5+ Good GCSE Grades
Good Attendance	97% - 99.9%	79% of students achieve 5+ Good GCSE Grades
Attendance Requires Improvement	96.9% - 95%	53% of students achieve 5+ Good GCSE Grades
Worrying Attendance	94.9% - 90%	45% of students achieve 5+ Good GCSE Grades
Serious Concern	Below 90%	36% of students achieve 5+ Good GCSE grades

Attendance reminders

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/ letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.
Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.
£160

2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.
+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160
4 children & 1 parent = £640
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10
If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.
1 Day = **2** Sessions

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS
+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160
4 children & 2 parents = **£1280**
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4 If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME
2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280
No discount for early payment

3RD TIME
A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

WELCOME BACK FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Welcome back to the new academic year. As Chair of Governors, I am delighted to see our school community together again after the summer break and, on behalf of the whole governing board, extend a warm welcome to all families, especially those joining us for the first time. Thank you to our staff for their hard work over the summer in preparing classrooms and plans for the year ahead.

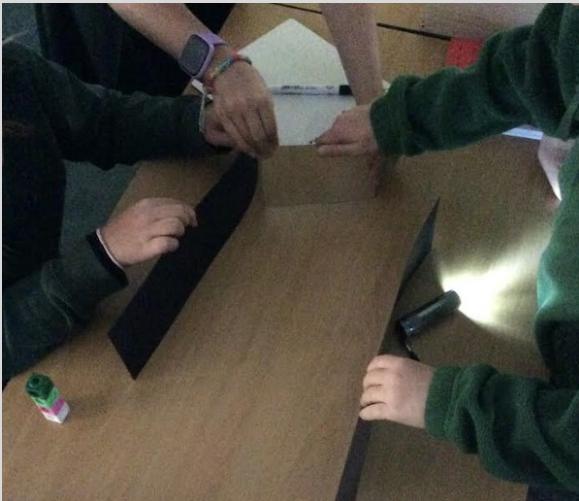
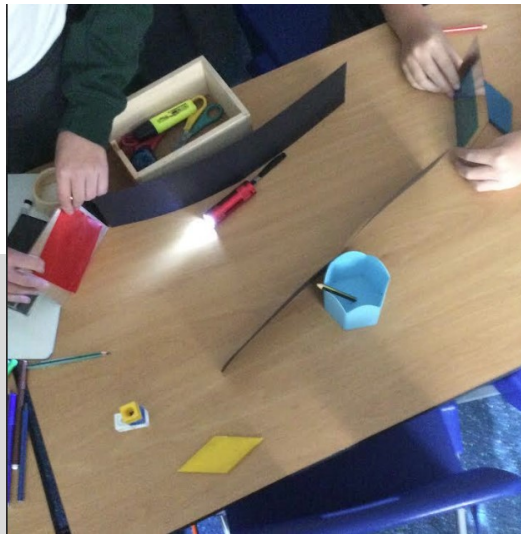
The governing board's role is to support and challenge the school so that every child thrives. We remain committed to working with the Headteacher and leadership team to deliver excellent education while maintaining the warm, inclusive environment that defines our school. Your engagement makes a real difference: attending parents' evenings, supporting the PTA, volunteering at events, and sharing feedback through the school office. Please stay connected through these newsletters and our usual communication channels. If you have questions about the work of the governing board or our strategic priorities for the year, do contact us via the school office. We look forward to a successful year ahead.

Sarah Blundell, Chair of Governors—Chieveley Primary School



YEAR 6: OWLS

This term our Owls are working hard to crack a case that is confounding the local constabulary. Using their knowledge of light and reflection to test the efficacy of periscopes (property of our 5 remaining suspects). We tested shiny metal surfaces, shiny Perspex, mirrors and retro reflective material. The results were conclusive and allowed Owls to eliminate another suspect. Who is off the hook? Now, that would be telling!





We're so lucky to be running our Forest school club here at Chieveley each week. We know there were some families who missed out on spaces this time so we will be sending out a letter later this half term to advertise for the club again after half term. Places are on a first come, first served basis! Here are some pictures from sessions the last few weeks...

On Wednesday after school last week, we hosted St Finian's Primary School for a friendly mixed Year 3 and 4 football game. It was a fun hour where the children got to test out their skills in a relaxed environment and experience play with different team mates. St Finian's won the game 3-2 and we then had a good time practising penalties together. Thanks to St Finian's staff and children for travelling to our school to take part.



Well done to Oscar, Louis P, Esme, Lucy, Jake, Zach and Archie for playing so well and for being such welcoming and well-mannered hosts. We are looking forward to organising more friendlies with our neighbours this year to give the children further opportunities to have fun and develop their skills.

"it's behind you...."

Panto is coming to Chieveley!

"Oh no it isn't!"



Dick Whittington

Sunday 11th January 2026, 2pm

A magical show performed by the Chaplins touring company
Fun for kids, joy for adults!

Tickets on sale
5th November 2025

£10 Adult/£5 Children(under 16)*

The Chieveley Village Hall Trustees are excited to be organising this new event bringing together our village community both young and old. For more details please contact panto.crc@outlook.com

Performed by Chaplins Pantos 4 kids

*Plus booking fee

With special thanks to

firstxtra
financial services



IN AND AROUND CHIEVELEY..

PTA EVENTS



Save the Dates!



02 Oct 25

PTA Non-uniform day (£1)



23 Oct 25

Halloween Disco



05 Dec 25

Christmas Fayre



12 Feb 26

Movie Night



**01 Mar to
13 Apr 26**

**Entrepreneur task -
Grow a £1!**



26 Apr 26

Chieveley Chase



21 May 26

Parents Quiz Night!



21 Jun 26

Summer Fete



10 Jul 26

Camp out!

**Come join the fun, support our School and
make lasting memories!**

Parents of 3 or 4 Year Old Children

Apply now for a Reception Year school place

For September 2026

Closing date for applications
15 January 2026



Applying for a secondary school place

For September 2026

Closing date for applications
31 October 2025





Information for
parents and carers



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in West Berkshire

From Friday 1 August 2025 Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will be the new providers of the MHSTs across West Berkshire, covering West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham localities, and we're excited to work in partnership with local schools and families to provide emotional and mental health support where it's needed most.

What does this mean for you?

If your child is currently receiving an intervention through the MHSTs, this will continue.

If your child needs support, your school already knows how to refer them to MHSTs. Simply speak with a member of staff at your child's school - they'll guide you through the next steps.

If your child is over 16, you can also refer them directly to us yourself.



What to do if you need help now?

If you need help and your child is under the care of the MHSTs as of 1st August, please contact us by using the details below:

📞 0300 247 3002 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)

@ CAMHSWestMHSTs@berkshire.nhs.uk

If you need urgent help, please go to our website which has all the information that you will need.

[I need urgent help now | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)



IN AND AROUND CHIEVELEY..



Want up to £2,000 for childcare?

Get help with childcare costs

So you can juggle work and life

We know childcare isn't just for toddlers, so Tax-Free Childcare can help you cover costs of childcare for children up to 11, or 16 for children with a disability.

Don't miss out on what you are entitled to!

Find out more about your school's Wraparound Childcare offer here or scan the QR code:

www.westberks.gov.uk/wraparound-childcare



 **West Berkshire**
COUNCIL

IN AND AROUND CHIEVELEY..

Early Bird
Discount
Book by 30.9.25
for 20% off

Code: earlybird20



Waterside Centre

Half Term Junior Club

Age 8-11 years | 9:00am-4:00pm

Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st October



Booking link

Just £25
per day!

Breakfast
Session
8.30-9am
£2.50 extra

Includes Lunch and FREE Climbing
Wednesday & Friday

