Chelford 1754 C of E Primary School

2025 / 2026 Newsletter issue 5 6th November 2026



Yarn Club is proving to be a popular extra-curricular activity at Chelford! Well done to our pumpkin-makers!

Welcome back!

Staff and Governors would like to extend a warm welcome to pupils and families for what is always an exciting half-term!

Congratulations Miss Ellen and family

We begin this week's newsletter with some fantastic news following the safe arrival of Miss Ellen and her partner's son, Noah, who was safely delivered over the half term break. Chelford CE Primary School community sends its love and best wishes to Miss Ellen and her family and hope that they enjoy this special time together!

Welcome Mrs Willars and Miss Mamood

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs Willars to our school family, who has been appointed to cover Miss Ellen's maternity absence. Mrs Willars brings a wealth of experience and has enjoyed getting to know our Class 4 pupils over the course of the week. Over the coming months, Mrs Willars will teach Class 4 on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Mr Brady continuing to cover the class on Mondays and Fridays.

Also joining the team for the coming term is Miss Mamood who will be working with Mrs Baker and our Class 2 staff as part of her teacher training placement. We hope that Mrs WIllars and Miss Mamood enjoy their time with us at Chelford!

Safety Squad

Following a rigorous application process, our new Safety School has been appointed and will support staff in helping to make Chelford CE Primary a safe and welcoming place to learn. Teachers were incredibly impressed with all the applications they received and all entries were celebrated during our special star badge assembly at the end of the previous half term.

This year's Squad comprises: Jackson (Y1), Atticus (Y4), Jack (Y2), Sienna (Y6), Ariana (Y4), Delilah T (Y6), Keffran (Y6), Hattie (Y4), Hannah (Y2).

Harvest Festival

Many thanks to families for joining us for our Harvest Service celebration before the half-term break. It was lovely to see our community come together at All Saints Church and to give our children the opportunity to share some of the things they have been learning about the harvest. Parents may recall that we are planning to organise a collection of non-perishable food items to donate to the Silklife Foodbank, who support those affected by food poverty in our area.

May we politely request donations of tinned foods, cereals, pasta, rice etc... to be brought into school on Thursday 19th November and Friday 20th November.

Star badges

As usual, we held our star badge assembly just before the recent half-term break.

Congratulations to the following children, who were chosen by their class teachers to receive the special nomination (right).

Star Badges					
Reception	Patrick	**Year 3**	Henry	**Year 6**	Jack C
Year 1	Jackson	**Year 4**	Atticus	**Mr Brady**	Renèe
Year 2	Hannah	**Year 5**	Seb		



School Council: Remembrance Sunday service - this Sunday 8th November @ St John's Church

On Sunday, school councillors are invited to represent the school at a special Service of Remembrance to be held at St John's Church. Pupils are required to wear school uniform and are requested to arrive at the church at 10:15am. Please can any outstanding consents be completed via the Arbor app.

Music tuition update - the beat goes on!

As reported in our previous newsletter, we are delighted to be able to once again offer pupils the opportunity to learn to play the drums! The sessions, provided by Music Squad, and led by tutor Mr Firth, began this morning following Mr Firth's inspiring assembly on Tuesday, which pupils thoroughly enjoyed. Additional spaces remain available - please see details on the flyer sent home to learn more about the tuition and to enrol your child.

Peripatetic update

The addition of drumming tuition enhances our already substantial peripatetic tuition provision. To recap, we are now able to offer lessons for piano, guitar, bass, ukulele, recorder, saxophone, clarinet and drums. As a result, an incredible 40% of our pupils are currently accessing additional music lessons in school time - this figure rises to 60% for KS2 pupils - what a talented bunch we are nurturing! If you would like to express interest in your child accessing peripatetic music tuition at school, please contact the school office who will connect you to our tutors.

School attendance - working together to support our children

Having started this academic year with pleasing overall school attendance, there has been a worrying drop off over recent weeks and it is important that every effort is made to ensure that all pupils are in school every day. At the current time, whole school attendance is 95.5% - not on track to meet Governors' target of 96%. Nationally, attendance data for primary schools is currently slightly above our position - 95.67%.

To illustrate some of the challenges we are facing, families may find some of our attendance statistics to be of interest when comparing their child's school attendance.

Weekly attendance analysis by class and whole school against Governors' target of 96%

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Whole school
4th / 5th September	100%	93.1%	91.7%	100%	94.87%
Wk beginning 7th Sept	98.9%	99.7%	98.3%	99.5%	99.15%
Wk beginning 14th Sept	96%	97.9%	94.2%	93.5%	95.5%
Wk beginning 21st Sept	100%	95.5%	92.9%	98%	95.9%
Wk beginning 28th Sept	100%	95.2%	92.5%	93.5%	94.6%
Wk beginning 5th Oct	98.9%	94.5%	98.3%	97%	96.71%
Wk beginning 12th Oct	93%	95.2%	94.5%	95%	94.7%
Wk beginning 19th Oct	73%	94.5%	88.3%	95%	90.2%
Wk beginning 2nd Nov	99%	96.2%	98.3%	97.5%	97.5%

Unauthorised absence

Further analysis of our attendance data shows that over the course of the first half term, there has been 45 sessions lost to unauthorised absence. This is the equivalent of 22.5 days of lost learning over an 8-week period. This figure also represents 1.3% of our attendance data to date; in a nutshell, if unauthorised attendance was zero, our whole school attendance would be 96.8%.

Praise Awards:

Congratulations to recent recipients: Lily, Jenson, Marcus, George, Oliver, Isla-Belle and Sienna.

Reader of the week:

Class 1	Patrick
Class 2	Harper
Class 3	Raya
Class 4	Nyla

Attendance:	Wk 1	Wk 2
Class 1	73%	99%
Class 2	94.5%	96.2%
Class 3	88.3%	98.3%
Class 4	95%	97.5%
Overall	90.2%	97.5%
*Year to date	95.5%	

**Governors' target 96%; national primary school year-to-date data: 95.6%*

School Menu:

3-week menu available on website.

House points:

House points to be collated next week.

Seacole	TBC
Lovell	TBC
Pankhurst	TBC
Attenborough	TBC

Birthdays greetings:

Congratulations to the following pupils who have celebrated birthdays during the last 2 weeks: Esmara (11), Albie (8) Oliver(11).

Arbor payments :

On Arbor this week:

- Choir sign up
- New 2 You uniform donations
- Donations to school
- Y1/2 dance consents
- Children in Need donations

Persistent absenteeism

Also of concern is the proportion of pupils who are currently recorded as persistent absentees. This is when a child's attendance has fallen below 90%. As school attendance is monitored by the local authority, each case of persistent absence is discussed during termly meetings with our school attendance officer. To put this figure is 'real terms', 12 pupils are absent for a minimum of half a day every week.

Other findings:

- There is a marked fall off in attendance across the course of the week. Scrutiny of daily attendance records show a gradual decline from Wednesday to Friday. As a result, school attendance on Fridays is 2.4% lower than on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- 27 pupils, representing 32% of the whole school, have achieved 100% attendance to date.
- 53 pupils, representing 63% of the whole school, are currently attending at or over Governors' 96% target.

Over the coming weeks, where attendance is causing a particular concern, Mr Brady will be inviting families into school to meet to discuss what challenges and barriers some of our families may be facing and to explore what support can be given to try to improve and boost attendance for our pupils.

Your child's attendance can be viewed via the Arbor app.

Extra-curricular update

Mr Scarterfield and Mrs Nuttall launched our new choir club this week. Open to all pupils from Y2 upwards, our choir will be spending the coming weeks learning some festive songs, some of which will be performed at our end of term concert on Tuesday 15th December (2:00pm). Places for choir remain open for new members - please sign up via the Arbor app.

In collaboration with Sports Coaching Group, we have also introduced some new breakfast sports activities this term, with dodgeball being offered to both KS1 and KS2 pupils: Wednesdays (KS1); Fridays (KS2). Booking details are available on the Sports Coaching website. https://sportscoachinggroup.co.uk/booking-link/?category=16

To summarise, our extra-curricular offer for this half term is outline below:

Day	Activity		
Monday	**KS1 Gymnastics** Sports Coaching Group Rec-Y2 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)	**Mad Science** (3:30pm - 4:30pm)	**Lego Club** Mr Brady (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Tuesday	**School Choir** Mr Scarterfield & Mrs Nuttall (3:30pm - 4:30pm)	**KS2 Yarn Club** Mrs Levinsohn (3:30pm - 4:30pm)	
Wednesday	**KS1 Dodgeball** Sports Coaching Group Rec-Y2 (8:00am - 8:50am)		
Thursday			
Friday	**KS2 Dodgeball** Sports Coaching Group Y3 - Y6 (8:00am - 8:50am)		

Let's Dance...!

Over the coming half term, pupils from Y1-Y6 will be given the opportunity to participate in a dance festival with our friends from partner primary schools across the Holmes Chapel Sports Partnership. The events will take place after school at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, in the sports hall, from 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Participating children may be collected from 3:20pm to support in ensuring children arrive promptly for the sessions.

The dates are outlined below:

- Year 1 and Year 2 - Wednesday 11th November (next week)
- Year 3 and Year 4 - Wednesday 18th November
- Year 5 and Year 6 - Wednesday 25th November

All pupils are welcome to attend. Class teachers will gauge pupils' interests and invites will be sent via Arbor - please reply at your earliest convenience. Unfortunately, as there is not enough room in the school hall to accommodate parents, children need to be dropped off and collected at the start and end of the session. Owing to several staff commitments over the coming weeks, it is unlikely that a member of staff will be able to transport children, although we will ensure staff presence at the events to help hand over pupils to their adult at the end of the event. For that reason, if arrangements with other parents to transport your child are made, please inform the school office or your child's teacher.



Children in Need - Friday 13th November 2026
Next Friday (13th November) we will be raising money for Children in Need. Pupils are invited to come to school in yellow / spotty clothing for a £1.00 donation which can be made via the Arbor app. If a child doe not known yellow / spotty clothing, they can of course come to school in usual non-uniform, parents need not worry about purchasing anything new.

Wellbeing Champions
This week, our Class 3 pupils started a programme known as Wellbeing Champions led by Mr Aspinall from Thrive. The 6-week programme is designed to help build pupils' confidence, resilience and teamwork through sports , games and activities. Early feedback from the pupils has been incredibly encouraging and we are looking forward to seeing their confidence and skills develop as part of the course.

Screening tools - supporting children's learning and identifying areas for support
To help staff to gain a more in-depth understanding of pupils' learning styles, strengths and challenges, the school has invested in a range of screening tools. Over the course of the coming weeks, we will be liaising with families to offer opportunities to explore pupils' learning habits and share the outcomes of our findings. This will help inform how children's learning can be best supported, both in and beyond school.

PTA disco and cake sale
Many thanks to all our parent helpers and PTA superstars who put on a fantastic autumn disco for our children and to our Class 4 bakers for their contributions to this afternoon's cake sale. We are especially grateful for parents completing the allergies card for our bakes, which help to keep all members of our school community safe.
Attention now turns to the Christmas festivities - what this space for more details! Having supported the school through significant investment in resources, materials and furniture for our new classrooms, the PTA is currently fundraising to support the replenishment of new iPad devices.

My child's art
Details of Christmas stationary design by our own artists at Chelford were sent home to families over recent weeks. By inputting details outlined on the flyers distributed, parents and family members have the opportunity to purchase a range of items, whilst also raising money for our PTA.

New menu
Our new menu for the coming half term is attached and available to view on the school website: https://www.chelford.cheshire.sch.uk/School-Meals/

Week 9th November 2026	Menu week 2
Monday 9th	PE lessons - all classes Class 3 - Wellbeing Champions KS1 gymnastics - Sports Coaching Group 3:30pm - 4:30pm Lego Club - Mr Brady - 3:30pm - 4:30pm Mad Science (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Tuesday 10th	Music lessons - all classes Mr Scarterfield Spanish lesson (KS2) - Mrs Levinsohn Tim Sparks - peripatetic guitar tuition Miss Cocks - piano tuition Yarn Club - Mrs Levinsohn (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Wednesday 11th	Mrs Downer out am 11:00am minute silence for Remembrance Day Woodwind and piano tuition - Mr Dunn
Thursday 12th	Mr Brady out (all day) Butterflies (9:45am - 11:30am)
Friday 13th	Children in Need - non-uniform day £1.00 donation via Arbor Mr Firth - drumming tuition KS2 dodgeball - Sports Coaching Group **8:00am - 8:50am** PE lessons - all classes

Week 16th November 2026	Menu week 3
Monday 16th	PE lessons - all classes KS1 gymnastics - Sports Coaching Group 3:30pm - 4:30pm Lego Club - Mr Brady - 3:30pm - 4:30pm Mad Science (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Tuesday 17th	Music lessons - all classes Mr Scarterfield Spanish lesson (KS2) - Mrs Levinsohn Tim Sparks - peripatetic guitar tuition Miss Cocks - piano tuition Yarn Club - Mrs Levinsohn (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Wednesday 18th	Woodwind and piano tuition - Mr Dunn Y3/4 dance workshop @ HCCS 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday 19th	Butterflies (9:45am - 11:30am) Donations of foods for Silklife Foodbank welcome
Friday 20th	Mr Firth - drumming tuition KS2 dodgeball - Sports Coaching Group **8:00am - 8:50am** PE lessons - all classes Donations of foods for Silklife Foodbank welcome

AUTUMN/ WINTER 2026

FRESH!

NUTRITIOUS

Chartwells Schools

TASTY

HOT DISHES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese (V)	Cheese Panini (V)	Roast Quorn with Roast Potato, Stuffing and Gravy (V)	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta (V)	Quorn Dippers with Chips (VE)
OPTION 2	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges (V)	Pork Meatball with Pasta in a Homemade Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing and Gravy	Mince Beef and Onion Pie with Mashed Potato	Fish Fingers with Chips
OPTION 3	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta (V) (WG)	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta (V) (WG) (NC)
	HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD				
DESSERT	Lemon Cookie	Ice Cream and Fresh Fruit (F)	Apple Crumble with Custard (F) (NC)	Chocolate Marble Cake (NC)	Yoghurt and Fruit (F) (NC)

W/C: 02/11/2026, 23/11/2026, 14/12/2026, 04/01/2027, 25/01/2027, 15/02/2027, 08/03/2027, 29/03/2027

AVAILABLE DAILY

FRESH FRUIT, SALAD, YOGHURT AND WATER

FRUITY!

WEEK 1
WEEK 2
WEEK 3

(V) Vegetarian (VE) Vegan (OF) Oily Fish (F) Fruity! (WG) Wholegrain (NC) Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

Menu_220_030603

AUTUMN/ WINTER 2026

FRESH! NUTRITIOUS

Chartwells Schools

HOT DISHES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Cheese Panini (V)	Cream Cheese & Cucumber Pocket with Herby Diced Potatoes (V)	Quorn Roast with Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy (V)	Beany Pasta Bake (V) (WG) (NC)	Quorn Dippers with Chips (VE)
OPTION 2	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Nut-Free Pesto Pasta (V) (WG)	Beef Burger with Herby Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken with Mashed Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy (NC)	Tuna & Sweetcorn Wrap with Fresh Vegetables	Fish Fingers with Chips
OPTION 3	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta (V) (WG)	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta (V) (WG)	Jacket Potato Served with a choice of fillings
	HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD				
DESSERT	Chocolate Cookie (VE) (F) (NC)	Ice Cream and Fresh Fruit (F)	Apple and Berry Crumble with Custard (F) (NC)	Chocolate Fudge Cake	Yoghurt and Fruit (F) (NC)

TASTY

FRUITY!

W/C: 09/11/2026, 30/11/2026, 21/12/2026, 11/01/2027, 01/02/2027, 22/02/2027, 15/03/2027

WEEK 1
WEEK 2
WEEK 3

AVAILABLE DAILY — FRESH FRUIT, SALAD, YOGHURT AND WATER

(V) Vegetarian (VE) Vegan (O) Oily Fish (F) Fruity! (WG) Wholegrain (NC) Nutritionist's Choice

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AUTUMN/WINTER 2026

FRESH! NUTRITIOUS TASTY FRUITY!

Chartwells Schools

HOT DISHES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	**Cheese & Tomato Panini** with Potato Wedges (V)	**Tomato Pasta** Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta (V)	**Quorn Roast** with Mashed Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy (V)	**Cheesy Bean Burrito** with Wholegrain Rice (V) (WG) (NC)	**Quorn Dippers** with Chips (VE)
OPTION 2	**Red Pepper and Nut-Free Pesto Spaghetti** (V)	**Homemade Sausage Roll** with Herby Diced Potatoes	**Roast Chicken** with Mashed Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy (NC)	**Beef Bolognese** with Wholewheat Pasta (WG) (NC)	**Fish Fingers** with Chips
OPTION 3	**Jacket Potato** Served with a choice of fillings	**Jacket Potato** Served with a choice of fillings	**Jacket Potato** Served with a choice of fillings	**Jacket Potato** Served with a choice of fillings	**Tomato Pasta** Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta (V) (WG) (NC)

HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD

DESSERT	**Oat Cookie** with fresh fruit slices (VE) (F) (NC)	**Ice Cream** and Fresh Fruit (F)	**Chewy Muesli Fruit Bar** (VE) (NC)	**Chocolate Sponge** with Chocolate Custard	**Fruit & Yoghurt** (F)

W/C: 16/11/2026, 07/12/2026, 28/12/2026, 18/01/2027, 08/02/2027, 01/03/2027, 22/03/2027

AVAILABLE DAILY

FRESH FRUIT, SALAD, YOGHURT AND WATER

(V) Vegetarian (VE) Vegan (OF) Oily Fish (F) Fruity! (WG) Wholegrain (NC) Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

WEEK 1
WEEK 2
WEEK 3