

# Chopps Chat ✨

## A message from the Headteacher

We hope this edition of Chopps Chat finds you well and looking forward to the upcoming half term. It may have been a short one, but my goodness we've packed a lot in! Our children have been shining in all sorts of ways, starting with some fantastic class assemblies that really showcased the brilliant learning happening across school. Key Stage 1 absolutely blew us away with their confident and informative assembly all about toys – from how they've changed over the years to the favourites enjoyed by parents and grandparents. Families then joined the children back in class for a wonderful workshop filled with toy-making, work-sharing and plenty of smiles.

Not to be outdone, Year 3/4 followed with an equally impressive assembly on their Romans topic. They took us on a journey from the story of Romulus and Remus through republics, kingdoms, famous emperors and even treated us to a brilliant song. Their trip to Segedunum was a real highlight too – complete with wall-scaling, artefact-spotting and hands-on workshops.

Our Early Years children have been busy exploring their refreshed outdoor provision and learning all about Great Britain. From sentences and sketches to cardboard-box castles, they've produced some truly wonderful work. And of course, a special mention must go to our incredible Year 6 pupils. SATs week is always a challenging milestone, but every single child approached it with confidence, resilience and a hearty breakfast of bacon, sausage and egg sandwiches. They have been an absolute credit to the school and to you, their families – we couldn't be prouder.

As we head into the final half term of the year, there's plenty still to come: sports days, transitions, residential for our Y5/6 children and much more. Do take note of the important dates below so nothing slips by. As always, thank you for your continued support – it means the world to us.

## Attendance and Late Arrivals

This term's attendance has once again been much lower than we hoped. While we fully recognise that illness has played a part, we are still seeing too many children missing significant periods of time from school. Research consistently shows that regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic progress. Even small amounts of missed learning add up quickly. Children who are frequently absent often struggle to keep up with new concepts, lose confidence, and find it harder to build secure foundations across the curriculum.

We are also seeing an increasing number of children arriving late. Although a few minutes may not seem like much, those minutes accumulate across the year:

5 minutes late each day = 25 minutes lost per week

25 minutes per week = over 16 hours per year

16 hours = roughly 3 full school days of learning lost

That's before considering the impact of missing the calm, structured start to the day – a time when routines are set, instructions are given, and children settle into learning. To support families, we offer:

Breakfast Club from 8.15am

Soft opening from 8.45am

Registration at 8.55am – all children must be in school by this time

If you are finding mornings difficult or feel you need support getting your child into school on time, please talk to us.

We are here to help, not judge, and we want to work with families to make sure every child has the best possible start to each day.

## Dates for the Diary

Important dates for the diary

Friday 22nd May - School closed for inset day.

Monday 1st June - School re-opens following half term

Wednesday 3rd June - Parents evening for Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5

Thursday 4th June - EYFS induction evening (All relevant parents have been/ will be contacted)

Wednesday 10th June - Parents evening for Reception, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6

Wednesday 24th June - Year 5/6 Residential trip to Ford Castle

Tuesday 30th June & Wednesday 1st July - Y6 St Benet Biscop transition day

Thursday 2nd July - Ashington Academy transition day

Wednesday 8th July - Provisional date for Sports Day (Subject to change) @ 2pm

Thursday 9th July - All Star productions performance of Trolls @ 2pm

Thursday 16th July - Y6 leavers assembly @ 2pm

Further dates or any changes to dates will be shared via social media/email/class dojo

## Fond farewells

We are sad to announce that Mrs Thornton will be moving on to a new role after half term. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done during her time here; she has worked so hard for our school and has supported so many of our families along the way. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her every success in her new post.

After half term, Mrs Hewitt will be joining our EYFS unit, and we look forward to welcoming her into the team.

## Home Reading

Remember to log home reading on our fabulous Learning with parents reading log. All parents should receive a message each week with a magic link to follow. Any issues, please let us know ASAP!

## Parking reminder

🚗🌱 A little parking reminder, lovely families! 🌱🚗

We know that finding a space during the busy morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up can feel like a bit of a treasure hunt 🗺️🌟 – especially on those soggy, puddle-filled days!

However, we kindly ask that cars do not park on the grass verge outside the school. When the ground is wet, tyres can easily churn up the grass, leaving it muddy, uneven, and not-so-lovely for our children and community. ☁️💚

Your support helps keep our school looking welcoming and safe for everyone – and we truly appreciate it. Thank you for your continued support! 🙌💖

## Parents evening

We would like to inform you that our Parents' Evenings will take place after half term. Appointments will run from 3:00pm to 5:15pm on both dates.

The allocated dates for each year group are as follows:

- Wednesday 3rd June - Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5
- Wednesday 10th June - Reception, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6

If you are unable to attend on your allocated date, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment.

To help us organise the schedule, please complete the reply slip below and return it to the class teacher. Appointments will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Thank you for your continued support.



## Safeguarding

At Choppington Primary, we take the safety and well-being of our students as our utmost priority. Our designated safeguarding lead is Mr. Smith, with Mrs. Broderick and Mr. Palmer serving as the deputy safeguarding leads. Together, they ensure that robust safeguarding measures are in place and that our school remains a secure and nurturing environment for all our children.

Safeguarding encompasses all aspects of student welfare, from protection against physical and emotional harm to promoting their overall well-being. It extends beyond the school premises to include online safety and safeguarding during educational trips or activities. We believe that an effective safeguarding system is built upon a partnership between the school and parents, wherein both parties play a vital role. By working together, we create an environment that encourages children to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. When home and school collaborate effectively, we can identify and address any concerns promptly, ensuring that our students feel safe and supported at all times.

We understand that parents are a valuable source of knowledge about their child's well-being and personal circumstances. Therefore, we encourage you to inform the school of any significant changes or issues that may impact your child's welfare. It is important to remember that even the smallest concern should be brought to our attention, as it allows us to provide the appropriate support.

If you have any concerns or worries, we urge you to reach out to the school immediately. Our staff members, from class teachers to support staff, are always ready to listen and work in partnership with you to find solutions that best meet the needs of your child.

Moreover, we request your cooperation in adhering to the school's policies and procedures relating to safeguarding. These guidelines are in place to ensure the well-being of all children and to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment. By familiarising yourself with these policies, you can actively contribute to our collective efforts to safeguard our students.

We truly believe that the collaboration between school and home is a key factor in a child's educational journey. By forging a strong partnership, we can provide the best possible educational experience while ensuring the safety and well-being of our students.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together with you and continuing to provide a high-quality education for your child.

# EVERY DAY COUNTS

School and future success starts with good attendance!



100%

Your attendance is excellent!

Our target for all students

## DAILY LATENESS EQUATES TO...

3

DAYS LOST

5 MINUTES LATE  
15 hours lost to learning

6

DAYS LOST

10 MINUTES LATE  
30 hours lost to learning

10

DAYS LOST

15 MINUTES LATE  
50 hours lost to learning

Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

97%

Well done!

6 DAYS ABSENCE

24 lessons missed

You're on the right path for success, keep it up!

94%

At risk of persistent absence

11 DAYS ABSENCE

44 lessons missed

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success.

90%

Persistently absent

19 DAYS ABSENCE

76 lessons missed

Very poor attendance has a serious impact on your education and may reduce your life choices.