

Chopps Chat ✨

A message from the Headteacher

Welcome back!

Thank you so much for your patience and support during our recent school closure caused by the unexpected loss of hot water. We know how challenging last-minute changes can be for families, especially when it comes to arranging childcare, and we are genuinely grateful for everyone's understanding and flexibility.

Despite that brief disruption, we've had a fantastic first half of the spring term. Our whole-school assembly focus over the past half term which was on great explorers – including Christopher Columbus, Ed Stafford, Marco Polo and many more – has sparked some fantastic discussions. The children were superb at debating who they believed was the greatest explorer and, more importantly, explaining why. Their reasoning, confidence and ability to challenge ideas have been a real highlight.

Classrooms have also been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and some truly impressive learning. Children have recently completed their work on the local area, and it has been wonderful to see just how proud they are of where they live – and rightly so. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and sense of belonging have shone through in every year group.

This week marks the start of our new topics, and excitement is already building:

Early Years: Spring

Year 1/2: Toys

Year 3/4: Romans

Year 5/6: Ernest Shackleton

We're looking forward to seeing where these themes take the children over the coming weeks – from exploring seasonal changes to marching with Roman legions, investigating toys from the past, and venturing across the Antarctic with Shackleton's crew. As always, we love to share our learning with parents through class assemblies and workshops. Keep your eyes peeled for these dates in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a difference to everything we do.

Mr Smith

Attendance and Late Arrivals

This term's attendance has been very poor, and we want to be open about our concerns. While we fully recognise that illness – including the recent wave of chickenpox – 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

Y5 children will be swimming every Tuesday afternoon until Easter. Please remember to send in swimming kits.

- 24th Feb – Reception vision screening
- 27th Feb – PTFA non-uniform day
- 5th March – World book day
- 20th March – PTFA non-uniform day
- 23rd March – Easter egg decoration final entry day
- 25th March @ 2pm – Easter fayre
- 2nd April – School closes at 1:30pm
- 20th April – School reopens following Easter break

A message from the PTFA

A huge thank you to everyone for your continued support – it truly makes all the difference. We have a busy and exciting term ahead, with several key dates for families to be aware of.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be holding a number of non-school uniform days, and we would be incredibly grateful for donations towards our Easter Fayre. Items such as bottles, smellies, chocolates and other small gifts are always very welcome and help us create the fantastic stalls and prizes that families enjoy each year. All dates for these events can be found in this newsletter.

The Easter Fayre itself is one of our biggest fundraising events, and the money raised goes directly back into supporting the school – funding resources, experiences and opportunities that benefit every child. Your generosity and involvement are what make these events possible, and we can't thank you enough for everything you do.

We're looking forward to another brilliant term of working together and making a real difference for our school community.

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!

World Book Day

World Book Day

We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day in school, and all children are invited to join in the fun by coming dressed as one of their favourite book characters or simply wearing something comfortable that they enjoy reading in – pyjamas are absolutely fine!

Throughout the day, children will take part in a range of book-themed activities designed to spark imagination and celebrate the joy of reading. We would also love to welcome parents and carers into school from 3:00pm to read with their children in classrooms.

To help make the day accessible for everyone, school has a selection of costumes and outfits available for any child who would like to borrow one. There is no expectation for families to buy anything new – comfort, creativity and enjoyment are what matter most.

We can't wait to share a brilliant day of stories, characters and reading together.

Easter Egg Competition

We're egg-cited to announce our annual Easter Egg Decorating Competition, and we can't wait to see the cracking creations the children come up with this year. Whether they choose something bold, brilliant, funny or fabulously quirky, we know their ideas will be egg-ceptional.

All entries should be brought into school by 23rd March – so there's plenty of time to get creative and let imaginations run egg-stremely wild.

Children can decorate real eggs, plastic eggs, cardboard eggs... whatever works best at home. The only limit is their creativity (and perhaps how many puns we can squeeze into one newsletter). We hope families will have fun taking part, but please remember: this is all about enjoyment, not expense. Simple ideas often turn out to be the most egg-straordinary.

We can't wait to see the egg-cellent entries rolling in. It's going to be egg-stremely tough to choose the winners.



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

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.

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!