

NEWSLETTER

12th December 2025



Christmas Magic at Chase Bridge!



As we head into our final week of term, school is full of festive excitement. The Christmas celebrations are well under way and it has been a joy to see our children shining in their performances so far. From confident narration and acting, to beautiful singing, as well as the backstage support and quiet acts of kindness, every child has played a part. We are so proud of the wonderful performances we have already enjoyed, and we look forward to the remaining performances next week. A huge thank you to all staff for the hard work behind the scenes and to families for your continued support at this busy time of year.

This point in the term is also a chance to pause and reflect on everything the children have achieved since September. They have worked incredibly hard and shown great resilience, and we are very proud of them all. As we move towards the Christmas break, we wish all our families a peaceful and restful holiday with plenty of time to relax and reconnect.

We are also pleased to be supporting the Hamper of Cheer campaign again this year, helping to bring a little extra joy to older people in local care homes. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting this initiative.

With very best wishes,
Hannah Gilbert, Assistant Headteacher and SENCO

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Times, dates and places for your diary

Monday 15th December - Year 4 members of the Choir to White Farm Lodge

Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Carol Services at the Live Room

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th December - End of term - early finish (**see below for timings**)

Monday 5th January - *INSET DAY*

Tuesday 6th January - children return to school

Wednesday 7th January - Reception Heights and Weights

Friday 9th January - School tour for prospective parents 9.30am

Holiday dates for the academic year 2025-2026

- Friday 19th December - **TERM ENDS**
- Monday 5th January - **INSET DAY**
- Tuesday 6th January - **TERM STARTS**
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - **HALF TERM BREAK**
- Friday 27th March - **TERM ENDS**
- Monday 13th April - **TERM STARTS**
- Monday 4th May - **BANK HOLIDAY**

Celebrations and Achievements



Congratulations to **Noah in Year 3** who recently received the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Beaver Scout can achieve before they move to Cubs. He did this by completing challenges and taking part in activities that focus on personal skills, adventure, team work and personal challenge. What a wonderful achievement, congratulations.

A message from the Chair of Governors

Governors met last week for their second meeting of the Autumn Term. Governors expressed confidence in the new leadership structure and saw evidence of the impact the team is having in the continued development of the school, with clear improvements driven by a culture of strong distributed leadership. Governors commended the enhanced SEND provision and the highly effective safeguarding and pastoral support. Pupils are increasingly empowered through leadership roles; parental engagement is strengthening practice across the school; and a culture of excellence and inclusion is continuing to be firmly embedded.

Governor visits to the school have taken place this term and it is pleasing to hear directly from staff leading safeguarding and the focus on belonging. They also met with the attendance and welfare team and witnessed the innovative and expansive work they do supporting our whole community.

Governors also discussed options to build long-term resilience, including furthering a partnership with Orleans Primary while preserving each school's unique identity and ethos. Together with the Orleans governing body, we have explored a provisional timetable looking at next steps towards formalising the partnership into a federation with a single governing body. No decisions have been made as to whether or not to formalise this arrangement. When the time comes to do this, decisions will be made by each school separately and individually. In the Spring Term, both boards will develop and consider a full federation proposal and decide whether to proceed to the next stage of public consultation.

Poppy Appeal 2025

Just to let you know, Chase Bridge School collected £128.00 for the Poppy Appeal 2025. A fantastic amount!



Reception admissions 2026

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they will start their reception year in September 2026. The brochure attached highlights key information relating to this process. Parents and carers must apply for a place by **Thursday 15th January 2026**. You can apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk. You must apply for a place for your child even if they already have a sibling in school or if your child is currently in our Nursery. Click [here](#) for Richmond Admissions brochure. We have one school tour remaining for prospective parents: **Friday 9th January 2026 at 9.30am**

End of term arrangements

If your child is due to attend the Lions **After School club** on **Friday 19th December**, please note that, having reviewed the number of children likely to attend, the school has made the decision that this session will not operate. Breakfast club will run as normal. This will allow staff to make the necessary preparations for the Spring term. Arrangements will need to be put in place for your child to be collected at the end of the normal school day.

Finish times for **Friday 19th December** are as follows:

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2	-	2.15pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	-	2.25pm

Lost Property



This term we have seen an increase in lost property. The majority of items are unlabelled, which makes it difficult for us to return items. Please remember to clearly label your child's name and class on all clothing and water bottles. Lost property can be located in front of reception. We will be recycling any unclaimed lost property at the end of the term. Thank you for your continued support, School Office

Absence before/after school holidays

Just a reminder that absences directly before or after school holidays will be unauthorised unless you can provide medical evidence of absence.

Thank you to Whitton Business Association

Thank you to parents and carers who supported Whitton Business Association by buying the Light Up Whitton raffle tickets and for supporting three wonderful charities: White Farm Lodge Care Home, Homelink Day Care Centre and Whitton Foodbank. Thank you also to Whitton Business Association for their pledge to contribute to a new sports kit as we managed to sell the most raffle tickets within the participating schools.

Clubs - Spring term

Information has gone home this week via Arbor regarding clubs for the Spring term. Within the letter there is a Google Form which you need to complete by **noon on Friday 2nd January**. Clubs will start the week commencing **Monday 12th January**. Club information will also be accessible via our website [here](#).

Hamper of Cheer



A huge thank you to everyone in the Chase Bridge community for donating to our *Hamper of Cheer* campaign in partnership with Embracing Age. Thanks to your generosity, we now have six beautifully overflowing hampers ready to donate. Embracing Age will distribute these hampers to local care homes in our community in time for Christmas. Your donations will mean so much to the residents of these care homes. For some, these hampers may be the only

gifts they receive this year. We would also like to thank our children for creating such thoughtful and wonderful Christmas cards to accompany the hampers – your kindness and creativity will bring smiles to many faces this festive season.

Seven Steps to Healthier Schools

As we move further into the Winter term, we want to share with you key guidance to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep pupils well. Many thanks for your continued support. The Welfare team

I. Parents: Communicate to minimise unnecessary absence

The NHS provides clear [guidance](#) on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild illnesses — such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough — do not require time off school, unless a child has a temperature. More information can be found via this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

2. Pupils and staff: Vaccinations for protection

Vaccinations are a key line of defence against flu and other preventable illnesses. When children and young people receive all the recommended vaccines in the national immunisation programme, it helps protect their health and support the wellbeing of the whole school community.

3. Pupils and staff: Handwashing is a simple but powerful tool

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs, particularly those that cause diarrhoea or vomiting.

4. Pupils and staff: Catch It, Bin It, Kill It approach to respiratory hygiene

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases, but simple everyday habits can help stop infection from spreading.

5. Environment: Good ventilation to provide fresh air

Good ventilation can help remove air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of respiratory infections such as colds and flu.

6. Environment: Cleaning to keep a safe and healthy school environment

Regular cleaning helps reduce the spread of germs on surfaces.

7. Behavioural reminders: Small habits, big impact

Children benefit from regular reminders about hygiene and illness prevention.

Attendance Ambassadors

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU and MERRY CHRISTMAS to the Chase Bridge Attendance Ambassadors.

Thanks to your support we are smashing it! The league table says it all...this is just a sneak peak of the top five by points!

I look forward to some exciting new attendance ideas in 2026! Katie Pyke

Position	Class	TW %	Wins TW	Bonus Points TW	Total Points
1	3F	98.4%	5	4	40
2	Oak	98.0%	4	2	33
3	3B	97.9%	3	2	31
4	4C	97.7%	4	2	26
5	4K	97.8%	5	2	25

Sporting News

It was the girls' very first tournament together as a team, and from the moment they stepped onto the pitch, they played with heart, spirit, and an energy that never faded. Throughout the day, they produced some brilliant football—beautiful goals, clever passing, and moments of teamwork that showed just how quickly they were growing together.

They battled through the group stages with determination, and although they narrowly missed out on a semi-final spot by finishing third, their performance was something to be proud of. Under the sunshine, they played every match with smiles on their faces, celebrating each other's efforts and learning with every minute on the field.

By the end of the day, they had not only developed as individuals but also strengthened their bond as a team. It was a day full of joy, growth, and football they'll remember for a long time.



The boys finished their tournament as proud runners-up, showcasing brilliant football from start to finish. Their day was filled with strong performances, sharp teamwork, and a determination that carried them through every match. After topping their group in first place, the momentum was high heading into the semi-final.

The semi-final proved to be a nail-biting contest, with both

sides giving everything. When the match ended level, it all came down to a tense penalty shoot-out—one the boys handled with composure and ultimately won.

The final was a tough battle against a very strong opponent, and despite a 2–0 defeat, the boys never let their spirits drop. They remained upbeat, positive, and proud of their journey throughout the day. They headed home with smiles on their faces and runners-up medals around their necks—a brilliant achievement and a superb performance from start to finish.

Year 4 Pompeii Trip to ExCeL London

Last week, Year 4 enjoyed an exciting visit to the *Last Days of Pompeii* immersive exhibition at ExCeL London. Linking to our History topic on the Romans and our English text *Escape from Pompeii*, the children explored artefacts, experienced a powerful 360° immersive video, tried out the metaverse simulation, and even had a go at the VR eruption experience!

The trip brought their learning to life brilliantly, and the children represented the school wonderfully throughout the day.



Year 5 Thames Young Mariners

Thank you to the Year 5 parents who attended the recent Thames Young Mariners meeting on **Friday 5th December**. Just a reminder that the Google form needs to be completed by **Friday 2nd January** <https://forms.gle/BhR9QfKcG52Fm4v49>