

NEWSLETTER

16th January 2026



Rocking into the new term



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and that 2026 is off to a fantastic start. The term has started with great energy and excitement; King's Clarinets led an amazing assembly, and some children took part in various sporting events, representing Chase Bridge with pride.

A highlight this week was the relaunch of our Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) competition. The children had a brilliant time during the launch assembly, dressing up and enjoying the teachers' rock-themed attire. Some children even got to compete alongside their teachers, showcasing their amazing skills! It was a great reminder of the importance of times tables in providing a solid foundation for learning and building confidence in mathematics. Thank you for supporting your children with times tables practice at home—it really makes a difference.

We are looking forward to Monday's assembly, when we will find out which class has won the 'Battle of the Bands' competition. It promises to be an exciting celebration of all the children's hard work.

Here's to a term full of fantastic learning and memorable experiences for the children.

Warm regards,
Miss Dougan Cleary
Deputy Headteacher

In this week's edition ... click on the links below

- [Celebrations and Achievements](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [MHST](#)
- [Young Carer Service](#)
- [Vacancy at St Stephen's Primary School](#)
- [Lions Wraparound care](#)
- [Assembly by King Clarinets](#)

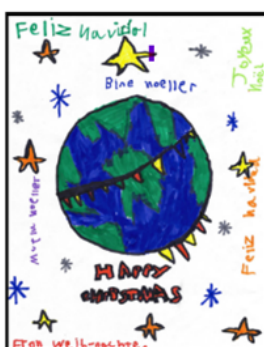
Times, dates and places for your diary

- Monday 19th January - Boys football match vs Heathfield (home)
- Tuesday 20th January - 4B swimming; Rescheduled Tag Rugby matches at Moorhead
- Friday 23rd January - Year 2 Dance workshop; Year 5 Islam workshops
- Monday 26th January - Reception National Dental survey; Girls Football match vs Heathfield (home)
- Tuesday 27th January - 4B swimming; Year 6 Humanist Speaker
- Thursday 29th January - Year 1 Dance workshop
- Friday 30th January - Year 1 Toy workshop

Holiday dates for the academic year 2025-26

- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - **HALF TERM BREAK**
- Friday 27th March - **TERM ENDS**
- Monday 13th April - **TERM STARTS**
- Monday 4th May - **BANK HOLIDAY**
- Monday 25th - Friday 29th May - **HALF TERM BREAK**
- Thursday 16th July - **TERM ENDS**

Celebrations and achievements!



Jacob, 6, Chase Bridge Primary



Congratulations to **Nyla (Birch)** who has attained all 24 rainbow interest badges. She put a lot of hard work into achieving the badges and learnt a lot too.

Congratulations also to **Jacob (Acacia)** who was runner-up in the Mayor's Christmas Card Art competition.

Attendance

Holidays and Absence in Term Time

Absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of being referred to the Education Welfare Service.

Medical Appointments

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside school hours as these appointments will affect your child's attendance.

We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours. However if your appointment time allows your child to come to school for registration and then leave later or come back to school afterwards this has a positive impact on your child's attainment. Time off school is lost learning.

When is it not ok for your child to stay away from school?

Holidays - only in exceptional circumstances will term time holidays be authorised by the school.

Birthdays - your child should still attend, even if it is their Birthday.

Shopping/Family Days Out - or any other activity for which there is no serious reason for your child to stay away from school.

The legal commitment

School attendance is important because the law requires it. As a parent/guardian you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a full-time education. This means registering your child at school and making sure they attend regularly and on time.

MHST

At Chase Bridge, we want to make sure every child has the support they need to feel happy and confident at school. We work closely with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST), a service provided by our Local Authority (AFC), which helps children and young people with their emotional wellbeing.

The MHST is an early intervention and prevention service that supports children experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties, such as anxiety, low mood, or common behavioural challenges. The Kingston and Richmond MHST is a schools-based team of experienced professionals, including clinical leads, mental health practitioners, creative therapists and education wellbeing practitioners. They support all schools across Kingston and Richmond.

Who can the MHST support?

The MHST works with children and young people aged 5–18 years in primary and secondary schools.

The MHST follows a whole-school approach, which means that when a child is referred, the team works closely with the school and with parents and carers to create positive, lasting change. Parents

and carers are involved from the assessment stage and, where appropriate, throughout the support offered, so we can work together in the best interests of your child and family.

What support is available?

Following an assessment, the MHST offers a range of evidence-based therapeutic approaches, including:

- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- Creative therapies (art, music, dance, and movement)
- Psychotherapy or integrative therapy
- Children and young people: one-to-one sessions, small group work, parent-child sessions, and whole-class or year-group workshops
- Parents and carers: workshops, consultations, group work, coffee mornings, and parent-child sessions

Most one-to-one interventions run for four to eight weeks and usually take place in school, although online sessions can also be offered if needed.

They also run workshops on topics such as:

- Anxiety and emotional regulation
- Relationships and resilience
- Low mood and wellbeing
- Transition to school
- Exam stress

How can I get help or make a referral?

If you have any concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing, you can:

- Speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Gilbert (SENCo) or Miss Gray (Pastoral Support Manager)
- Self-refer to the Single Point of Access (SPA) by calling 020 8547 5008 or completing the online SPA referral form
- Speak with your GP

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Miss Gray if you would like to discuss this further.

Young Carers Service

At Chase Bridge Primary School, I lead our support for young carers and work closely with the Richmond Young Carers Service, delivered by Richmond Carers Centre.

The Young Carers Service supports children and young people aged 5–17 who have caring responsibilities at home. The service aims to reduce the impact caring can have on a young person's wellbeing, education and everyday life. Support is tailored to each individual and includes emotional support, respite opportunities and peer support, giving young carers time to relax, have fun and connect with others who understand their experiences.

Support available includes:

- Activities and respite programmes
- Young Carers in Schools programme
- Education and careers support
- Mentoring support
- Transition mentoring (for school and post-16 transitions)

Please find attached more information about the Young Carers Service. If you feel that your child may identify as a young carer and may need support to refer them to this service, please speak to Miss Gray.

We are also pleased to share that members of the Richmond Young Carers Service will be attending our parents evenings on 10th and 12th March, between 3.30 and 5.30pm. They will be available to talk with parents, share information about the service and answer any questions.

Vacancy for Part time School Administrator

St Stephen's Primary School is looking for a part time School Administrator. The deadline for applications is **Friday 16th January**.

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/st-stephens-richmond/job/school-administration-officer---part-time-1527988>

Lions Wraparound Care

Our ever popular breakfast and after school care has spaces available on certain days.

Breakfast Club - Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

After School Club - Currently Friday only although we do have some availability for ad hoc bookings from Monday to Thursday. This may be especially helpful for families who require care for a limited period or on an occasional basis.

Please contact Mrs Hayward at the school office if you would like further details.

Assembly by King Clarinets

We were very lucky to have a performance from The Kings Clarinets in assembly this week. This is a clarinet band led by Debbie King who also teaches woodwind instruments (flute, saxophone and clarinet) at Chase Bridge. Debbie will have space for some new students in September. If you would like your child to be put on her waiting list for lessons, please email her at dcking@icloud.com.