

CHATER JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr Peter McEntee

NEWSLETTER
Issue no. 1 – Autumn Term
19th September 2016

Dear Parent

Welcome back everyone to Chater Junior School and a special welcome to all new Year 3 children and parents. We hope that you have had a restful summer holiday and are ready for the new term. The children have had a chance to settle in now, and we look forward to an exciting year of new learning opportunities and achievements for every child here at Chater Junior.

Uniform

May I remind everyone that:

- Black shoes (not boots) are to be worn at school every day as part of the school uniform. Trainers should only be worn during PE lessons.
- Jewellery, earrings, nose piercings and nail varnish are not permitted to be worn by children.
- Haircuts: Please make sure that your child does not come to school with shaven designs, or spiky gelled-up haircuts with Mohican designs, etc.
- If your child has long hair please make sure you supply them with a hair band enabling them to keep it back during lessons.

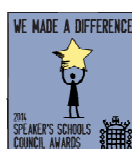
Please ensure that your child's name is clearly labelled in all school uniform; then it can be returned quickly to its owner when lost. The uniform shop is open on **the first Tuesday of the month at 3.20pm** in the dining hall (dates are on the Parents' Page of the school website under Uniform). We stock sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts and PE kits, as well as book bags.

Health and Safety

From 8.30am to 8.45am, ball games are not permitted on the playground. This includes football, cricket and tennis. There are parents and very young children waiting for the start of school day and these games are not appropriate as someone could be hurt.

Class Photos

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday afternoon 20th September, to take photos of the children in their class groups.



Headteacher's Certificates

These will be awarded towards the end of term to those children who have shown an outstandingly good attitude to school life, or have made very good progress over the term. When your child has gained 10 merits in their planner, they will qualify for this award. Their certificate will be presented in assembly and their name will appear in the school newsletter to the whole school.

Holidays during term-time (reminders)

Absences for family holidays during term-time will not be authorised. Pupils find it very difficult to catch up on the learning that they have missed and in the longer term this can have a negative impact on their progress. Children can also be given a very unhelpful message about the value and importance of going to school.

Punctuality

Please make sure that your child arrives on time for school. This is very important as your child will miss the start of lessons, or interrupt the flow of lessons for other children, if they are late. School starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.20pm.

The Punctuality Cup is awarded each week to the class with the least number of recorded late arrivals.

Chater Junior House Cup

This was introduced as a further way to encourage and reward positive attitudes and achievement in school. Each child is placed in one of the "Houses" - Ruby, Sapphire, Topaz or Emerald across the whole school. The House with the most points for the week is presented with the trophy in assembly. This is recorded on the graph in the main school hall for all the children to see. There is also a record kept of which House has the most points overall in the term. The House with the most points is then rewarded with a "prize" or "privilege". Suggestions from the School Council have included extended playtime/lunchtime or fast tracked to school lunch.

From this year our House teams have been named after jewels and each team has a flag that hangs in the school hall. Every week the winner's flag will be placed in a position of priority above the stage. The flags were made especially for us by our own Mrs Jeffs; we think they look fabulous. We hope you agree. Thank you to Mrs Jeffs for all her hard work.

Important! – Change of telephone number & contact details

Please remember to let the school office know immediately of any change to your telephone numbers or contact details. If you have changed your address or phone number recently, please check with the office that they have been informed.

School Planners/Diaries

Your child will receive a school planner/diary free of charge. If they are lost, there will be a charge of £2.50 for a replacement.

Please check your child's planner every night and sign their reading record page. You can also write notes for your child's class teacher if you wish.

Free School Meals

Your child may qualify for a free meal or milk if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**

- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit.**

Apply for free school meals to see if your child qualifies for a free lunch at school, by going to the website: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals>

School Dinners

The cost of a junior school dinner has increased to **£2.30**, a weekly cost of **£11.50**. Dinner money should be sent into school on a **Monday morning** in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, teacher and the amount. Cheques for school dinners should be made payable to **Herts Catering Ltd** (not the school). All meals should be paid for before they are taken.

It is possible for a pupil to have a school meal only on a Friday, known as "Funday Fridays". Please remember to send in your payment at the beginning of the week.

Safety in the Car Park

All adults and children should use the small pedestrian gates when entering or leaving the school. **Please do not walk through the car park gates at any time – they are for vehicles only.**

Please do not drive into the school car park. Hertfordshire County Council does not provide parking for parents at the start or end of the day. There is parking at the Al-Zahra Centre in Addiscombe Road during the following times:

Mornings from: **8.35am to 8.50 am only**

Afternoons from: **3.15pm to 3.30pm only**

Please do not leave your vehicle parked any longer than the times given above. The gates will be locked and you will not have access to your car.

Topics for the Autumn Term

Year 3	Science	Rocks
	Geography	Map skills - Europe
	Art	Investigating patterns
Year 4	Science	Animals including humans (Nutrition, skeleton and muscles)
	History	Anglo Saxons and settlements
	Art	Viewpoints
Year 5	Science	Forces
	Geography	Map skills
	Art	Objects and meanings
Year 6	Science	Animals including humans
	History/Geography	The Mayans and North American comparison
	Art	Sense of place

Clubs:

- **Game On Football Club**
Starts Thursday 15th September for years 3, 4 & 5 from 3.25pm until 4.25pm. There is a charge and places are limited. The course is now full.
- **Guitar Club**
Guitar Club is run by Life Music and takes place on Tuesdays during school hours. There is a charge for lessons. Please ask the office for further details.

- **Brass Club**
Brass Club takes place on Monday lunchtimes with Mr Rowlands for those year 6 pupils who wish to continue tuition from last year's Wider Opportunities.
- **Netball Club and Football Club**
Mrs Crabtree and Miss Morris will run Netball Club and Mr Schwab will run Football Club on Monday after school starting after half term. Further details will follow nearer the time.

There are also lunchtime clubs for Handball (year 6), Basketball, Pond Club, School Council, Dance and Needlecraft. Places are limited.

Adult & Family Learning Classes

English classes will start Wednesday 21st September. Classes are free but there is a £5 registration fee.

Term Dates 2016/2017

Autumn term starts	Friday 2nd September 2016
Half term holiday	Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October
Autumn term ends	Tuesday 20th December 2016
Spring term starts	Friday 6th January 2017
Half term holiday	Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
Spring term ends	Friday 31st March 2017
Summer term starts	Wednesday 19th April 2017
Half term holiday	Friday 26th May to Friday 2nd June
Summer term ends	Friday 21st July 2017
May Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May 2017
Inset Training for Staff (school closed to pupils)	Thursday 1st September 2016 Thursday 5th January 2017 Tuesday 18th April 2017 Friday 26th May 2017 Monday 24th July 2017
Occasional Day	Wednesday 21st December 2016

Diary of forthcoming events

DATE	EVENT
2nd September 2016	Autumn term starts
15 th September 2016	Secondary Transfer Meeting – Year 6 parents – 3.30pm
19 th September 2016	Parent Induction morning Years 5 & 6 – 9.30 -10.00am
19 th September 2016	Parent Induction morning Years 3 & 4 – 10.00 -10.30am
20 th September 2016	Class Photographs
21 st September 2016	E-Safety and Puberty talk – Year 3 parents – 6-7pm
21st September 2016	Family Learning classes begin
30 th September 2016	Mayan Day – Year 6 pupils
11th October 2016	Year 6 PSHE workshops
12 th – 14 th October 2016	Year 6 Residential trip to PGL
18th October 2016	Black History Month workshop (whole school)
18 th October 2016	Parents Evening (early)
20 th October 2016	Parents Evening (late)
24 th - 28 th October 2016	HALF TERM
Further details on the above events will be given as soon as they are available. These events may be subject to alteration.	

Please visit our website at www.chaterjm.herts.sch.uk for further information about the school, including our prospectus, important dates and newsletters.