



Headteacher writes:

'In a World where you can Be Anything, Be Kind!'

Welcome back to a new school year! It has been wonderful to see our school filled with energy and excitement once again. A particular highlight has been welcoming our new Reception children during their stay and play sessions and helping them settle into their classrooms. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in preparing your children for this important milestone. The first few days of a new term can be tiring for everyone. Early mornings, full school days, and adjusting to new routines can take time, especially for our youngest pupils. Whether you are a child returning to school or an adult supporting them, September often brings a period of change and adjustment.

This week, we have revisited our Chester Park rules and expectations: **We Are Safe** and **We Are Respectful**. These simple but important values help us create a positive environment where everyone can thrive. They apply to every member of our school community, including children, staff, parents and carers.

This week's quote reminds us of the importance of kindness. Small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact on someone's day and wellbeing. Through our discussions with the children, we explored how being kind to others often helps us feel happier too. Kindness can be shown in many different ways: through a smile, encouraging words, a thoughtful gesture, a helping hand or simply taking the time to listen. Communication is a powerful way of showing kindness. The words we choose, the tone we use and the way we present ourselves all influence how our messages are received. Whether we are speaking face-to-face, making a phone call, writing an email or communicating online, kindness should remain at the heart of every interaction.

This year, we are making some changes to how we communicate with families. Rather than publishing a weekly newsletter, we will be sharing a newsletter at the beginning and end of each half term. These newsletters will provide key information, celebrate achievements and keep you informed about life at Chester Park. To ensure parents and carers remain up to date throughout the term, **ClassDojo will be our primary communication platform**. We encourage all families to regularly check ClassDojo for important notices, reminders, class updates and celebrations of learning.

We hope you all enjoy a restful weekend and look forward to seeing everyone again next week.

Yours in partnership,
Mike McNama, Headteacher

School Day

Here are a few reminders of the arrangements of school life at Chester Park.

- **Chester Park Infant School—Class doors open at 8.40am, Learning starts at 8.45am, School finishes at 3.15pm.**
- **Chester Park Junior School—Gates open at 8.45am, Learning starts at 8.55am, School finishes at 3.25pm.**

Please ensure your child attends school regularly and is on time. Learning starts immediately and being late can cause distress and cause anxiety to your child.

Leave of Absence

We would like to remind all parents/carers that holidays in term time will not be authorised except in **very exceptional circumstances** and penalty notices or other legal sanctions may be issued as a result of taking your child out of school without authorisation.

Good school attendance is essential for your child's progress and skills for life.

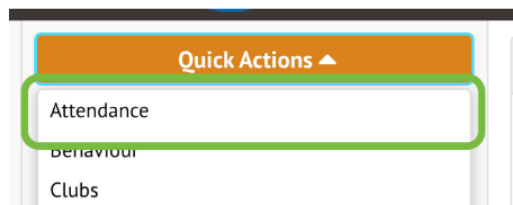
In exceptional circumstances, you will need to complete a form to ask permission for leave of absence in advance.



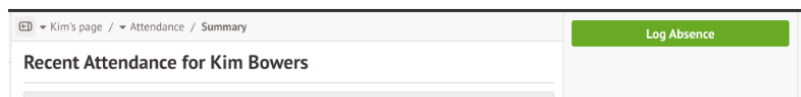
Informing the School of Absence

Parent/carers can now log same-day absences for their children using the Parent Portal and Arbor App. To do this, you must access the Attendance section, input your child's absence details, and submit the request. School office staff will then approve or reject the absence. You can only record same-day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact the school offices. Alternatively, please continue to contact the school office for same day absences by 9am by telephoning and leaving a message on the absence line at each school. 01173773047 Infant School & 01173773365 Junior School.

To record an absence, click on the **Quick Actions** button and then click **Attendance**.



From here, click the green **Log Absence** button in the top-right of the page.



Here, you can input the start and end time for the absence and type in the reason for the absence. By default, the absence start and end times reflect the student's full day, but these can be adjusted as needed. Once you have filled in this data, click **Log Absence**. This will then be visible to school staff.

A screenshot of a 'Log Absence' form. At the top, it says 'Log Absence'. Below that, a light blue box contains the text: 'This form lets you notify that Kim will be absent today, Tue, 02 Jul 2024. If you need to record an absence for a future date, you will need to contact the school.' The form fields are: 'Student' (Kim Bowers), 'Date' (Tue, 02 Jul 2024), 'Absence start*' (09:00), 'Absence end*' (15:45), and 'Reason*' (Please provide a reason for the absence). At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Log Absence'.

Nuts in School

We are asking all parents/carers to help us by **NOT** sending any nuts/peanuts or nut/peanut products to school in packed lunch boxes.

This includes peanut butter, Nutella or other brands of chocolate spread that contain nuts.

We greatly appreciate your co-operation in this matter as we are a **nut free** school.



Free School Meals

There have been recent changes to Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement and Pupil Premium funding. We don't want you to miss out! Applying for Free School Meals, not only provides your child with a healthy meal at school but can also unlock additional funding for the school. We know that circumstances can change, and we encourage all families to check whether they may be eligible. Even if your child already receives a free meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, making an application could provide additional support and opportunities for your child and other children across our school community.

You can check your eligibility and apply online through Bristol City Council via the Free School Meals and Pupil Premium link:

[Free school meals](#)

Dates for your Diary

22nd September 2026	Harvest Donations	Please bring in donations in the morning.
22nd September 2026	Harvest Assembly for children only.	
20 th November 2026	Children in Need	Wear something spotty!
24 th November 2026	Share Our Learning 3.30-6pm	
26 th November 2026	Share Our Learning 3.30-6pm	
2 nd December 2026	Winter Fair	More information to follow
7 th December 2026	Sing a Long at 3.45pm	More information to follow
w/b 7 th December 26	Junior Performances	More information to follow
10 th December 2026	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day	Wear a Festive Jumper
w/b 14 th December 26	Infant Nativities	More information to follow
18 th December 2026	Class Parties & Visitor	
22 nd January 2027	INSET	School Closed
25 th January 2027	INSET	School Closed
11 th February 2027	Iftar – 5.30pm	
8 th 9 th 10 th March 2027	INSET DAYS	School Closed
12 th March 2027	EID Event	More information to follow
16 th March 2027	Share Our Learning 3.30-6pm	
18 th March 2027	Share Our Learning 3.30-6pm	
19 th March 2027	Comic Relief	Wear something red!
18 th May 2027	Infant Sports Day	9.15 KS1 & 1.15 EYFS
19 th May 2027	Junior Sports Day	10-11 LKS2 & 11.15-12.15 UKS2
w/b 24 th May 2027	Belonging Week	More information to follow
28 th May 2027	Summer Fair	More information to follow
w/b 14 th June 2027	Refugee Week	More information to follow

Term Dates for 2026 to 2027

Term 1: 3 September 2026 to 23 October 2026
Term 2: 2 November 2026 to 18 December 2026
Term 3: 4 January 2027 to 12 February 2027
Term 4: 22 February 2027 to 25 March 2027
Term 5: 12 April 2027 to 28 May 2027
Term 6: 7 June 2027 to 23 July 2027

Inset Dates for 2026 to 2027

Friday 22nd January 2027
 Monday 25th January 2027
 Monday 8th March 2027
 Tuesday 9th March 2027
 Wednesday 10th March 2027

School will be closed to all pupils on these dates