



Headteacher writes:

**"It occurred to him that strength was quite different from toughness and that being vulnerable wasn't quite the same as being weak." - *Goodnight Mister Tom*, Michelle Magorian.**

We continue to promote the importance of attendance at Chester Park. Strong attendance is linked to positive life outcomes. Please continue to support your child in developing strong attendance patterns by ensuring they arrive on time each day and are ready to learn. The partnership between home and school is vital in promoting good attendance. Please link with your child's class teacher to understand the positive impact of good attendance on learning, progress and friendships.

This week, applications for children who will be joining Reception Classes in September 2026 were made. We have had many families visit our schools over recent months and look forward to seeing our new intake in September. We are close to the half way point of the school year now and since September 2025, the children have learnt a lot! Seeing how well settled our current Reception classes are is a joy and at the other end of the scale - seeing how the Year 6 pupils are preparing themselves for the next part of their education journey makes it clear just how much has been learnt in their time at Chester Park. It's not just the academic learning that has taken place, the emotional development, maturity and seeing how the children have built and been part of the development of Chester Park community is something our pupils should be very proud of.

As part of our continued focus on developing a sense of Belonging, next week, the children will be engaging in Bhangra Dancing, this will be linked to the festival of Vasant Panchami. This is a vibrant folk dance and music style from the Punjab region. I am sure that the children will not only learn a lot and enjoy this experience, but will hopefully, be able to share some of the learning at home over the course of next week. Keep an eye on Dojo for the latest updates!

Yours in partnership,  
Mike McNama, Headteacher

### Walking Home – Be Safe, Be Respectful

We have received reports from local residents of children running into resident's driveways whilst walking home on their own. Please remind your child to be respectful at all times. Whether they walk home with friends, or on their own, here are some simple ways for your child to stay safe and be respectful:

#### **Be Safe**

- Keep their eyes and ears open.
- Stick to pavements, paths, and well lit areas.
- Use crossings whenever they can.
- If possible, walk with a friend or in a small group.

#### **Be Respectful**

- Be kind and respectful to people you meet.
- Keep noise down near homes and be mindful of other pedestrians. Respect other people's property.

### Share our Learning Evenings

We will be holding our Share Our Learning evenings on **Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February 2026 from 3.30pm at the Infant School and 3.40pm at the Junior School**. This is a 10 minute appointment for you to speak with your child's class teacher and to look at the work they have completed so far this year.

Booking is now open and needs to be made through the **Arbor app**.

Thank you

**Book Online** 

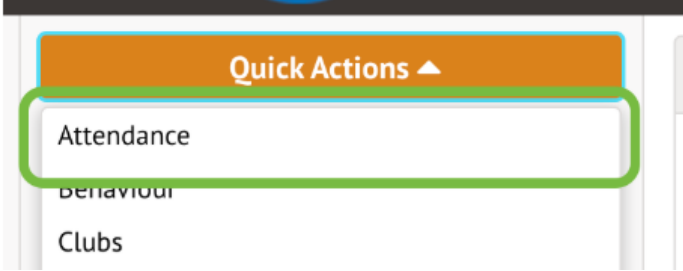
### Informing the school of Same Day Absences

Parent/carers can now log same-day absences for their children using the 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.

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.

### Log Absence

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.

Student	Kim Bowers
Date	Tue, 02 Jul 2024
Absence start*	09:00   [dropdown arrow]
Absence end*	15:45   [dropdown arrow]
Reason*	Please provide a reason for the absence

## Why Smart Watches Are Not Allowed in School

To help keep all children safe, we want to remind families that **smart watches are not permitted in school**. Over the past few years, many smart watches have developed features that are very similar to a smartphone. Because of this, they pose the same safeguarding risks.

### **Why are smart watches a concern?**

Modern smart watches can often:

- Send and receive messages
- Make phone calls
- Take photos or record audio
- Access the internet
- Play games

### **What happens if a smart watch is worn to school?**

If a child wears a smart watch to school, it will be **collected in and stored securely**, in the same way that we currently manage mobile phones. It will be returned to them at the end of the day.

### **Traditional watches are still welcome**

Children are very welcome to wear a simple, traditional watch to help them learn to tell the time. We only ask that it has **no smart or connected features**.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep school a safe environment for every child. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



## **Dates for your Diary**

**Thursday 29th January—PINS Coffee Morning—9am at Chester Park Junior School—All Welcome**

**Wednesday 4th February - EMPH – Anxiety Coffee Morning—9am at Infant School**

**Thursday 5th February—Friends of Chester Park Cake Sale after school at both schools**

**Tuesday 10th February—Share our Learning Evening 3.30-6pm**

**Thursday 12th February— Share our Learning Evening 3.30-6pm**

**Friday 13th February—End of Term 3**

**Monday 23rd February—Start of Term 4**

**Thursday 5th March—World Book Day— Children can dress as a book character for the day!**

**Friday 13th March—Red Nose Day**

**Thursday 19th March— Inset Day—School Closed to all pupils**

**Friday 20th March—Inset Day—School Closed to all pupils**

**Monday 23rd March—Eid Party & Coffee Morning—More information to follow.**

**Week Beginning 30th March—Easter Cake Sale—More information to follow**

**Thursday 2nd April—End of Term 4**

**Monday 20th April—Start of Term 5**

**Tuesday 19th May—Infant School Sports Day**

**Wednesday 20th May—Junior School Sports Day**







**Friday 22nd May—End of Term 5**

**Monday 1st June—Start of Term 6**

**1st—5th June—Chester Park Belonging Week—More information to follow**

**Friday 5th June—Belonging Picnic and Summer Fair from 2pm**

**Tuesday 21st July—End of Term 6**

	<b>Dojo Hero</b> 	<b>Pot of Gold</b> 		<b>Dojo Hero</b> 	<b>Gold Card</b> 
<b>Class</b>	<b>Infant School</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>Junior School</b>	
<b>Badger</b>	Ovie	Harry	<b>Pine</b>	Reggie	Jahzara, Moeez
<b>Rabbit</b>	Amelie	Erin	<b>Willow</b>	Mila	Jude, Muneer
<b>Squirrel</b>	Latifa	Peggy, Ana	<b>Cedar</b>	Umaima	Corbyn, Anaya
<b>Bumblebee</b>	Richie	Richie	<b>Hazel</b>	Hester	Charlie
<b>Hedgehog</b>	Anaya		<b>Chestnut</b>	Alara	Rhakye, Zahara
<b>Otter</b>	Ruben	Izzy	<b>Hawthorn</b>	Zayn	Louisa, Evie
<b>Owl</b>	Jasraj	Nathan, Leander	<b>Sycamore</b>	Ted	Kavae, Theo
<b>Fox</b>	Aisha		<b>Maple</b>	Mustafa	Lottie, Evie
<b>Ducklings</b>		Ayyub	<b>Ash</b>	Drew	Bethan, Sabrina
			<b>Whitebeam</b>	Muhammad	Ezra, Gabriel
			<b>Hornbeam</b>	Salma	Kumba, Jacob
<b>Congratulations to this weeks winners!</b>			<b>Oak</b>	Amelia	Hassan, Shayla

<b>Class</b>	<b>Weekly Attendance</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Weekly Attendance</b>
<b>Badger</b>	86.7%	<b>Pine</b>	96.2%
<b>Rabbit</b>	90.6%	<b>Willow</b>	91.7%
<b>Squirrel</b>	91.0%	<b>Cedar</b>	89.7%
<b>Bumblebee</b>	82.2%	<b>Hazel</b>	88.9%
<b>Hedgehog</b>	86.1%	<b>Chestnut</b>	97.0%
<b>Otter</b>	97.3%	<b>Hawthorn</b>	99.1%
<b>Owl</b>	92.1%	<b>Sycamore</b>	92.3%
<b>Fox</b>	92.0%	<b>Maple</b>	90.9%
		<b>Ash</b>	85.8%
		<b>Whitebeam</b>	96.8%
		<b>Hornbeam</b>	91.5%

Hi everyone

We're starting a new Family Club at the Community Hall on Lodge Causeway.

Wednesdays (term time) 3.15pm-4.45pm

This is a warm after-school space with food, play, and community for local families.

We're looking for a few friendly volunteers to help with things like:

- serving food
- crafts & games
- welcoming families
- tidying up

You don't need special skills — just a warm heart and a bit of time. Even one afternoon a month would make a big difference.

If you're interested or want to know more, please message

Matt [mattstone@kingswaybenefice.org](mailto:mattstone@kingswaybenefice.org),

Kirtan [Kirtankaur488@gmail.com](mailto:Kirtankaur488@gmail.com) or

Melissa [melissapalmer258@gmail.com](mailto:melissapalmer258@gmail.com)



**FAMILY CLUB**

WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY

**ST JOHNS COMMUNITY HALL**  
LODGE CAUSEWAY

EVERY TERM TIME WEDNESDAY

3.15 PM – 4.45PM

SNACKS – CRAFT – GAMES

FOR MORE INFO  
MATT : 07470471359  
MELISSA  
MELISSAPALMER258@GMAIL.COM  
KIRTAN  
KIRTANKAUR488@OUTLOOK.COM

## Parent & Carer Coffee Morning

I'm Olivia, the Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)

# Join Us

I will be running a free parent/carer coffee morning on the theme of understanding anxiety in children.

You can expect to:

**When:**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
at 9:00am- 9:45am

**Where:**

At Chester park Infants

Meet other  
parents &  
carers

Hear about  
support  
offered by the  
MHST

Suggest  
ideas for  
future parent  
& carer  
sessions

