

CHINLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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High Peak
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Headteacher: Mr Peter Lambert

Friday 11th September 2026

September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Chinley Primary School,

Welcome back to school! A special welcome to our new Nursery and Reception Class starters. Hopefully we will be in for some great weather to start the new term and make the most of the new playground equipment. Thank you for your patience while the roofing work is completed, there have been numerous delays and at this point I am not confident work will commence anytime soon despite the scaffolding and materials being in place. It is very frustrating so thank you for your understanding.

Contacting the school

We encourage parents to contact school through class email, the school email attendance@chinley.derbyshire.sch.uk or via telephone. If you need to speak with a particular class teacher, please email your child's class email address which begins with the year group and then they all have the same address e.g. year1@chinley.derbyshire.sch.uk or telephone - 01663 750367. Please note that these addresses will not generally be checked outside 8am and 5pm and generally only between Monday and Friday.

In line with our code of conduct please ensure that any contact with school staff is polite and respectful in tone, in the same way you would expect staff to treat you.

Most information is passed on via the Parent Hub. If you are not registered, please download the App and link with the school using the school 'handle' which is @ChinleySchool. Registration is straightforward but if you experience any issues please get in touch with the school office.

PE and School Uniform

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms. Please can I remind you that there should be no football shirts worn in school at any time other than when changing for an after-school club. When the weather is a little colder school jumpers or school hoodies over a school PE shirt should be worn.

No jewellery other than stud earrings should be worn and please wear black school shoes rather than trainers (except on PE days).

Parent Pay

We aim to be a cashless school so use Parent Pay to pay for trips, visits, lunches and other activities in school. Details will be sent to our new starters in the next few days.

Extra-curricular Activities and Clubs

Mrs Cawthorn is busily getting details of all the extra-curricular clubs available for the children to attend for this term. Please look out for letters home and notes on Parent Hub with further details – hopefully there will be



something for everyone. There are times when activities are over-subscribed and we have to limit numbers, where this happens, we will try and prioritise those who miss out in the next term.

Mobile Phones in Schools

I am sure that you will all be aware that the Government has legislated regarding the use of mobile technology in schools. Although the children here at Chinley are very sensible we must follow the guidelines, therefore our policy is:

- Mobile phones must be switched off before the children enter the school grounds and must not be switched back on until they leave the school grounds.
- All mobile phones must be handed in on arrival in to class, arrangements are in place for phones to be held securely until the end of the day.

We know that children make mistakes and may forget to hand their phone in or turn it off, they will always receive a warning, however if a pattern of behaviour is identified then we will have to confiscate the phone and contact their parents collect it from school rather than them.

Special Educational Needs (SEND) Support

As you are aware our SENDCo Mrs Portman took up a headteacher role at the end of last term. I am delighted that we have secured interim SEND support from Mrs Joelle Locke, who is the SENDCo at Whaley Bridge Primary School. She will be working in school on a Thursday supporting Mr Lambert with the SEND provision here. She will be meeting all our children with SEND over the next few weeks and may well be in touch with some parents to introduce herself. If you have any SEND questions or queries, please continue to direct them to Mr Lambert through headteacher@chinley.derbyshire.sch.uk while Mrs Locke gets to know school.

Lost Property

Our aim this year is to return lost property to children on the same day. To help us to do that please would you ensure that all your child's clothes are named so we can return them more easily. If your child is missing any clothing then it may be in our lost property box near the school office, please feel free to take a look.

Attendance and holidays in term time

We value great school attendance and know that it is a key factor in your child making great progress at school. We follow guidance and legislation from the Local Authority and the Department of Education (DfE) which means we have little discretion to authorise holidays in term time; unless there are very limited exceptional circumstances. Therefore, all holidays in term time will be unauthorised and the Local Authority may issue a fine.

Schools are also now expected to follow up all absences with parents in an effort to find ways to support high attendance in school. You may be contacted if your child is absent with illness, especially if this is prolonged or occurring regularly. Where possible if your child has a cold or is a little under the weather, please try medication and sending them to school before choosing to keep them at home – you will be surprised how resilient they are once in school.

Schools have also been reminded of their obligations to ensure children arrive at school on time. Please remember that school starts at **8.50am** with the children lining up and getting straight down to learning once in school.

School lockdown procedures

Just like last year all schools must ensure they have a lockdown procedure and that they practice it. We will be reminding the children over the next couple of weeks about what to do in the eventuality of a school lockdown. We will do this sensitively, especially for our youngest and any anxious children and everything will be explained clearly. If your child comes home and mentions something unusual happening that will be why. As part of the procedure, we will use Parent Hub to inform parents in the eventuality of an actual lockdown and what they should do. Please note this is precautionary and we have not been informed of any threat.

Parent Consultation meetings – Autumn term

Our Key Stage 1 and Early Years meetings being held earlier in the term **Monday 12th October** and Key Stage 2 later on **Monday 7th December**, following our Autumn assessments. As always if you have any concerns or queries, please do not wait for these meetings to get in touch with your child's class teacher using the email for the class or by calling the office to arrange a chat.

Swimming Lessons

This year we are trying a new approach. We will be having a pool and changing rooms on site during October. Our Year 5 children will complete a 3-week course of lessons and our Year 1 children will also have use of the pool rather than walking to Peak School. Having the pool on site also means that we can offer additional lessons to non-swimmers, particularly those children in Year 6 who will be moving on to High School this year. The change will save school several thousand pounds as well as save numerous hours of learning time as there will be no travel required. As always, we will review the initiative at the end and check it provided the value and outcomes we hoped for.

Platinum Sports Award

You may spot that on letters and newsletters our sports log has changed from gold to platinum! Thanks to Mrs Cawthorn and our sports leaders we have met all the requirements for the highest sports award possible which is something we are really proud of and reflects our commitment to school sports, healthy activities and teamworking. A fantastic achievement by everyone!

Important Dates for you Diaries

Monday 21st September – most Extra Curricular clubs begin (look out for further details)
Thursday 24th September – NHS Flu immunisations in school (details direct to you from NHS)
Friday 25th September – Year 3 Stone Age themed day
Saturday 26th September – KS2 Cross Country event #1 at Woodbank Park, Stockport (details to follow)
Monday 28th September – swimming lessons begin for Year 5 and Year 1
Thursday 8th October – Individual and Family Photographs (details to follow)
Monday 12th October – Reception and Key Stage 1 Parent consultations – 1pm – 6pm (details to follow)
Monday 19th October – Year 1 Circus themed day
Thursday 22nd October – Year 5 activity day at White Hall, Buxton (details to follow)
Friday 23rd October – School closes at 3.20pm for half term break
Saturday 31st October - KS2 Cross Country event #2 at Woodbank Park, Stockport
Monday 2nd November – School reopens following the break at 08.50am
Friday 6th November – History Van visiting Year 1 for toy workshop
Monday 9th November – PTA Bags 2 School initiative (details to follow)

Looking further ahead

Monday 30th November – Chinley Light Switch-On – 7pm in Chinley
Monday 7th December – Parent Consultations – KS2 – 1pm – 6pm (details to follow)
Tuesday 8th December – Theatre visit school – Babbling Vagabonds (details to follow)
Thursday 10th December – Key Stage 1 and Reception Class Nativity (9.15am and 2.15pm) – school hall
Friday 11th December – Nursery Nativity (details to follow)
Tuesday 15th December – KS2 Carol Service (details to follow and venue to be confirmed)
Thursday 17th December – Wear a Christmas Jumper/Hat Day (details to follow)
Thursday 17th December – Christmas Lunch (details to follow)
Friday 18th December – Christmas Parties (all classes) – non-uniform day
Friday 18th December – School closes at 3.20pm for winter break.
Monday 4th January – School closed for INSET
Tuesday 5th January 2025 – School reopens following the break at 8.50am

Term Dates and INSET 2026/27

Autumn Term 1: 07/09/2026 – 23/10/2026 (04/09/25 school closed for INSET)
Autumn Term 2: 02/11/26 – 18/12/26
Spring Term 1: 05/01/2027 – 12/02/2027 (04/01/2027 school closed for INSET)
Spring Term 2: 22/02/27 – 25/03/27

Summer Term 1: 12/04/27 – 27/05/26 (28/05/26 school closed for INSET)

Summer Term 2: 07/06/27 – 22/07/27 (23/07/27 and 26/07/27 school closed for INSET)

Where possible all this information is on the school website www.chinley.derbyshire.sch.uk Should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact school to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely

Peter Lambert
Headteacher