Chapel Chat

Our School Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Ambition for All, Limits for None! ☆

Autumn Term 1

⭐ A message from Mrs Borrell ⭐

What a busy and exciting start to the new academic year! It has been lovely to welcome our children back, especially those joining Nursery and Reception. We are so proud of the enthusiasm, kindness and resilience shown as everyone settles into their classes and embraces new opportunities.

A wonderful start to the year

Our children have been busy building friendships, learning new routines and showing our school values. Thank you to our dedicated staff and families for helping everyone settle into the autumn term so positively.

A special thank you – Ofsted

Thank you to all our parents and carers for the kindness, encouragement and support shown during our recent Ofsted inspection. We are particularly grateful to families who took the time to share their experiences. I am immensely proud of our children and staff. We are not yet in a position to share further details, but we will update our school community as soon as we are able to do so.





Attendance Matters – Every School Day Counts!

At Chapel St Leonards Primary School & Nursery, we want every child to have the best possible opportunity to learn, develop friendships and achieve their full potential. Good attendance is essential to this, as even small amounts of missed learning can quickly add up.

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular attendance and the national guidance regarding unauthorised absences.

Understanding Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Every school day is divided into two sessions – morning and afternoon. When a child is absent, the school must record whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Authorised absences may include genuine illness, unavoidable medical appointments or other exceptional circumstances agreed by the school.

Unauthorised absences can include holidays taken during term time without permission, unexplained absences, unnecessary days off and arriving after the school register has closed.

The 10 Unauthorised Sessions Rule

Under the national attendance framework, schools must consider a penalty notice when a child has accumulated **10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling period of 10 school weeks**.

This is equivalent to **five full school days** and does not have to be consecutive. The absences can also occur across different terms or school years.

This means that unauthorised holidays, unexplained absences and late arrivals after registration closes can all contribute towards the threshold.

What Are the Potential Fines?

- **First penalty notice:** £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days.
- **Second penalty notice within three years:** £160 per parent, per child, with no reduced rate.
- **Third offence within three years:** A further penalty notice cannot normally be issued under the national framework, and alternative action, including prosecution, may be considered.

Reaching the threshold does not automatically mean a fine will be issued. Individual circumstances and appropriate support will be considered.

Holidays During Term Time

Please remember that holidays during term time cannot normally be authorised. Leave of absence may only be granted in exceptional circumstances, at the Headteacher's discretion and in accordance with national guidance.

We strongly encourage families to arrange holidays during school holiday periods to avoid unnecessary disruption to children's education and the possibility of a penalty notice.

When Does Attendance Become a Concern?

A child is considered persistently absent when they miss 10% or more of their schooling, meaning their attendance falls to 90% or below.

This includes both authorised and unauthorised absences. Over a full school year, this is equivalent to approximately 19 school days of missed education.

Missing this amount of school can have a significant impact on children's academic progress, confidence, friendships and wellbeing.

We Are Here to Help

We understand that some children and families experience genuine challenges with school attendance, including health, emotional wellbeing and additional needs.

Our priority is always to work alongside families, understand the reasons for absence and provide appropriate support to help children attend school regularly.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please speak to us as early as possible so that we can work together to find solutions.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child at Chapel attend, achieve and thrive. Every day really does count!



Chapel St Leonards Primary School and Nursery

Every Day Counts!

Be in school. Be involved. Be your best.

Attendance helps children to learn, make friends and build a brighter future.



Better learning | Stronger friendships | Increased confidence | Greater opportunities | A brighter future

What is good attendance?

97% – 100%	Excellent
95% – 96.9%	Good
90% – 94.9%	Needs to improve
Below 90%	Persistent absence (risk of a fine)

The 10 unauthorised absences rule



If your child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (in half-days) in a 10 week rolling period, a Penalty Notice (fine) may be issued by the Local Authority.

This can include unauthorised holidays, days off for non-medical reasons and arriving after the register has closed.

1 10 unauthorised absences

If your child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (in half-days) in a 10 week rolling period...

2 A penalty notice may be issued



...the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice (fine).

3 The fine amount

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- £160 per parent, per child if not paid within 21 days but paid within 28 days.
- If not paid within 28 days, the matter may be taken to court, which could result in a higher fine.



Holidays during term time

Holidays taken during term time are not authorised and can contribute towards a Penalty Notice.

Please book family holidays during school holiday periods.

How you can help

- Ensure your child attends school every day.
- Arrive on time – the school gate closes at 8.55am for KS1.
- Only keep your child at home if they are genuinely unwell.
- Try to arrange medical appointments outside school hours where possible.
- Talk to us if you are experiencing difficulties – we are here to support you.

Good attendance today, brighter tomorrows at Chapel!

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage

Free for Families in Lincolnshire

Helping children aged 7-12 manage worries & anxiety
Register for free to get your Game Key
Download the Lumi Nova app (iOS/Android)
Play 2-3 times per week

Important: Not for children in crisis
Backed by science, NHS supported

Visit luminova.app/lincolnshire
Support: support@bfb-labs.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmgrU4zXU3M

Start your child's journey today!

Our Virtual Library

Our virtual library now has 18 books to choose from after some of the central staff at **C.I.T Academies** and **LEARN SEND Hub** recorded stories yesterday, joining our original storytellers from **Carre's Grammar School** and **Kesteven & Sleaford High School**.

Enter the library here and enjoy a story: **https://canva.link/csl-virtual-library**




Chapel St Leonards
Primary School and Nursery
Welcome to our
House Captains!
Leading our teams, celebrating achievements and making Chapel an even brighter place to be!
Once upon a time...
Anderby Creek
Millie & Poppy
Donna Nook
Ruby & Jack
Gibraltar Point
Alesha & Lottie
Ambition for All, Limits for None!


Chapel St Leonards
Primary School and Nursery
Welcome to our
2026
School Councillors!
Giving our children a voice and helping make our school an even better place to learn!
Ideas Matter!
We Represent Our School!
Jannat
Olivia
Teddy
Ollie
Hannah
Bodhi
Willow
Ambition for All, Limits for None!

Photo Gallery
















Autumn 1







Wishing you all the best, Miss Smith!

Miss Smith is leaving us temporarily
to begin her maternity leave.

We wish her and her partner the very best
as they prepare to welcome their baby girl.

We can't wait to hear about their new arrival
and welcome them into school
when they feel ready.





Parent Questionnaire/Survey

If you have not yet returned your paper copy of the questionnaire or completed an electronic version there is still time. We really appreciate your opinions and thoughts.

https://forms.gle/1HmQciqVBioQ7LH78

At Chapel St Leonards, safeguarding is our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our pupils. If parents or children have any concerns or wish to discuss something in confidence, they can speak to a member of our **Safeguarding Team** at any time. We are here to listen, support, and take action where necessary.

If a safeguarding issue arises during the holidays, support is still available. You can contact a member of the **Trust Safeguarding Team** at safeguarding@citcademies.co.uk and they will be able to assist you. Please remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we encourage you to reach out if you have any concerns.

Our Safeguarding Team

