

4th September 2024

Dear families,

Return to School – September 2024

I hope this message finds you well and that you have all enjoyed a restful summer break. As we begin a new academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome or welcome back to Chester Blue Coat. We are thrilled to have our wonderful pupils returning for the Autumn Term, and new children joining our school, and we look forward to a year full of growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

We highly value the partnership between school and home, and your involvement in your child's education is crucial. Please keep the lines of communication open with your child's teacher and the school, and we encourage you to actively participate in parent-teacher meetings, school events, and other community activities throughout the year.

As we embark on this academic year, I would like to highlight a few important reminders:

Attendance and Punctuality

Ensuring your child arrives on time each day is vital. Punctuality not only sets a positive tone for learning but also ensures a smooth start to the school day. The school day begins at 8.45am, with gates opening at 8.30am. We ask that all children arrive by 8.40am to ensure they are ready to start the day promptly. Just 5 minutes late each day can result in 3.4 days of learning lost over the year, and being 15 minutes late daily leads to 10.3 days of lost learning. The school day finishes at 3.10pm, so please ensure your child is picked up on time.

Uniform

To foster a sense of identity and belonging, we ask that your child wears the appropriate school uniform. Uniformity Clothing Ltd is our uniform supplier, and you can visit their shop at 22-26 Handbridge, Chester CH4 7JE. The uniform is available year-round, embroidered, and ready for purchase. The shop is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 4.45pm, and on Friday from 8.30am to 4.15pm. Uniformity also offers an online service at www.uniformityschools.com, where you can order and choose from options like click-and-collect, school delivery (during term time), or home delivery for a small fee. To help with costs, Uniformity has introduced £5 saving vouchers, available in-store.

For those interested in second-hand uniforms, we will continue to offer sales throughout the year. Uniforms without the school logo, purchased from high street stores or supermarkets, are also perfectly acceptable.

All school clothing needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name. To help further, name the clothing with their class name as well. Children should also wear black school shoes. Please see below examples of appropriate and acceptable school footwear.



Walpole St, Chester, CH1 4HG

Headteacher: Mr M Hover

Telephone: 01244 455275

Email: admin@chesterbluecoatce.cheshire.sch.uk



Communication and Partnerships with Parents/Carers

Parents and carers are vital partners in their child's education. Supporting your child's learning at home through regular reading, completing homework, and engaging in conversations about their school day significantly enhances their academic progress. We kindly ask that you continue to encourage and support your child's educational journey outside of school hours.

Effective communication between school and home is essential. Key information will be posted on the school website, and teachers will use the Class Pages to share important updates. Additionally, we use X (formerly Twitter) to communicate with parents and showcase what the children have been doing in school. If possible, please follow us on Twitter at @ChesterBlueCoat.

You will also receive emails from the school, either from School Spider or our office email address (admin@chesterbluecoatce.cheshire.sch.uk). To ensure you receive all necessary communications, please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact details, including email and phone numbers.

Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

If your child attends school in the Cheshire West and Chester area, you may be eligible to claim free school meals. Although all early years and Key Stage 1 pupils automatically receive free school meals, we encourage families receiving certain benefits to apply. This allows the school to claim additional funding, which helps provide equipment, learning support, and resources, and can also assist with uniform, trips, and clubs.

To ensure the school can access this funding, it's important that all eligible parents or guardians complete the online form for free school meals. This not only secures meals for your child but also enables the school to claim the Pupil Premium, which is additional funding to support our pupils. For the 2024/25 academic year, the funding is £1,480 per eligible pupil, making it crucial for all qualifying families to register.

You will qualify if you are receiving one of the following benefits.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

To apply on-line, visit www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and then click Education and Learning then Free School Meals. An eligibility checker will notify the applicant straight away if they qualify or not. The phone number for Free School Meals – 0300 1237039.

Parking

Please make sure you park sensibly and legally, and do not put the safety of our children and families at risk. The PCSO regularly patrols the roads around school and issues fines for vehicles parked illegally. We understand that parking is challenging in and around the school, especially considering the roadworks at the present time, but ask that extra consideration is made to ensure that everyone is safe and happy.

Walpole St, Chester, CH1 4HG
Headteacher: Mr M Hover
Telephone: 01244 455275

Email: admin@chesterbluecoatce.cheshire.sch.uk



The staff car park is **not** available for parents at the beginning and end of the school day. Access is permitted between 9.30am and 2.30pm, and after 3.45pm.

Foods in School

We are a nut-free school and do not allow **any** nut products in school, for example; peanut butter, nut bars, nuts on cakes. This is to make sure those children with nut allergies are safe here.

Children are not allowed to share their food or snacks with others due to food allergies. We do not give out sweets, treats and cakes on your behalf when you are celebrating a birthday or special occasion. A separate letter regarding administering medicine in school, will follow later this week.

School Meals

School meals cost £2.75 for children in Year 3-6 and **must** be paid for in advance or on the day. School meals are free of charge for EYFS and KS1 children.

Snack

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive free fruit for a snack every day. Nursery and Reception will receive free milk every day. Snacks are available to buy for Year 3-6 – please make sure the children have the correct change (see picture right).

Morning Break Menu

Half Slice of Toast	10p
Full Slice of Toast	20p
Half a Tea Cake	30p
Full Bagel	60p
Crumpet	30p
Piece of Fruit	30p
Half a Bacon Sandwich (Thursday only)	60p
Biscuit (Friday only)	40p
Carton of Milk	25p
Juice - Orange or Apple	40p
Bottled Water	30p

Welcome Meetings with Teachers – Meet the Teacher

Parents /carers of children in Year 1 to Year 6 will receive an email with an invitation to meet with their child's teacher on a date from 11th September. It is really important that you try and attend so you can hear what will be happening this year, expectations for your child and ask any questions. Please look out for messages directly from the class teacher as to when these will be.

After School Clubs

Kixx will again be offering after-school clubs. Please see the additional letter which has details of the clubs and how they can be booked and paid for. Further after-school clubs will be advertised next week, and letters will be coming out directly from the members of staff that will be running the clubs. Please look out for these, which will likely be through email.

Before and after school care

Buddies will be offering this service every day using the hall in the main building in the first instance. Please contact them if you wish to book a place; buddiesdaycare@btinternet.com or 07976 455562. The location of Buddies is the Sure Start Building, located near the entrance on the Cheyney Road side of the school.

Newsletter

This year, we will continue our monthly Newsletter. This will be issued on the last Friday of every month.

Yours truly,



M Hover
Headteacher

Walpole St, Chester, CH1 4HG
Headteacher: Mr M Hover
Telephone: 01244 455275

Email: admin@chesterbluecoatce.cheshire.sch.uk

