

Wednesday 15th January 2020

Headteacher: Mr P M Burgess - NPQH

Dear Parent/carer,

Welcome to my third newsletter of the year, I cannot believe we are into Spring Term, 2020 and a new decade!

Attendance

In Autumn 1, CHPA pupil attendance outcomes in comparison to 2018-19 showed improvement, which is excellent, so thank you for your support with this. However, we had an outbreak of flu-like symptoms that decimated several weeks of Autumn 2 and as a result, comparisons to 2018-19 have us below that outcome. Although there is a clear reason for this, it is disappointing to see us fall below last year. However, I am confident that with your support, that the Spring Term and beyond will see us significantly improve on 2018-19 outcomes.

Pupil attendance is imperative in order for them to gain new knowledge and confidence as their learning develops. Missing chunks of this knowledge will leave them with a gap, which could significantly hinder their future understanding. Please continue to work hard to ensure that your child attends every day. 2020 has started very well.

Holiday Request meetings

Following the letter regarding holiday request meetings, I continue to be really pleased with the response that this has provided. Each week there are 2 timetabled meetings (Wednesday 8:50-9:30am, Friday 2:20-3pm).

A reminder of the process -

When requesting a holiday form from main reception, please book a meeting time with Mr Burgess (at one of the times available). Bring the completed form along to the meeting with Mr Burgess.

If this meeting is not booked, attended and a holiday form is not submitted, when the absence begins, if we are not aware of the reasons why, we must, by law, contact the Local Authority as this now known as a Child Missing in Education, which is a serious safeguarding concern and will result in a communication to you from Social Care.

Reporting Injuries

In the coming days, we will be moving to a new electronic system for recording and reporting any injuries/illness or medication needs your child may sustain/have when in our care at CHPA. This system is called Medical Tracker. It is important that you are aware of this and that in the event of any injury you will no longer receive a paper bump note, you will receive an email explaining the details. This takes away the chances of losing the paper copy and you not being fully informed. However, this system can only work well if we have your up to date details, so please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details whenever you change them. As we approach the launch of Medical Tracker, more information will be sent out.

In addition to this, if your child is injured at home and this injury could affect them at CHPA, please ensure you communicate this with us, so we can work with you and assess what we need to do whilst your child is here.

Any injury that results in your child been seen by a medical professional needs to be shared with us. If your child breaks a bone or may require some assistance whilst here, a Risk Assessment needs completing and for this, you as parent and your child needs to meet with me to go through this. Generally, this only takes a few minutes, but it is imperative to ensure your child is safe. Unfortunately, there a few children who have appeared in a morning with a pot, brace or sling on and we have no knowledge about the injury – this does not help us to keep your child safe, so please communicate with us.

Uniform

The vast majority of pupils continue to look very smart in their uniform and should be really proud of their appearance. Please continue to ensure **your child has their name in all items of clothing**, in order for us to return it to the right person if it should become lost. Uniform without a name is very difficult to return and there are an increasing number of items in lost property.



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More recently, some pupils have begun to wear jogging bottoms or leggings. Furthermore, an increasing number of pupils are wearing trainers that are not plain black. This is a polite reminder that neither of these items are part of the CHPA uniform policy. If your child is wearing either of these items, please take steps to ensure they have clothing that is in line with the CHPA policy and expectations.

Social Media

If you are not yet following us on social media, please follow us on Twitter using [@charnocklead](https://twitter.com/charnocklead) as the handle and via our Facebook page [Charnock Hall Academy](https://www.facebook.com/charnockhallacademy).

Additionally, the website has been redeveloped and contains more and more information which keeps you informed and up to date about CHPA and also provides information about what your child is learning. Please do take a look www.charnockhallacademy.co.uk

Also, please ensure you have the SchoolComms gateway app downloaded as information will go through this medium.

Welcoming you into CHPA

A reminder, that in addition to the Monday morning Learner of the Week assembly, we also love it when you come into class on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:50pm until the end of the day and also a Wednesday morning from 8:40-9:10am. This is a great opportunity for you to share your child's learning and undertake activities with them.

Charnock Hall PTA

Our PTA do a fantastic job and at the recent AGM have appointed new parents to a number of roles. It is really good to see new faces involved and working to build on the good work that other committed parents have shown. Please support them. If you are interested in becoming part of the PTA, please let them know - (PTA@charnockhallacademy.co.uk).

The recent Christmas Fair raised over £1300, that will be spent on further developing the play equipment and extending the trim-trails on each playground. It was superb to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair, which due to popularity and demand, saw it extended over 3 halls and into the Computing Suite!

The next PTA meeting is on Thursday 16th January at 9am, here at CHPA. If you can, please come and support the team.

We Love Reading

Hopefully, you are continuing to enjoy the CHPA 'story time book reads' that are published each Wednesday via our social media accounts. The response to them so far has been fantastic, so thank you very much for this. All the videos have been uploaded onto the CHPA website (Pupils/Story-time – Pleasure for Reading) and are available for you to watch at any time. Our intention is to have a new story uploaded for you to share with your families every Wednesday. Staff and AGB members across CHPA have volunteered for this, however, it would be great to get you as parents involved in this, so if you are interested, please contact Miss Reid.

CHPA expectations to support pupils learning at home

At CHPA we do not believe in sending lots of home learning tasks home with pupils each week, as we believe the time you spend should, in the most part, be doing fun things together and building memories! However, there are some expectations we do have in order for you to help you support your child with;

- It is expected that every pupil will read to an adult/older sibling at home at least 4 times per week and that this is recorded in Pupil Learning Diaries in the correct date.
- Spelling will be sent home and these should be learnt ready for a weekly test.
- Pupils are working on Maths skills, particularly x-tables (counting in Reception and Y1) and these should be learnt ready for a weekly test. In Y4 all pupils will now undertake a national x-tables test, with their outcome compared to other children of the same age across the country – this is a new Government test for 2020.

These skills provide children with the very basics that open up the whole curriculum and outside world to them. Without this knowledge, their ability to work at least an age related expected standard will be very difficult, so please do work with them. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

CHPA curriculum

We have been working hard at developing the curriculum offer available to pupils here at CHPA and are proud of the work we have accomplished so far. In addition to the core subjects of Maths and English, pupils have broad and balanced access to an engaging curriculum offer in every year group. From PE to Spanish, Science to RE, pupils are gaining new knowledge every day,

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due to the opportunities available to them and the engagement the CHPA curriculum offers. Although information has been sent out before, you can find further information regarding your child's learning via our website (Curriculum/Curriculum Overviews). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Additionally, a reminder that there are resources in Pupil Learning Diaries that can help you support your child with their learning at home.

Enterprise

As you will be aware, all year groups had a stall at the Christmas Fair as they work to develop their enterprise knowledge, skills and understanding. I am very proud of the way each year group prepared themselves, created high quality items to sell and that you showed such great support in purchasing items from them. Year groups have been informed how much they each earned and this is now theirs to spend on something (or save until after the Summer Fair stall earnings) for them.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Following feedback from pupils as part of the questionnaire they completed in the Autumn Term, we now have an increasing amount of extra-curricular activities available, both before and at the end of the usual CHPA day. This is the schedule for Spring 1 and updates will follow for Spring 2 and beyond.

| Day/Time | Before School | After School |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Monday | CHOOSE Breakfast Club 8-8.40am | Y6 Booster - 3.15-4.30pm Art Club - 3.15-4.15pm Y5/6 Football - 3.15-4.30pm CHOOSE Club - 3.15-6pm |
| Tuesday | CHOOSE Breakfast Club 8-8.40am | Kick-start - 3.15-4.15pm CHOOSE Club - 3.15-6pm |
| Wednesday | CHOOSE Breakfast Club 8-8.40am | Y6 Booster - 3.15-4.30pm Art Club - 3.15-4.15pm CHOOSE Club 3.15-6pm |
| Thursday | CHOOSE Breakfast Club 8-8.40am | CHOOSE Club 3.15-6pm |
| Friday | CHOOSE Breakfast Club 8-8.40am | CHOOSE Club 3.15-6pm |

Young Voices

This week, a very talented group of CHPA pupils will be attending the Young Voices event at the Sheffield Arena with Mrs Fotheringham, Mrs Duffy and Miss Monger. This event will see them perform alongside other children from schools across to an audience of thousands! Pupils are very excited and have been rehearsing for several months at lunchtimes and after school. We know you'll be fab, but good luck to you all! Maybe they will meet one of the stars again this year, after last year's group met Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet!!!

Safeguarding - Electronic Gates

Recently, the electronic gate installation has been completed via the main entrance. These have been installed to ensure an additional security measure. As you will already be aware, to access the main entrance, you need to use the key pad buzzer to contact main reception, who will then let you through.

However, at the start of the day (up to 9am), this is not locked and as a result you do not need to use the key pad to get to the main door. Additionally, it is also unlocked between 3-4.30pm in order for you not to have to use the key pad in this time either, particularly if you are collecting from an extra-curricular club. It is unlocked between these times due to the high amount of people needing access to the main reception.

The gate for vehicular access to the car park is for staff and deliveries only.

Safeguarding – Fire & Lockdown Drills

At least once per half-term, we undertake a fire evacuation drill to ensure all pupils are fully aware of the procedures in place for exiting the building safely. Recently, we have updated some of the roles and responsibilities in regards to fire evacuations and will be making pupils aware of these. There are no significant changes, so it will be nearly identical.

Additionally, we also have an intruder (lock-down) alarm fitted, which is a different sound to the fire alarm. I spoke to the pupils about this last year and explained that this alarm would go off if any person or animal got onto CHPA property. At CHPA, we have



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significant fences protecting the external barrier, with gates locked when not in use and additionally, all entrances are kept closed and on appropriate locking systems. Even if the perimeter fence was breached, the building would remain secure. However, to ensure that in the event of this happening, all pupils are accounted for, the lock-down alarm would go off and pupils would follow a lock-down procedure, just like they follow an evacuation procedure.

School times & term dates

It is really important that your child attends school regularly and that they are here on time. Lost time due to absence or persistent lateness can have detrimental effects on your child's development and progress.

- **8:40am** – Gates onto playground unlocked.
- **8:50am** – Start of the school day.
- **3:10pm** – End of school day EYFS & KS1.
- **3:15pm** – End of school day KS2.

Term dates are as follows;

Spring 1 – 6.1.19 – 14.2.19

Spring 2 – 24.2.19 – 27.3.19

Summer 1 – 14.4.19 – 22.5.19

Summer 2 – 1.6.19 – 17.7.19

The remaining inset days are planned as follows and CHPA will be closed to pupils on these dates;

Friday 14th February 2020

Monday 20th July 2020, Tuesday 22nd July 2020

Also, a reminder that May Day will be on Friday 8th May 2020 and CHPA will be closed this date. **It is not on Monday 4th May.**

Diary Dates (Spring 1)

14.1.2020 – Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena

21.1.2020 – Y3 Destination Rail Workshop

22.1.2020 – Y3 Exploring careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Workshop

28.1.2020 – Y5 S.T.E.M. Event Day at Belgrave Rooms, Nottingham

13.2.2020 – Y5 National Space Centre visit

More dates could be added as events come up but we will endeavor to always give you as much notice as possible.

Ofsted Inspection

On February 1st, it is 3 years since Charnock Hall become part of the LEAD Academy Trust. As a result, we are expecting an impending Ofsted inspection, as this has to be completed by them within 3 years of conversion to an Academy. As a result, you will be hearing from me within the next few weeks, when I learn of the inspection date. I will find out at lunchtime, the day before the inspection begins. As you know, staff are working tirelessly to ensure your children have the best start and we are confident and hopeful that Ofsted will recognize this and agree with the self-evaluation that CHPA is GOOD.

Thanks for all you do and I look forward to our continued collaboration in 2020, to ensure we are *'Working Together to Be The Best We Can Be!'*

Regards

Mr P M Burgess
Headteacher