



15th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and are also enjoying the fact that the children are back to school!

It is fantastic to have the children back with us – and to welcome our new Reception children in to Team Cheveley ☺ The term has started very well and I feel that the 'Moving Up Mornings' last term – along with the hand-up sessions between staff – have certainly enabled the children to have a settled start in their new classes.

As this is the first newsletter of the year, it's slightly longer than my usual ones. However, there is a lot of relevant and helpful information so please do take the time to read it and click on the links provided.

Curriculum Offer and Passports

Staff spent a lot of time last academic year making some changes and improvements to the curriculum we deliver to our children. It is always important to review the offer we provide and to make any necessary amendments to ensure the topics and content we cover are current, broad and engaging. We are very pleased to be able to share with you our Passports: these are documents (for each year group) which set out the main content for each topic taught. Children will become very familiar with the Passports as the year goes on and we thought they would be useful for parents and carers to be able to see their child's curriculum at a glance. Passports can be found by clicking on the following link and scrolling to the bottom of the page: <https://belmontcheveley.secure-primariesite.net/curriculum-1/>

Curriculum Drivers and School Rules

Just a reminder - at the beginning of the new school year – that all of our learning and high expectations in school, for all children, are driven by the following:



Our School Rules

1. Care for everyone and everything
2. Show respect
3. Follow instructions the first time

Dates for the autumn term

As always, we aim to provide as much notice as possible for upcoming dates and events. The online calendar now contains as many of these for autumn term as possible (more will be added overtime). The calendar can be found by clicking here:

<https://teamup.com/ksfivfam7uh79bp6mq>



Attendance: expectations and documents

As mentioned in my newsletters towards the end of the term last academic year, some changes have been made to our Attendance Policy and certain procedures and protocol around children's absence and punctuality. For your information, I have included links to the relevant documents:

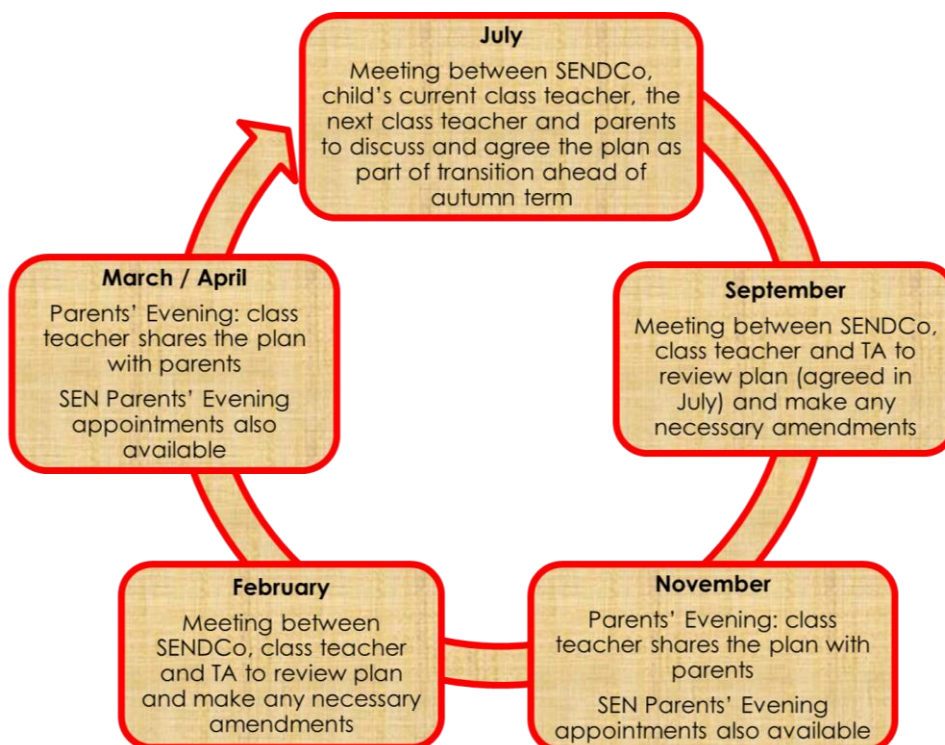
- [Attendance Policy 2023](#)
- [One-Page Attendance Overview](#)
- [Attainment and Attendance table](#)
- [Importance of Punctuality](#)

I appreciate there is a lot of information here; it is important to understand what is expected of parents and carers and what measures school staff will take to tackle absence issues. Please note that we do now require to see evidence of medical appointments which children will be attending during the school day (this may be a letter from the hospital, an appointment card, a screenshot of an appointment etc.).

The DfE have also requested that schools share the following information with parents and carers: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

SEN Plans – Annual Process

Mrs. Wright - our coordinator for children with Special Educational Needs (SENDCo) and I would like to share with you our annual process for setting and reviewing children's SEN plans. The process is cyclical and involves children, parents and staff at various points in the year. Children's needs, targets and plans can be discussed, however, at any point throughout the year, parents are welcome to contact Mrs. Wright via the school office.



Local Authority Documents and Updates

The following messages, documents and links have been shared by the Local Authority with headteachers – and then asked to be shared further with parents.

'Durham Back to School' (NHS)

Please follow the link for a 'new term' promotion for parents to be distributed via schools networks. The NHS hope the bright design with a focus on understanding emotional wellbeing as pupils join new classes or transition to new schools and routines will have broad appeal and can easily be included into school newsletters to parents: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/belmontcheveley/UploadedDocument/ef55c95d-baa0-4fe5-a670-31ab8ab64942/durham-back-to-school.pdf>

Parents' Mental Health

Mental health problems are common - with 1 in 4 people experiencing poor mental health during their lifetime. If you know anyone that might need a little extra support, there is lots of advice and support available.

We would recommend that you provide the following signposting information to adults seeking support.

- Adult Mental Health information is available at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport>
- Support is available by contacting your local GP surgery.
- The Mental Health Alliance is a range of support services able to support a wide range of mental health concerns. The service is open for self-referral or referrals made by organisations. Please click [Referral – Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance](#) for more information or contact Tel. 0300 3044 5527
- Family Hubs can support families with all areas of family life from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities.

Information can be found on the [Help for families - your virtual Family Hub](#) pages.

Citizens Advice: County Durham Cost of Accessing Education Research

Given the current climate of the cost of living crisis and the start of a new school year, **Citizens Advice County Durham** is currently looking into the cost and affordability of primary and secondary education in the County. Therefore, we have designed an anonymous 10-15 minutes [Cost of Accessing Education survey](#) intended for parents and carers to complete. The goal is to gain a better understanding on the costs and barriers families are facing when it comes to their children accessing education. Once the data has been collected and sorted, we will happily share the results with your school, as we are determined to make a difference by ensuring all children have access to the education they deserve without barriers/financial stress to parents and carers.

Wonderful news!

I'm sure the following news has been shared and many of you already know that Mrs Errington-Pace began her maternity leave this week having adopted a beautiful little girl – we couldn't be happier for her! Mrs Errington-Pace, from all of Team Cheveley, HUGE CONGRATULATIONS!



Staffing

I'd like to wish a warm welcome to Mrs Anderson (who will be teaching in Reception this year) to Team Cheveley and am very pleased to be able to let you know that Mr Rogers will be the class teacher in Year 5 for the full year. I'm also delighted to be able to say that Tony Lenaghan has started working in school as a member of the Lunchtime Team 😊 Welcome everyone!

And that just leaves me to end this lengthy, yet important, newsletter by thanking you in advance for your ongoing support and appreciation of the staff team here in school: I'm sure you'd agree that they're one of a kind and are always willing to go above and beyond for all of the children – who they care so deeply about.

Warm wishes,

Ailly Gouwin (Headteacher)

As it is important that school always holds up-to-date contact information for our pupils, please let staff in the Main Office know straight away if any of your personal details (phone numbers / addresses etc.) change. The same applies should you change your mind regarding your options on the photographic consent forms. Thank you.