

Newsletter 18th September 2026



The Cathedral *Church of England VA* *Primary School*

John 13:34

"Love one another. As I have loved you"

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Families,

What a great couple of weeks it has been at The Cathedral School! All the children are settling into their new classes so well and there has been a lovely feeling around school.

A particular highlight has been welcoming our new Reception children, who have now completed their first full week in school. I suspect there may be a few tired children (and teachers!) this weekend, but they have settled so well and should be incredibly proud of themselves. It has been lovely to see relationships developing with their Year 6 buddies already. The care and kindness shown by our older pupils has been wonderful and is a great example of our school values in action.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher evening this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you there. We know that working together is one of the best ways we can support our children to flourish. If you were unable to attend, the presentations have been uploaded to Tapestry for you to access. One of the things we discussed was the importance of reading for pleasure and the impact it can have on children's writing. I challenged parents to think about what their children are learning from them about reading. Do they see us reading? Do they hear us talk about books? Do they know that reading can be enjoyable as well as useful?

So, here's my challenge for this weekend: try to find some time for a family reading moment or simply take some time to enjoy a book yourself. I shall certainly be finishing my current book, which has reached the point where it's become very difficult to put down!

Today, our Year 6 pupils were awarded their leadership roles and responsibilities for the year ahead. They are already taking these responsibilities very seriously. It was also lovely to see our Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils representing the school during Meet the Teacher this week. They did a fantastic job welcoming families and speaking with confidence. I look forward to seeing how all of our Year 6 children develop as leaders over the coming months.

Next week, you will receive a new data collection sheet in a sealed envelope. This is a very important exercise to ensure that we have the correct contact and medical information for every pupil. Please take the time to check the information carefully, make any amendments and return the form to school as soon as possible so that our records remain up to date.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership. It has been a wonderful start to the year and there is already so much to celebrate.

Have a wonderful weekend and, if you can, enjoy a good book!

Gemma Smith

Headteacher



Izzy, Shaya, Poppy & Lucy



Essential Dates

Please understand that all dates and times may be subject to change



Autumn Term 2026

- 23rd September KS2 Girls Football Tournament - GBHS Invited Pupils AM
- 23rd September KS2 Boys Football Tournament - GBHS Invited Pupils PM
- 24th September - Flu Vaccination Programme
- 30th September - Harvest Service - Cathedral 2pm
- 6th October - Individual Photos
- 21st - 23rd October PGL Y5 Residential Trip
- 26th - 30th October Half Term
- 4th November - Parents' Evening - 5-8pm
- 5th November - Parents' Evening - 4-6:30pm
- 7th November - KS2 Choirs supporting Young Caprice - *details to follow*
- 24th November - Barnardo's Concert - Royal Albert Hall - Invited pupils
- 28th November - PTA Christmas Bazaar
- 8th December - KS1 Nativity - Morning Performance
- 9th December - KS1 Nativity - Evening Performance
- 11th December Cracking Christmas Concert - EYFS & Y6
Morning & Afternoon Performances
- 16th December - Carol Service - Cathedral 6:30pm
- 18th December last day of Autumn Term
- 21st December - 1st January Christmas Holiday

[Please view our calendar for all events](#)

School Lunches

Lunch Menu Week Commencing 21st September 2026

	Summer Menu Week 1				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Margherita Pizza* *WHEAT *MILK Served with sweetcorn or side salad	Mini English Breakfast Sausage* *WHEAT Hash Browns Baked Beans Plum Tomato Omelette* *MILK *EGG Optional Wholemeal Bread* *WHEAT *SOYBEAN	Roast Chicken served with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Optional Gravy Optional Yorkshire pudding* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG	NEW! Beef Lasagne* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG *MILK *MUSTARD *MILK *EGG served with Mixed Vegetables & Optional Garlic Bread* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG *SOYBEAN SEEDS	Fish Fingers* *WHEAT *FISH Chips, Peas or Baked Beans Optional Ketchup
Option 2	Quorn Pieces Tomato Pasta* *WHEAT, NO MUSTARD, Served with Side Salad or Sweetcorn	Vegetarian English Breakfast Vegan Sausage* *WHEAT Hash Browns Baked Beans Plum Tomato Optional Omelette* *MILK *EGG Optional Wholemeal Bread* *WHEAT *SOYBEAN	Roast Quorn* *WHEAT *CELERY served with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Optional Gravy Optional Yorkshire pudding* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG	Quorn Vegan Beef Burger in a Bun* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS Spaghetti House* *WHEAT or Mixed Vegetables	Vegetable Fingers* *WHEAT Chips, Peas or Baked Beans Optional Ketchup
Option 3	Ham Wrap* *WHEAT Served with Side Salad & Savoury Snacks	Cold Tuna Mayo Pasta Salad P* *WHEAT *FISH	Egg Mayo Brioche Bun* *WHEAT *EGG *MILK *SOYBEAN served with Side Salad & Savoury Snack	Wholemeal Bread Cheese Sandwich* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN served with Side Salad & Savoury Snack	Chicken Mayo Wrap* *WHEAT Served with Side Salad & Savoury Snacks
Dessert	School Cake* *WHEAT, *MILK *SOYA *EGG	Flapjack* *WHEAT, *MILK *SOYA	Fruit or Yoghurt* *MILK Dairyfree Yoghurt* *SOYBEAN	Ice Cream Tub* *MILK or Dairy Free Ice Cream	Fruit Jelly

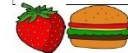


Served daily: Fresh Fruit, Yogurt, Milk and Water
GF: Gluten Free



Lunch Menu Week Commencing 28th September 2026

	Summer Menu Week 2				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Jacket Potato Your Children Optional topping Cheese* *MILK Baked Beans Tuna Mayo* *FISH Homemade Coleslaw Served with a side salad	NEW! Greek Style Chicken Served with 50/50 Savoury Rice* *CELERY Mixed Vegetables & Optional Flatbread* *WHEAT & Tzatziki Dip* *MILK	Roast Gammon (pork) served with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Optional Gravy Optional Yorkshire pudding* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG	Beef Mince Tomato 50/50 Pasta* *WHEAT Green Beans or Peas Optional Garlic Bread* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS *MILK	Chicken Nuggets* *WHEAT *CELERY Chips Peas or Baked Beans Optional Ketchup
Option 2	Ham Wrap* *WHEAT Served with Side Salad & Savoury Snacks	NEW! Grilled Haloumi* *MILK Served with 50/50 Savoury Rice* *CELERY Mixed Vegetables & Optional Flatbread* *WHEAT & Tzatziki Dip* *MILK	Roast Quorn* *WHEAT *CELERY served with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Optional Gravy Optional Yorkshire pudding* *WHEAT *MILK *EGG	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with 50/50 Pasta* *WHEAT Green Beans or Peas Optional Garlic Bread* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS *MILK	Quorn Dippers* *WHEAT Chips Peas or Baked Beans Optional Ketchup
Option 3	NO OPTION	Vegan Sausage Roll* *WHEAT Served with side salad & Savoury Snacks	Tuna Mayo Baguette* *FISH *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS served with side salad & Savoury Snacks	Cheese Wholemeal Bread Sandwich* *WHEAT *EGG *MILK *SOYBEAN served with side salad & Savoury Snack	Egg Mayo Brioche Bun* *WHEAT *EGG *MILK *SOYBEAN served with Side Salad & Savoury Snack
Dessert	Fruit Jelly	School Oat Cookie* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYA *OAT	Ice Cream Tub* *MILK or Dairy Free Ice Cream	Fruit Yoghurts* *MILK or Dairy Free Yoghurt* *SOYBEAN	Chocolate Brownie* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYA *EGG



Served daily: Fresh Fruit, Yogurt, Milk and Water
GF: Gluten Free



Lunch Menu Week Commencing 4th October 2026

School Meals – Please Book Early

To help our kitchen plan and cut down on waste, please make sure **all meals (including packed lunches where possible) are booked by the Sunday before each fortnight.**

Meals can be booked up to three weeks ahead on **ScoPay**, and we'll let you know when new menus are ready. If no booking is made, we'll assume your child has a packed lunch.

Payments can be made in advance or as meals are taken, but please note we can't offer credit.

All meals can be booked up to half term. Thank you for your support — it makes a real difference!

	Summer Term Week 3				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	NEW! Pepperoni (Pork) Baguette Pizza* *WHEAT *MILK *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS Served with sweetcorn or side salad	NEW! Bang Chicken Korma* *MILK with 50/50 Rice, Mixed Vegetable Optional Naan Bread* *WHEAT	Chicken Burger in a Bun* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS with Salad Baby Potatoes & Vegetable Sticks	Mac 'n Cheese* *WHEAT *MILK Served with Seasonal Vegetables, Optional Garlic Bread* *WHEAT *MILK *MILK *SOYBEAN SEED	Harry Ramsdens Fish Fillet* *WHEAT *FISH Chips, Peas or Baked Beans optional Ketchup
Option 2	Cheese Baguette Pizza* *WHEAT *MILK *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS Served with sweetcorn or side salad	NEW! Hoisin Quorn Fillet Wrap* *WHEAT *SOYBEAN *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS with 50/50 Rice Mixed Vegetable	Quorn Southern Crumb Burger in a Bun* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS with Salad Baby Potatoes & Vegetable Sticks	Tomato & Lentils 50/50 Pasta* *WHEAT Served with Seasonal Vegetables, Optional Garlic Bread* *WHEAT *MILK *MILK *SOYBEAN SEED	Quorn Nuggets* *WHEAT Chips, Peas or Baked Beans optional Ketchup
Option 3	Chicken Mayo Wrap* *WHEAT Served with Side Salad & Savoury Snacks	Wholemeal Bread Cheese Sandwich* *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN served with Side Salad & Savoury Snack	Ham Wrap* *WHEAT Served with Side Salad & Savoury Snacks	Tuna Mayo Baguette* *FISH *WHEAT *MILK *SOYBEAN SEEDS served with side salad & Savory Snacks	Egg Mayo Brioche Bun* *WHEAT *EGG *MILK *SOYBEAN served with Side Salad & Savoury Snack
Dessert	Fruit Jelly	Ice Cream Tub* *MILK or Dairy Free Ice Cream	Fruit Yoghurts* *MILK or Dairy Free Yoghurt* *SOYBEAN	School Cake* *WHEAT, *MILK *SOYA *EGG	Mousse* *MILK or Raisins



Served daily: Fresh Fruit, Yogurt, Milk and Water
GF: Gluten Free



Instructions for early booking can be found on our [website/parent's page](#)

Please note: ScoPay does not allow same-day bookings – meals must be booked in advance.

Nut Free School

The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts,

We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes or in their snacks.

Please can we remind parents to cut grapes in half.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Secondary School Admissions for September 2027

*The new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of **current Year 6** children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.*

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies

Achievement Awards



Lower School

Orooluwa O Sidney S Liam B

Middle School

Gui D Mac G Elliott J

Upper School

Ewan M Zavien M Edinson T

Times Table Rock Stars

1. *Anlin SK*
2. *Erika H*
3. *Naomi O*



Community Page



*We would like to share information from our wider community including **charity fund raising**, local events and information from other relevant organisations including special offers.*

To see Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) organisations and other events visit the Community Page [Click Here](#)

Current vacancies

Chelmsford Cathedral is a busy, interesting and diverse place to work.

1 - [Visit Cathedral Site](#)

Choir Welfare Assistant

Chelmsford Cathedral is currently looking to recruit a **Choir Welfare Assistant** to join our music department.

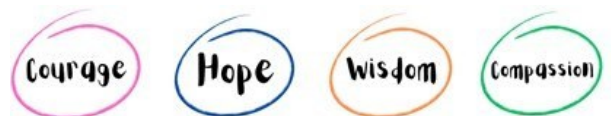
The Choir Welfare Assistant plays a vital role in the smooth and safe running of the music department, working closely with the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music to ensure that all choristers are safe, supported and cared for, and are able to flourish and reach their full potential. Strong, positive communication with parents is central to this role.

Primary responsibility for the welfare of choristers under 18, including choral scholars under 18, sits with the Precentor, the Director of Music and the Choir Welfare Assistant. The postholder will also work closely with the Cathedral Safeguarding Lead, whose guidance and support are an essential part of this role.

Full details of the role, including responsibilities and person specification, can be found in the recruitment pack (PDF) below.

The deadline for applications is 9.00am on **24 September**.
Interviews will take place on the week commencing **5 October**.

To apply please complete the application form below, along with a covering letter, with reference to the role and return
to humanresources@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk



'Flourishing together – rooted in love'
'Love one another as I have loved you' – John 13:34