



EMBARK
FEDERATION

Staffing

Alongside our new recruits, we have been fortunate to be able to keep Mrs Smith in the office for this month to ensure a smooth and effective handover.

Mrs Brandrick has also kindly returned until half term whilst we appoint new members of the team. Please see the link below for further information!

[MyNewTerm: Chaucer Junior School](#)

Chaucer Chat Newsletter – Issue 35

Monday 21st September 2026

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed for the exciting year ahead. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and it has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back into school, especially our new Year 3 pupils as they begin this important stage of their learning journey. They have settled in well and are quickly learning the expectations of the school!

We are also delighted to welcome new staff to our school community. Mrs Mill and Mrs Andrews-Burrows have quickly become part of the team and have made an excellent start, bringing energy, expertise and enthusiasm.

It has been lovely to see pupils returning ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity. We are very proud of their positive start to the academic year.

We look forward to working in partnership with all our families over the coming months and sharing the many achievements and successes that lie ahead.

Here's to a happy, successful and rewarding year for everyone!

Miss Smith



School Dinners

As many of you are already aware, at the end of last year, **Embark** reviewed the catering provision across the Trust and procured a new catering company on our behalf. We welcomed our new provider, **Aspens**, at the start of this term.

As with any significant change, there have been some teething issues and we would like to thank both pupils and parents for their patience and understanding.

Despite this, the overall response has been positive and staff have commented on the quality of the meals being served. It has been encouraging to see pupils engaging with the new menu, embracing the change and enjoying the food on offer.

We greatly value feedback and want to reassure you that any comments that have been shared with us have been passed to Aspens for their consideration.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together with Aspens and Embark to provide the best possible lunchtime experience for our children.



Safeguarding Resources

September is always a busy time in schools when it comes to safeguarding, with significant changes to statutory guidance such as **Keeping Children Safe in Education**.

For parents, the start of a new school year often brings new devices, apps and increased online independence. The NSPCC's Online Safety Hub provides guidance for parents on social media, gaming, parental controls, online wellbeing and conversations about staying safe online. It also includes age-specific advice and support for children with SEND:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Please remember that we aim to be a phone-free school and that children are only permitted to bring phones to school for safety purposes if they are walking alone.

Use the following link to consent to your children bringing their phone to school:

[Consent for Mobile Phones \(26-27\) – Fill in form](#)

Key Dates

Wednesday 23 rd September	Embark West End trip*
Monday 5 th October	Year 5 Egyptian day
5 th – 9 th October	SEND parents' evenings
Wednesday 7 th October	Y2 Open evening
Thursday 15 th October	White Hall Parents' meeting
Monday 20 th October	Year 4 Roman Day
Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day
Half term: 26th – 30th October	
Tuesday 3 rd November	Individual photos
4 th – 6 th November	Y6 White Hall residential
Friday 6 th November	Year 3 Diwali day
Wednesday 11 th November	Parents' evening
Wednesday 18 th November	Flu immunisations
Friday 4 th December	Report assessment to parents
Thursday 10 th December	Y3/4 Christmas performance
Monday 14 th December	Topic open afternoon
Wednesday 16 th December	Choir Christmas Concert
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas!

Please note: all dates are subject to change & events with an asterisk are for only some children.

Email: info@chaucer-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk

Tel: 0115 9324387

Website: www.chaucerjunior.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChaucerJun/>

Address: Cranmer Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5JH