



Perryfields Junior School

The Friday Flyer

Week 7 – October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge well done to Charlie, Evan, Ayan and Aarav, who ran an allergy-friendly cake sale this week to raise money for The Natasha Foundation. Every cake sold out, and the boys showed fantastic teamwork, care, and awareness of allergy safety. Special thanks to Charlie and Evan for baking at home and to everyone who helped make the event such a success. We're so proud of their efforts—they raised an impressive £57 from just one bake sale!

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children stepped back in time to experience life as WWII evacuees. They learned about wartime precautions, old currency and the realities of rationing before visiting a traditional dairy, butcher and greengrocer with their ration books in hand. It was a fascinating and memorable day that truly brought history to life. A huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who supported the activities—your enthusiasm and time helped make the day so special for the children.

Today, our Year 4 pupils enjoyed immersing themselves in the world of Ancient Greece. They took part in hands-on activities such as making medicines, crafting mosaics, creating wax melts and designing pendants. The day ended with an authentic Greek feast and entertainment—a brilliant way to bring their learning to life. Thank you also to the parents who generously gave their time to support this event—it was greatly appreciated and helped make the experience even more enjoyable for the children.

As the autumn weather turns colder, please make sure children are bringing warm coats to school so they can stay cosy and enjoy their outdoor playtimes.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend—wrap up warm and stay safe!

Mrs S Edwards



Pupil of the Week

Cowell: Demir
Seuss: Jyothis
Dahl: Charlie
Lewis: Finley
Walliams: Phoebe
Rowling: Aarvi
Tolkien: Isabelle
Morpurgo: Kai
Pullman: Olivia

Award for
Outstanding Manners
Leah – Lewis Class
Zaviar – Morpurgo Class

PE Award
Flo – Walliams Class

Mrs Siddall's Attendance Award
Lewis Class – 100%

ATTENDANCE

The national expectation for attendance is 96%. The government has clarified the position regarding the term 'regular' attendance. It means children must be in school **EVERY DAY**. Every second counts at Perryfields. We **must** work together to improve attendance and punctuality even more.

Year 3	98.4%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	98.7%



Coming Up This Half Term

Monday 20 th October	Parents Evening – email sent 9/10/25
Tuesday 21 st October	Life in Saxon Britain workshop year 5 – email sent 10/9/25
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents Evening – email sent 9/10/25
Thursday 23 rd October	Year 6 Enterprise Day – email sent 8/10/25
Thursday 23 rd October	Break the Rules Day! – email sent 6/10/25
Thursday 23 rd October	Last Day of Term – school closes at the normal time of 3.15pm. LAMDA & Handball will be running
Friday 24 th October	INSET DAY

Reminders/Notices

Harvest Festival: We are collecting for the Chelmsford Food Bank – please bring donations to the school office. Thank you.

PE Kits: Children should have a pe kit in school every day. Children should be able to remove earrings on their own.

Please see below our menu.

Please note that we can also provide a packed lunch if your child would prefer this. This will be either the baguette, wrap or soft roll and also includes a drink, fruit, cucumber sticks and the dessert of the day.

		Week: Two			
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Main course	Meat	Macaroni & Cheese	Oriental Chicken	All Day Breakfast Sausage	Ham & Cheese Quiche
	Vegetarian	Macaroni & Cheese	Oriental Meat Free Strips	Meat Free Sausage	Cheese Quiche
	Gluten Free	Macaroni & Cheese	Oriental Chicken	Gluten Free Sausage	Cheese Quiche
	Jacket Potato	Beans & Cheese	Beans & Tuna	Tuna & Cheese	Cheese & beans
	Side Dish	Garlic Bread	Noodles	Scrambled Eggs Hash Browns Beans	New Potatoes
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Green Beans Carrots Salad Bar	Mushrooms Tomatoes	Sweetcorn & Peas Salad Bar
	Packed Lunch	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)
	Dessert	Rocket lolly	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Blueberry & Lemon Muffins
	Drinks	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adapt it soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment. Ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate, it's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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**Families
InFocus** Essex

Understanding special needs



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Connect, Share and Support

Are you looking for support, advice or just a place to connect with other SEND Parent/Carers? Join our friendly support group where we share experiences, offer guidance and find encouragement from others who understand.

Whether you're facing specific challenges or just looking for a supportive SEND community, we'd love you to join us!

**20th
October
2025**



Where
Christ Church
164 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW