



April 2026

Right of the month is Article 37: No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel and harmful way.

Our school value for next half term is

Kindness

Summer Term Diary Dates

Thurs 2nd Apr	School closes for Easter
Mon 20th April	Summer Term begins
Thurs 23 rd April	5JW class assembly
Tues 28 th April	3AM Class assembly
Wed 7 th May	1KP Class assembly
Fri 8 th May	Class photograph day
Mon 11 th –15 th	Year 6 SATS
Mon 11 th May	Y2 Elizabeth Gaskell House
Tue 12 th May	Y2 Elizabeth Gaskell House
Fri 15 th May	Nurse Farm Visit
Thurs 21 st May	2FM assembly
Fri 22nd May	Cultural Diversity Day
Fri 22nd May	School closes for half term
Mon 1st June	INSET day School closed
Tues 2nd June	Term begins



Year 2 took part in a VR workshop. The children absolutely loved it, a great way to support learning. The session focused on different areas of the

world and how climate change, plastic pollution, fast fashion and other issues were causing damage. The children also learnt how we as humans can make a difference

#article17 #article24



Year 5 took part in an amazing science workshop at Chorlton High School on Wednesday 25th March. They have been working with the science department this term on a sustainability project. We were blown away by their contributions and expert knowledge.

Year 3 Year 3 have had a very busy half term, we



have been to The Lowry as part of our art and geography learning, had a workshop in school with Biffa and been having specialist gymnastics lessons.

Year 4 undertook some fieldwork in Chorlton Park with some of the 'Friends', looking at the environmental improvements that have been put in place.

We have had such a busy term with lots visits and exciting events in school, including assemblies, World Book Day, Science Week, International Women's Month, workshops, Eco work, Debating competition, sporting events, Simply Cycling at Longford Park and work with Biffa (Year 3) as well as such a lot of super learning!

Thank you to ALL the school staff who make this happen.

Iftar meal

We enjoyed a wonderful evening breaking fast and enjoying an Iftar dinner together as a school community on Thursday 12th March. Thank you to everyone who came, for sharing food and for all of those people who helped organise, set up and clear away



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Chorlton Park Great Big Readathon 2026

Write down every book/magazine that you read over the course of the Readathon on the reading log that has been sent home. Don't forget to write down how long you read for! Ask for someone to sponsor you for every 15 minutes you read between Friday 3rd of April and Monday 20th of April. You can fill out the amount people are sponsoring you on the SPONSOR FORM and then collect the money at the end. Make sure you hand this in as the class that reads for the most minutes will win a prize! All the money raised will go to replenishing book stocks and improving the gym. at collection time.



Parking Plea

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children attending our after-school clubs, we would like to remind you of the procedures that must be followed

1. Parents/Carers must collect children in person and not from your car

Please come to the door of the club to collect your child directly from the club leader.

For safeguarding reasons, children will not be permitted to walk across the car park or approach cars unaccompanied, even if you are visible from the door. It is a very busy time for the club leader and they cannot be responsible for ensuring your child reaches your vehicle safely.

2. Car engines must be switched off – No Idling
All engines must be switched off while waiting. Idling contributes to air pollution, which affects children's health, and creates unnecessary noise around the school site. Turning engines off also helps keep the area safer and calmer for children leaving clubs.

Unnecessary engine idling is **against the law**.

Why these rules matter

- Allowing children to walk across the car park unaccompanied creates a significant risk due to moving vehicles and limited driver visibility.
- Engine idling contributes to air pollution, which is linked with serious health impacts, particularly for children.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe and responsible school environment.

Smartphone workshop

On Monday 23 March, we were delighted to welcome Dr Sarah Wilks from PAPAYA (Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents) to Chorlton Park Primary. Dr Wilks presented powerful evidence on how excessive screen use can affect children's and young people's mental health,

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drawing attention to the risks linked to social media and phone addiction. She explained how many apps are intentionally designed to keep us hooked, using likes, followers and short-form content to trigger dopamine rewards that make it harder to put our phones down.

Dr Wilks spoke to parents about how they can best support their children's use of technology, equipping them with practical strategies to make positive changes. She discussed recent studies into the links between depression in young people and the amount of time spent on smartphones, highlighting key statistics on cyberbullying, loneliness and poor self-esteem.

You can view the slides from the parent talk here: [slides](#). Below are the key takeaways.

- **Teenagers** spend a lot of time online. In the UK, the average is around 4.5 hours a day. Over a lifetime, that adds up to 14.3 years online - so setting healthy habits early really matters.
- **Delay the smartphone if you can.** Many families choose to wait until around age 14. There's no rush - children can stay connected in other ways.
- **If your child already has a phone,** keep communication open and set clear boundaries. Talk regularly about staying safe online - whom they speak to, what they see, what they share, and how their screen time makes them feel. These ongoing conversations help you understand their experiences and make sure you're working together, not against each other.
- **Be clear about who owns the device.** Try not to give phones, tablets or laptops as birthday or holiday gifts. When a device feels like a "present", children often see it as theirs, which makes rules harder to follow. Instead, introduce a device as a practical tool that belongs to you, which they can use under agreed family rules.

- **Use parental controls - but don't rely on them alone.** Safety filters and app settings are useful tools, but they work best alongside supervision, guidance and regular conversations. Think of them as support, not a complete solution. It also helps to check the apps on your child's device regularly and talk together about whether those apps are positive, safe and age-appropriate.
- **Extend your family rules to visitors.** Let friends and relatives know your expectations when their children visit. For example, you might explain that all visiting children are asked to leave their phones in the kitchen so everyone can play, relax and stay safe without devices.
- **Create screen-free spaces at home.** These help everyone switch off and stay connected as a family.
 - Keep internet-connected devices in communal areas.
 - Charge phones and tablets outside the bedroom overnight.
 - If you can, avoid using your phone during meal times.

Useful resources

If you'd like to explore the topic further, here are some helpful places to start:

- [Digital Parenting Guide](#) – practical tips and tools for families
- [Common Sense Media](#) - helps you understand whether films, apps, games and online platforms are appropriate for children
- [Papaya](#) – explore the latest research on the digital challenges families face
- [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) – guides, tools and inspiration for families; includes the [Parent Pact](#)
- Find your local Smartphone Free Childhood [WhatsApp Group](#)

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Upcoming event: Smartphone-Free stall at the Summer Fête (Saturday 27th June 12-3pm)

We will be hosting a stall at the school summer fair where you can explore alternatives to smartphones, browse books for children and parents, and take part in a fun competition with prizes. We'd love to see you there - come and say hello!

Books & Beats!

Looking for something to keep the kids entertained this, Easter? Come join us at the beautiful House of Books & Friends for a morning of musical storytelling designed especially for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

When: Saturday, 11 April | 10:30 – 11:30am

Who: Children aged 6 – 11 & their families

Led by: Our fabulous workshop leader, Beth Bishop

Special Guests: The team from Read Manchester & Manchester Libraries handing out bookmarks, materials, and reading a featured book from the National Literacy Trust *I See Myself* campaign – a curated booklist featuring 25 inspiring titles that celebrate neurodivergent characters and experiences.

This is a relaxed, interactive session where stories meet music – a perfect way to inspire creativity, connection, and a love of reading.

To apply for free tickets please email Lara Bland

Lara.Bland@thegunnercookefoundation.com

Message from Manchester City Council

Join our Family Friend WhatsApp group

It's for people who live in the city and want to know about free help and fun things to do with children and teenagers.

In the group, you'll receive messages straight to your phone. These messages cover:

- Help with money and living costs.
- Free things like data SIM cards and Wi-Fi.
- Extra childcare that's paid for
- Health tips and advice.
- WhatsApp information

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/people-and-communities/join-our-family-friend-whatsapp-group>

British Cycling Easter Track Cycling Sessions are now open for sign-ups! This fun, beginner- friendly sessions are perfect for 10-14year olds who can ride a bike and want to try track cycling.

The **Free Track Cycling Taster Sessions** are running on **Monday 13th April for 10-14 year olds**. The spaces for these sessions are limited and sign up is by a Microsoft form here: [Free Easter Half Term Track Cycling Sessions – Fill in form](#)



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