



NEWSLETTER



RECEPTION: 01363 83292

www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk

EMAIL: admin@lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk

15 September 2025

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

A very big welcome back to all our lovely families and a very warm welcome to all the new families joining our school this year. Our term has started with a bang as children have launched straight into their learning and I am incredibly impressed with our new Reception children who have begun their formal education and settled into school so well.

As well as new children, we have also welcomed Miss Atkinson to our school community this year. She is covering Mrs Cookson's maternity leave in Kingfishers and is enjoying getting to know her new class. I'm sure you will want to join me in offering our congratulations to Mrs Cookson and husband Joe who welcomed baby Nora Joy Cookson into the world during the summer holidays. The children are eagerly awaiting a visit from Mrs Cookson and Nora later in the term. In Mrs Cookson's absence, I will be taking care of SEND so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any SEND concerns or queries.

School Council

During our first week back, the children in Herons class elected the children who they wanted to represent them in school council this year. Miss Atkinson has volunteered to lead the fortnightly meetings and the elected children are very excited about the difference they intend to make this year. Lapford School Council 2025-2026 are Reece Rimington, Matilda Wright, Dakota Walker and Bonnie Madden.



In our first celebration assembly on Friday, we were delighted to also award badges for our school monitor positions.

House Captains:	William Wensley, Reece Rimington and Izzy Kovacic
Digital Leaders:	William Wensley and Zeph MacLellan
Assembly Monitors:	Reece Rimington and Hollie Wilder
Librarians:	Izzy Kovacic, Florence Mills, Matilda Wright and Bonnie Madden

Next Monday, 22nd September, is our first open event of the school year. We are inviting families to join us in school from 9:00-10:30am to find out about how we teach reading at Lapford. For families of children in Robins, this will include a Phonics Workshop and then watching part of a Phonics lesson. For the older classes, parents and carers are welcome to pop into classrooms to see a typical reading lesson. We hope you are able to join us.

Have a wonderful week
Mrs Wright



What's on 15-19 September

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 15 September		Hérons swimming	Ms Bloch flute lessons	3:30 - 4:30pm Yrs2-6 Handball Club
Tuesday 16 September				
Wednesday 17 September				
Thursday 18 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herons Forest School Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Craddock keyboard & violin lessons • Mr White drum lessons 	
Friday 19 September				



What's on 22-26 September

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 22 September	9:00 - 10:30am Nursery/ Reception Phonics Workshop and Yrs1-6 Reading Open Morning	Hérons swimming	Ms Bloch flute lessons	3:30 - 4:30pm Yrs2-6 Handball Club
Tuesday 23 September	9:00 - 10:30am Stay & play sessions resume			
Wednesday 24 September				
Thursday 25 September			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Craddock keyboard & violin lessons • Mr White drum lessons 	
Friday 26 September				

At the beginning of the school year, I would like to update you on our school priorities for the coming year.

1. Writing

To raise standards in writing across the school by embedding high-quality teaching of writing, with a particular focus on guided writing strategies, ensuring that all pupils make strong progress and develop as confident, creative, and accurate writers.

2. Early Years

To provide high-quality, nurturing Early Years provision that supports every child's holistic development from 9 months to 5 years. Our aim is to create a seamless Early Years journey where children thrive academically, socially, physically, and emotionally in an inspiring environment that prepares them for lifelong learning.

3. Christian Distinctiveness

As a new Church of England primary school, our ethos is shaped by the national Church of England Vision for Education which calls us to educate for Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity. We are committed to ensuring that our Christian foundation is lived out daily, shaping the experiences, opportunities and relationships across our school. Through embedding Christian distinctiveness, we aim to ensure that every child flourishes academically, socially, and spiritually within a nurturing environment.

I will be updating you regularly on the progress towards our school improvement priorities and letting you know how you can help us to succeed. 2025 – 2026 is set to be a hugely exciting time for Lapford Primary School and will include our relaunch as St Thomas of Canterbury CE Primary School and a planned expansion of nursery places to include children from 9 months. There is so much to look forward to!

Mrs Wright



Choosing a secondary school for September 2026 entry?
Find out why we have such a great reputation.



Why Choose Chulmleigh College?

Top Academic Achievement

- Progress 8 score of +0.81 (2024) – top 5% nationally
- Consistently outstanding GCSE results over the last 10 years
- Ofsted: "Good" with potential for "Outstanding"

Open Evening
Thursday 25 September 2025
4.30pm to 7.00pm

- Tours of the College
- Interactive activities
- Showcasing of pupils' work
- Address by Neil Payne, Headteacher, at 6.30pm

Safe, Supportive & Aspirational Environment

- Pupils feel happy, safe, and proud (Ofsted)
- 95% of parents agree their child is thriving (Ofsted)

Open Mornings
Tuesday 30 September or
Thursday 2 October 2025
11.15am - 1.00pm

Come and see the College in action

- Tours of the College
- Meet the Senior Leadership Team

Strong Values & Ambitious Ethos

- Motto: Nihil Quam Optime – "Nothing but our best"
- Culture of compassion, ambition and teamwork

Rich Curriculum & Vibrant Enrichment

- Broad range of subject provision to GCSE level
- Diverse clubs: Lego robotics, sports, drama, music, chess
- Active Pupil Senate & Year 11 leadership roles
- Outdoor excellence: Ten Tors & Duke of Edinburgh

Outstanding Leadership & Inclusive Support

- Expert teachers fostering independent, resilient learners
- Tailored support for SEND & disadvantaged pupils
- Focus on reading fluency and curriculum access for all

Out of catchment area?

- Priority given to pupils from Chulmleigh Academy Trust primary schools
- Subsidised bus transport routes available



To book please visit: www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk
Or click on the links above

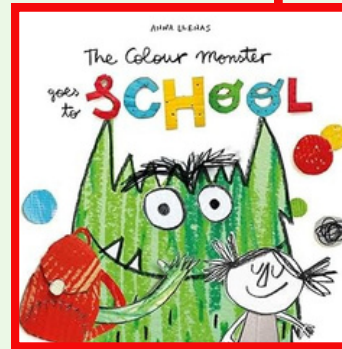
We look forward to meeting you!





Robins have had a fabulous time settling into the new school year and our new starters have been so brave and slotted in like they have always been part of the Nest.

We have started our 'People Who Help Us' topic by looking at the adults and friends who help us at school and have been reading both 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Colour Monster Goes to School' to help us put names to our emotions and think about how we are feeling. The children come in each morning and, once they have hung up their coats and put their things away, they find the picture of their face and hang it up on the '5-Point Scale' display we have in class to help let us know how they are feeling. Although sometimes it looks like they are sad to leave their loved ones at the gate, they are full of smiles 5 minutes later when saying 'bonjour' in the register or when starting our day with a fun dance or nursery rhyme. The children have been learning 'Pat-a-cake' this week so be prepared to do this with them, too!



Robins Spotlight

Robins have started learning phonics this week and have made super strides in their learning already. We are mastering our pencil-grip and control as well as identifying simple graphemes in our reading and I'm sure they are going to go from strength to strength this year in their learning. How exciting!



All of the children in the Nest have earned so many dojos this week already – from being a good friend, to helpful tidying up, to sharing ideas and stories in ‘Show and Tell’, they have been model pupils and have listened to the Golden Rules so well, especially when going outside and in PE with Mrs Perry.

We are looking forward to getting stuck in to our ‘People Who Help Us’ topic and we are excited to learn about Doctors, Nurses and Dentists in the next couple of weeks. I'm sure you will hear all about it in the weeks to come!

Mrs Skinner & Miss Atherton



Stars of the Week 12 September 2025



Lapford Legends 12 September 2025





Please ensure your child is prepared for outdoor play by having a coat and welly boots in school. Hats and gloves will also be needed as our weather gets colder. Please ensure that these items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

All children in Reception to Year 6 have their own designated space in our welly boot shed for their boots, which they can use at playtimes and for Forest School.

FREE Breakfast Club Reception to Year 6

ALL pupils from Reception to Year 6 can book into our FREE 8:30am Breakfast Club. Please go to MyEd to select your days!



Lapford Breakfast Club Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Beans on Toast	Bagels	Sausage Baps	Toasted Teacakes	Scrambled Eggs on Toast
				

- Toast
- Crumpets
- Selection of Jams & Spreads

- Fresh Fruit
- Yoghurt
- Cereals

- Milk
- Apple Juice
- Orange Juice
- Water

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY!

HELP YOUR SCHOOL RECEIVE EXTRA FUNDING

Plus £30 TOP-UP FOR SUCCESSFUL NEW APPLICANTS!

ARE YOU IN RECEIPT OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS?

If you are, please apply online for **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**.

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO APPLY, but your school may receive **EXTRA FUNDING**. Successful **NEW** applications made between **01.07.25** and **01.10.25** will receive a **£30 MyEd+Pay** account top-up.

ELIGIBLE BENEFITS:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based and contribution-based JSA or ESA on an equal basis
- Income Support (IS)
- Income based jobseekers allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related employment and support allowance (IRESA)
- Child Tax Credit
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

It takes less than a minute to apply.

Visit: https://online.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE or call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY IS A **CURRENT** OR **PAST** MEMBER OF THE **ARMED FORCES**

Your school can receive **EXTRA FUNDING** if a parent has served any time in the last 6 years, or is in receipt of pensions under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN **ADOPTED CHILD**, A **RESIDENCE ORDER**, OR A **SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER**

Your school can receive **EXTRA FUNDING**.

If you have any queries, please speak to the admin staff at your school. Any information shared will be treated confidentially.



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Teaching Assistant
Temporary, part time (30 hpw x 39 wpa)
at Chulmleigh Community College
Grade C - £13.26 - £13.69 per hour
(depending on experience)
Required from October 2025

We are seeking to appoint a Teaching Assistant to support pupils, including those with special educational needs, to enable access to learning. You will be tenacious and committed to supporting the needs of individual pupils whilst being an excellent team player and communicator.

The role of the successful candidate will include providing help with learning tasks; feeding back to class teachers on progress made; encouraging the pupil to take responsibility for their own learning and promoting the use of strategies to support the pupil to aspire to achieve their goals. Previous experience of working with pupils with different abilities would be an advantage, but experience is not essential as relevant training will be given.

The total number of hours per week is 30, with a working pattern of Monday to Friday 8:40 am to 3:30 pm (including a 50-minute unpaid break). The post is temporary as it is subject to the continued attendance of a child with special educational needs or funding review.

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and access for all, irrespective of age, background, race, gender, religion, ability, disability, or sexuality. We welcome applications for employment from the whole community.

The job description, application form and information about our dynamic and caring school are available on our [website](#)

Please download and complete the application form and email it to personnel@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk by 10 am Monday, 22nd September 2025. All applications will be acknowledged.

As employers, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and in that regard, we have appropriate policies and procedures. All staff undertake a criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and interviews will include questions about safeguarding children

In line with Government guidance, we may carry out online searches against shortlisted applicants' names as part of our due diligence checks.

Closing date: 10 am Monday, 22 September 2025
Interview date: Monday, 29 September 2025



- 1 JOIN OUR LOTTERY**
- 2 BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS**
- 3 WIN CASH PRIZES**

It's As Easy As



- Join our weekly lottery from just £1 a week
- It's an easy way to support our school and help raise funds
- 40% of ticket sales go straight to our school funds
- There's a guaranteed winner every week as well as the chance to win £25,000

[Buy a Ticket](#)

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



School Lunches

MyEd + Pay

£2.61

Please order by midnight the day before

*

If you miss this deadline please provide your child with a packed lunch

www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk



CHULMLEIGH ACADEMY TRUST School Terms and Holiday Dates - 2025/2026 Academic Year

	September					October					November					December					January					February							
Collage Week:	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2		1	2	1	2		1	2	1			1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	5	12	19	26	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	2	9	16	23		
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24		
Wednesday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25	
Thursday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26	
Friday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27	

	March					April					May					June					July					August									
Collage Week:	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2		1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2		1	2	1	2						
Monday	2	9	16	23	30	1	8	15	22	29	1	8	15	22	29	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24		
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25				
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		
Thursday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		
Friday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28	

- Bank Holidays** ■
- 25 December 2025
 - 26 December 2025
 - 01 January 2026
 - 08 April 2026 (Good Friday)
 - 06 April 2026 (Easter Monday)
 - 04 May 2026 (May Day)
 - 25 May 2026 (Spring Bank Holiday)
 - 24 August 2026 (Summer Bank Holiday)
- Non-Pupil Days** ■
- Five days selected from within the term dates to be determined by the Board of Directors
- School Holidays** ■
- Occasional Holidays** ■
- Two days selected from within the term dates to be determined by the Board of Directors

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR OUR LUNCH ALLERGEN INFORMATION

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

AUTUMN MENU

Week 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pick a MAIN	Breakfast Brunch with Bacon, Sausage, Hash Brown and Beans	Pasta Bolognese with Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots and Cabbage	Chicken, Ham & Sweetcorn Pie with New Potatoes, Carrots & Peas	Fish Finger Sandwich with Roasted New Potatoes and Garden Peas
Pick a MEAT-FREE MAIN	Quorn Sausage with Hash Brown, Beans & Tomatoes	Vegetable Soft Shell Taco with New potatoes & Garden Peas	Chickpea and Sweet Potato Bake, with Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Cabbage	Cheese and Onion Quiche with New Potatoes and Peas	Veggie Finger Sandwich with Roasted New Potatoes and Peas
Pick a JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
Pick a SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Ham or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Ham or Cheese	Ham or Tuna Mayo
Pick a DESSERT	Fruit Platter Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Carrot and Courgette Chocolate Brownie Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Jelly with Mandarins Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Banana Cake Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Oaty Cookie Yogurt Fresh Fruit

We are pleased to offer a variety of allergen free options on our food menu. Although all food is prepared in a kitchen that handles most allergens and therefore we cannot guarantee that cross contamination will never occur, we do take every possible precaution to prevent this from happening.

School Lunches

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

AUTUMN MENU Week 2

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pick a MAIN	Beef Chilli with Rice, Nachos & Sweetcorn	Steak & vegetable Pie with Mash, Carrots and Peas	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots and Cabbage	Chicken Burger with Wedges and Peas	Breaded Fish with Roasted New Potatoes and Beans
Pick a MEAT-FREE MAIN	Vegetarian 5 Bean Chilli with Rice, Nachos & Sweetcorn	Falafel Wraps with Mash, carrots & Peas	Homity Pie with Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Cabbage	Plant Based Burger with Wedges and Peas	Vegetable Fajita with Roasted New Potatoes And Beans
Pick a JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
Pick a SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna or Ham	Cheese or Tuna	Cheese or Ham	Tuna or Ham
Pick a DESSERT	Iced Sponge	Meringue with Cherry Pie Filling	Chocolate Mousse	Chocolate Krispie Cake	Lemon Drizzle
	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt
	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit

We are pleased to offer a variety of allergen free options on our food menu. Although all food is prepared in a kitchen that handles most allergens and therefore we cannot guarantee that cross contamination will never occur, we do take every possible precaution to prevent this from happening.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

AUTUMN MENU Week 3

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pick a MAIN	Pepperoni Pizza with Wedges & Salad	Sweet and Sour Chicken with Rice & Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots & Cabbage	Chipolata Sausage with Mash, Gravy, Carrots & Peas	Fish Fingers or Salmon Bites with Diced Potatoes & Beans
Pick a MEAT-FREE MAIN	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Wedges & Salad	Singapore Noodles	Broccoli and Cheddar Quiche with Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cabbage	Vegetarian Sausage with Mash, Gravy, Carrots & Peas	Halloumi Stuffed Pepper with Diced Potatoes & Beans
Pick a JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna mayo	Cheese or Beans
Pick a SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham
Pick a DESSERT	Fruit Platter	Waffle with Apple & Toffee Sauce	Jelly and Fruit	Flapjack	Carrot Cake
	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt	Yogurt
	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit

We are pleased to offer a variety of allergen free options on our food menu. Although all food is prepared in a kitchen that handles most allergens and therefore we cannot guarantee that cross contamination will never occur, we do take every possible precaution to prevent this from happening.