



*If we believe,
we will achieve.*

Chalkwell Hall Junior School

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W: www.chalkwellhall.co.uk

Headteacher: Andy Newnham

2nd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: The Big School Camp

We are delighted to share some exciting news about an opportunity your child will experience as they move into Year 5.

This year, we are introducing something a little different: a mini residential experience designed to help prepare the children for the longer Year 6 residential. We believe it will provide a memorable and enriching challenge, helping children build confidence, independence and teamwork skills – attributes we know will prepare them well for Year 6 and secondary education.

From **Wednesday 7th October to Friday 9th October**, the children will be taking part in The Big School Camp at The Eastwood Academy. During their stay, they will camp in tents on the school grounds and take part in a range of activities including bushcraft, orienteering, life skills sessions and team challenges. Most importantly, they will create memories and friendships that will stay with them long after the tents are packed away.

Throughout the experience, the children will be working towards earning a special Big School Camp badge, which celebrates their growth in our core values of co-operation, resilience, responsibility, enquiry, creativity and respect. These qualities will support them brilliantly as they transition into Year 5 and begin to take on greater independence and responsibility.

We are hopeful that, because the camp is local and based at The Eastwood Academy, all Year 5 children will be able to take part in this exciting experience. We believe it will be a valuable opportunity for the children to develop confidence, independence and friendships at the very start of their Year 5 journey. If there are any circumstances that may affect your child's participation, please contact the school office and we will be happy to discuss how we can support you.

[Year 5 The Big Camp - Consent and Medical Form](#)

We are very aware that many families have recently supported their children to take part in the Year 4 residential and may only just have completed those payments. We have therefore carefully considered how to make this opportunity possible while keeping costs as manageable as we can. We are also mindful that many families will begin planning and budgeting for the Year 6 residential later in the school year. For this reason, we have scheduled this experience early in Year 5 to provide as much time as possible between the two residential opportunities.

To cover the cost of the camp, including professional DBS-checked activity staff, equipment hire, food and accommodation, we are asking for a contribution of **£120**. To help spread the cost, payments will be divided into two instalments:

£30 non-refundable deposit by Friday 10th July 2026

£90 final payment by Thursday 10th September 2026





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We appreciate that every family's circumstances are different, and we would never want financial concerns to prevent a child from taking part. If you would like to discuss support or alternative payment arrangements, please contact the school office in confidence and we will do our best to help.

We are incredibly excited to offer this new experience and are confident it will provide the children with a wonderful start to their Year 5 journey, filled with adventure, teamwork and personal growth.

Kind regards,

Andy Newnham
Headteacher

