

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is one of the greatest strengths of Calthorpe, and together we have helped our learners achieve so much this year.

I am incredibly proud of our learners. Every day they demonstrate resilience, determination and kindness, making progress in ways that are unique to them. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff, whose care, expertise and commitment ensure that Calthorpe continues to be a safe, ambitious and happy place to learn.

Looking ahead

At Calthorpe, we are always looking for ways to become even better. Next year we will continue to focus on several key developments that will have the greatest impact on our learners.

- Making Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) an even stronger tool for planning learning, setting meaningful outcomes and celebrating progress.
- Continuing to develop ambitious, personalised learning that prepares every learner for adulthood and helps them achieve their full potential.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles by encouraging healthy eating, physical wellbeing and positive lifelong habits.
- Continuing to invest in our staff so they remain at the forefront of specialist practice and provide the highest quality education and care.

The wider SEND picture

Many of you will be aware of the increasing financial pressures facing SEND services, both in Birmingham and across the country. As demand for specialist provision continues to grow, schools and local authorities are facing significant challenges in ensuring that resources keep pace with need.

These pressures do have an impact on schools, including Calthorpe, and they are likely to shape how SEND provision develops over the coming years. Despite this, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue to make thoughtful decisions, use our resources wisely and work tirelessly to maintain the high standard of education, care and support that every learner deserves.

Supporting your child over the summer

The summer holidays provide an opportunity to relax and enjoy time together as a family. For many of our learners, however, maintaining some familiar routines can make a real difference.

Where possible, try to keep regular bedtimes and mealtimes, encourage opportunities for communication, independence and physical activity, and involve your child in everyday tasks. These simple routines can help make the transition back to school in September much smoother.

If you are looking for advice or support during the summer, please visit the [Support available](#) section of the Calthorpe website. There you will find useful information, resources and links to services that may be able to support your family over the holiday period.

Finally, I would like to wish our learners who are leaving Calthorpe every success as they move on to the next stage of their journey. They will always be part of the Calthorpe family, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

On behalf of everyone at Calthorpe Academy, I wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to welcoming our learners back in September for another exciting year.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mounir Meghalsi



Stronger Together: Celebrating Our IQM Flagship Status

We are delighted to share that Calthorpe Academy has retained its Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship status for inclusive education for another year.

This recognition celebrates schools that provide outstanding support for all learners and make a positive difference in their communities.

Thank you to our learners, families, staff, governors, Trust colleagues and community partners. This achievement reflects the commitment of everyone who works together to support our young people.

Highlights from this year

- More opportunities for learners through partnerships with schools, employers and community organisations.
- Continued development of our curriculum using the latest educational research.
- Sharing good practice with schools across the Trust and beyond.
- Strengthening learner voice and working closely with families to help shape services and decision-making.

What families told us

- 100% valued the parent partnership review process.
- 98.5% said their child is happy and safe at school.
- 97% said school workshops helped them feel more confident supporting their child's emotional wellbeing at home.

Families described communication as a particular strength of the school.

Looking ahead

Next year we will continue to develop outdoor learning, improve communication support, expand our outreach work and increase opportunities for parent involvement.

Thank you for being part of the Calthorpe community. Together, we continue to create a school where every learner is valued, supported and able to achieve their potential.

Laura Williams



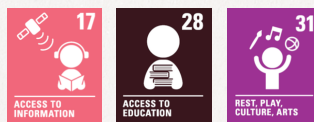
A Summer of Drama, Discovery and Engagement

It has been a busy and exciting summer term in the Engagement for Life Pathway. One of the highlights was a visit from Theatre Témoin and their interactive theatre production, FLOOD.

As part of the experience, our learners took part in a series of creative workshops, exploring UK marine species through drama, movement and puppet-making. Theatre Témoin devised a special participatory scene that enabled our learners to become a fever of skate rays, interacting with a giant lionfish puppet and playing an active role within the performance.

The project culminated in a spectacular collaborative performance for the entire pathway. We were incredibly proud of our learners for embracing such a unique and exciting opportunity with enthusiasm, confidence and creativity. Their levels of participation and engagement were outstanding and, most importantly, they thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the experience.

Aimee Prentice



A Summer of Discovery, Growth and New Experiences

It has been another busy and exciting term across the Learning for Life Department, with our learners enjoying a wide range of engaging experiences and making fantastic progress.

Our youngest learners in LI have had a wonderful time exploring through a range of play-based learning opportunities. They have shown great curiosity as they investigated sand, water and seaside objects, developing their communication, creativity and understanding of the world. As part of our EYFS curriculum, learners have been playing and exploring, actively learning and creating and thinking critically, demonstrating increasing confidence, resilience and independence as they discovered new experiences. They also enjoyed their very own Sports Day, where they enthusiastically took part in a variety of activities, celebrated their achievements and had lots of fun alongside their friends.

This term learners across the pathway have also benefited from animal therapy sessions. Learners have enjoyed meeting and interacting with a variety of animals, providing valuable opportunities to develop their social communication, turn-taking and sharing skills. They have learned how to care for animals with kindness and respect while building confidence, emotional regulation and positive relationships through these calm and rewarding experiences. It has been wonderful to see the enjoyment, engagement and sense of achievement these sessions have brought to so many of our learners.

We are incredibly proud of everything our learners have achieved this year and the enthusiasm they have shown in embracing new experiences. Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year.

Tom Willott



Foundations for Life; Active, Engaged and Achieving

Physical Wellbeing is an important part of the Foundations for Life curriculum, helping learners to develop movement skills, confidence, independence, and positive experiences of being active. Throughout the year, our learners have been encouraged to explore new challenges, build on existing skills, and apply their learning in a range of exciting real-world opportunities.

All learners in Foundations for Life Main Site enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day at Sycamore Adventure Park. From start to finish, learners demonstrated excellent levels of engagement as they participated in a variety of fun and motivating activities. They challenged themselves and celebrated their achievements with pride. The day provided a rich range of vestibular, proprioceptive, and tactile experiences, allowing learners to explore, move, and interact within a safe and supportive environment.

These sporting experiences have enabled learners to generalise and apply skills developed through our Physical Wellbeing, Independence, and Community Participation curriculum areas. Whether taking turns, following instructions, developing coordination, building confidence in unfamiliar environments, or working alongside their peers, learners demonstrated the progress they have made throughout the year.

We are incredibly proud of all our learners for the enthusiasm, determination, and positivity they showed during Sports Day. Sports day was about much more than physical activity; it was an opportunity to celebrate personal achievements, build confidence, and recognise the many successes of our learners.

Jila Chishimba



Ending the Year with Adventure and Achievement

To celebrate the end of another wonderful school year, our whole school community enjoyed a fantastic day out at Sycamore Adventure. It was a lovely opportunity for our learners to spend time together, have fun, and create special memories with their peers and the staff who have supported them throughout the year.

The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the adventure playground, taking part in activities, and making the most of the outdoor spaces. Throughout the day, it was wonderful to see learners demonstrating many of the skills they have been developing this year, including exploration, initiation, independence and communication. Whether trying something new, waiting patiently for a turn, or sharing experiences with their peers, our pupils showed just how much progress they have all made.

There were smiles, laughter and excitement throughout the day, and it was a joy to see learners from across Belgravia enjoying the experience together. The trip was a fitting way to bring the school year to a close and celebrate all that our learners have achieved over the past year.

Leanne Maguire



Summer at Oakland: A Term to Remember

As another successful academic year draws to a close, we are delighted to reflect on all that has been achieved during the Summer Term at Oakland.

This year has been particularly special as we completed our first full academic year as the Oakland School community. It has been wonderful to see our learners continue to grow in confidence, develop their independence, and make excellent progress within their daily routines and learning.

The recent warm weather has provided some fantastic opportunities for outdoor learning and recreation. Several classes have enjoyed regular visits to Oakland Park Playground, making the most of the sunshine as part of their weekly activities. We are also excited to celebrate the end of the school year with a range of fun experiences, including inflatables, ice cream, and classroom celebrations during the final days of term.

We are incredibly proud of the learners who represented Oakland at Calthorpe's Sports Day at Tudor Grange. They embraced every activity with enthusiasm, determination, and excellent sportsmanship, and each participant proudly received a medal to recognise their efforts. Congratulations to everyone who took part!

As we prepare for September, we are looking forward to welcoming both returning and new families for another exciting year of learning, growth, and achievement. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Antonio Ferraz



Growing Connections Through Sustainable Outdoor Learning

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we are making greater use of natural resources within our outdoor spaces to create meaningful learning experiences for our learners. Recently, one of our teachers attended specialist training focused on making outdoor learning more meaningful for children with PMLD, providing valuable ideas and inspiration that we are now beginning to embed across the pathway.

The ever-changing environment provides rich sensory opportunities, from feeling the warmth of the sun and wind on their skin to exploring the textures, sounds and scents of plants, leaves and other natural materials. By incorporating sustainable, nature-based activities such as storytelling with found objects, creating artwork using natural resources, and exploring sensory plants and herbs, we are helping learners develop communication, engagement and choice-making skills while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world.

Through outdoor learning, we are demonstrating how simple, environmentally sustainable resources can provide rich, inclusive learning opportunities for all, while encouraging our learners to engage with and appreciate the natural environment around them.

Aimee Prentice



Parental Engagement

As another busy and rewarding school year comes to an end, we'd like to thank all of the families who have attended our workshops and support sessions throughout the year. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers engaging with the opportunities available and working alongside us to support their children's wellbeing and development.

This term we have delivered a range of workshops and information sessions, including:

- Meditation Workshop
- Support Available Session
- PHSE/RSE Information Session
- Online Safety Workshop
- Communication Workshops

Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you found the sessions informative, practical and supportive. Your continued involvement plays a vital role in helping children thrive both at home and at school.



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Parental Engagement

Need Extra Support?

Partners across Birmingham continue to work together to provide early help and support for families. Whether you need advice around emotional wellbeing, finances, parenting or education, support is available.

You can refer yourself by completing the Birmingham Family Connect Self-Referral Form:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_childrens_partnership/2156/birmingham_childrens_partnership_-_resources

Concerned About a Child's Safety?

If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, please contact Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS):

CASS: **0121 303 1888**

Out of Hours (Emergency Duty Team): **0121 675 4806**

Concerned About a Vulnerable Adult (18+)?

Please contact Birmingham Adult Social Care:

Adult Social Care / Adult Safeguarding: **0121 303 1234**

Urgent Out of Hours: **0121 464 9001**

For more information about support available to families, please visit our school website:

<https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/support-available>

Bring it on Brum!

Bring it on Brum! Summer Holiday Clubs

Bring it on Brum! is once again offering FREE holiday clubs during the summer holidays to children aged 4–16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Holiday club dates: Monday 20 July – Friday 28 August 2026

Bookings are now open:

<https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/>

Your Bring it on Brum! Code: 307013

We hope you all enjoy a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



Masuma Rajwani



Attendance Update

Every Day Counts!

We would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Regular attendance plays a vital role in helping children achieve their full potential, build positive routines and make the most of every learning opportunity.

By working together we can give every child the best chance to succeed. Thank you for helping us make every school day count! Have a restful summer break!

Rewards

Congratulations to everyone who achieved excellent attendance this year! More than half of our students maintained an attendance rate of 90% or higher, which is a fantastic achievement.

Learners with the most improved attendance and excellent attendance have been awarded Sea Life tickets and Air Hop tickets in recognition of their commitment and achievement.

Reminder to Pupil Leave of absence (Holidays in Term Time)

6 weeks school holidays are nearly here and many parents wonder about whether they can go on holiday early or during term time. We are really clear that going on holiday in term time is unlawful unless you have the advance permission of the head teacher to do so.

By law, Pupil leave of absence (holidays) can only be granted in exceptional circumstances and because of this, almost all holiday requests are denied and parents will be issued with a fixed penalty notice or court fine by the Council.

Once parents/ carers are submitting a leave of absence request can you please contact school to ensure you have received an outcome.

So far this academic year 29 parents have received penalty notices from Birmingham City Council for taking holidays during term time and two parents has been taken to court due to unauthorised absence.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers not to book holidays during term time. Every day in school is valuable and regular attendance is essential to support children's learning, progress and wellbeing.

Birmingham Education Intervention Legal Team has advised that penalty notices are issued per parent, per child. This means that where applicable each parent may receive a separate penalty notice for each child who has an unauthorised absence.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance and would like support please contact us on

0121 773 4637

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026
Half-term: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027
Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027
Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027
Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027
Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Teacher Training Days

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 22nd February 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Wednesday 21st July 2027

The Academy will be closed for an additional Trust Training Day in May 2027 – the date for this has not yet been confirmed

Rabia Hassan

