



Our Vision is to be a...

**Caring Community,  
Courageously Learning,  
Inspired to Live Life to the Full.**



@CCIDownend

Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." | (John 10:10)

## CCI NEWS #6

## 10th October 2025

[www.christchurchinfants.co.uk](http://www.christchurchinfants.co.uk)

[christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk](mailto:christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk)

### Dates for Term 1

- Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Oct** – 3.30-6.30pm Parent/Teacher meetings
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Cheetah Library trip
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Oct** – 3.30-4.30pm New EYFS 2026 Open evening (designed for children to come along with their parents to play and explore the school)
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Crocodile library trip
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Last day of Term 1 – non-uniform/break the rule day fundraiser, enrichment session 1 and hot chocolate awards.

### Dates for Term 2

- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov** – Inset day (no sch. for children)
- Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Triple P Parenting Course starts at CCJ
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Giraffe trip to Library
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Children in Need – dress in own clothes, spots/Pudsey/Blush
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Lion trip to Library
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Individual school photos
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Panda trip to Library
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 3.45-5.15pm** - Penguin Striking festival at Mangotsfield
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 3.10pm**– Friends Christmas jumper/PJ/toy sale
- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Dec** – Tiger trip to Library
- Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 9am** – Mental Health and Well-being information session/coffee morning at CCI for both schools.
- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> & Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am** – CCJ tour for current Y2 parents
- Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am** - Parent Council meeting
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Last day of T2.

**Christmas dates later in newsletter**

### Weekly update from Anna Martin

This year, we have once again used part of our Sports Funding to buy into the CSET Sports Partnership, which has given our children some fantastic opportunities already. Through the partnership, we're able to work and compete with other schools, access high-quality coaching, and take part in a wider range of sporting activities.



This week we had Infant Agility sessions led by Alex from CSET, supported by brilliant young leaders from Year 5 at CCJ. Our Year 1 and 2 children loved the sessions, and it was wonderful to see the Year 5s showing such patience and encouragement as they guided the younger ones through the activities.

## Christ Church Schools' Partnership

This week, Year 5 children from CCJ supported the Year 1/2 children at CCI during the Infant Agility workshops led by CSET.

The older pupils took on their roles with great responsibility, showing patience, kindness, and encouragement throughout.

It was especially lovely for CCI to welcome back their former pupils, who proved to be excellent young leaders.



## SENDCO drop-ins – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October

We wanted to let you know that Mrs Jenni Rylands (our SENDCO) will be available in her office, just off the hall, on Tuesday 21st October during the Parent/Carer meetings. This is for any parents of children who are already on the SEND register or for anyone who has concerns that their child may have an additional need.

You do not need to make an appointment to see her and can just pop in to see if she is free. She will be available between 3.30-6pm. If you would rather make an appointment then please just email [jenni.rylands@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:jenni.rylands@sgmail.org.uk)

## Collective Worship

**Monday** – As part of our focus on Black History, we learnt about Mae C. Jemison, the first black woman to fly to space. We heard the story 'Mae Among the Stars' and how Mae found the courage to pursue her dream, despite being told by her teacher that it wasn't possible for someone 'like her'.



**Tuesday** – We went to Christ Church for our termly worship led by Reverend Dan Watts. He explained to the children why Christians celebrate Harvest. It was lovely to see a few families join our open worship.

**Wednesday** – Cancelled due to Infant Agility – Harvest songs practised in class instead.

**Thursday** – Cancelled due to Infant Agility – Harvest songs practised in class instead.

**Friday** – We thought about really listening to our friends and not getting distracted by other things. The GLOW team acted out a drama where someone looking at their phone half listening to a friend who is telling them about something sad that has happened to them and the friend isn't listening. They realise and say sorry, put the phone away and listen properly.

## Living the Values



**This week's school children's awards go to Zenaya in Cheetahs and Emlyn in Lions.**

Zenaya showed wonderful friendship during the Cheetah Sports Festival. When some of her peers were feeling nervous, she gave them lots of encouragement, helping them feel more confident and supported.

Emlyn has also been a fantastic friend this week, looking out for another child who needed some support. He shared games and made a real effort to include and care for them.

**The staff award goes to Mrs Newby**, who went above and beyond to care for a little Panda who hurt her chin this week. Not only did she make sure the injured child was looked after, but she also ensured all the other children continued to feel safe and cared for during that time.

**This week's children's home awards go to:**

- **Anna in Tigers** – for showing friendship to others by inviting children to play with her at the park.
- **Louie and Jasper in Penguins** – Jasper has been helping Louie get to swimming, and Louie has been caring for his mum while she recovers from a sore leg. A brilliant team effort!
- **Izzy in Zebras** – for supporting cat charities by running a fundraising stall at the weekend with her sister. A lovely example of kindness in action.

**We also have a parent award this week** – this time for **Alicia, Verity's mummy**. Alicia generously gave up her entire Monday to wallpaper one of our offices, making it a more welcoming and comforting space for the children. We are so grateful!

## Triple P Information Coffee Morning Wednesday 22nd October, 9am

This coffee morning will provide parents and carers with more information about the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. This course will offer practical strategies to help parents and carers build strong relationships with their children, manage everyday challenges and promote positive behaviour at home. The Triple P course will begin on **Tuesday, 4th November** and will run for six weeks. Sessions will take place in the CCJ Library.

Come and join us in the CCJ Library after drop off.



EYFS	Y1	Y2
<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week in Drawing Club – we have been reading the book “Would you rather?” by John Burningham. It was first published in 1978 and it has created lots of fun and interesting conversations in our classes about what we would rather! It has allowed us to respect others opinions and develop our confidence in speaking in front of an audience. We have enjoyed drawing the house, linking to 2d shapes and using our imagination to think of different types of places to sleep!</p> <p>In phonics we have learnt the next 4 sounds, I, M, N, D. We have learnt the rhymes to help us write each letter and we have used the letters learnt so far to read new words e.g. sat, pan, mad.</p>	<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week we have been continuing with ‘Where the Wild Things Are’ and we have written our own version of the story. We started the week by creating our own story maps to help us remember the key parts in the story. We changed where Max visited and what he travelled in! We have been trying really hard to use a capital letter correctly, consistent finger spaces and a full stop.</p> 	<p><b>Being an author:</b> As authors this week we have been using our altered story maps with a new character and new setting to write our own versions of 'Where the wild things are'. We have been trying to make sure we include some lovely expanded noun phrases to describe our character and setting as well as using the conjunction 'and' to join sentences throughout our story.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you write some CVC words using the sounds we have learnt?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Our challenge this week was to use ‘and’ to join words together.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> When you describe what the bedroom turned into, can you add extra information about what appeared just under the window?</p>
<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week we have been exploring careful counting skills and the importance of 1 to 1 correspondence when counting a set of objects. We have looked at 5 objects being represented in different ways but still being 5. We have looked at the numerals to 5 and ordered them to make a number line and practiced writing the numbers to 5 using the number formation rhymes.</p>	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week in Maths, we started subtraction! We have been learning how to use the first, then and now story to help us subtract. We have been learning how to write the matching calculation to the correct resource (see below). We have been subtracting within 10.</p> 	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> In maths this week we have been continuing to practise adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers where we don't cross over the ten boundary (eg. 23 +15 and 48 - 22). We have then started to learn how to add 2-digit numbers where you have to regroup 10 ones into a ten. (eg. 27 + 8 and 18 + 1). We have learned how to lay out our working out like this (eg. 26 + 18 = 34)</p> 
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you count a group of objects carefully pointing to each?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Our challenge this week was to think of our own subtraction sentences using a number line to help us.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Is this always true, sometimes true or never true? : When you add ones to a 2-digit number, (eg. 24 + 5, 24 + 8), you only change the ones.</p>
<p><b>Enquiry: ‘Who am I?’</b> This week in a circle time session we talked about our homes. We talked about the features of our houses e.g. windows, doors, roof etc. Together we looked at some examples of different types of houses and explored how to make junk model representations of our homes.</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: ‘What grows near me?’</b> This week we have enjoyed learning all about different types of animal diets. We learnt how to categorize different animals into omnivores, carnivores and herbivores. Then we moved onto creating our own ‘manifesto’ on how to keep healthy!</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: ‘What grows near me?’</b> We have finished off our enquiry 'How to live a healthy life' by creating a manifesto to encourage others to be healthy in different ways and we have completed the challenge of making a healthy soup which could contribute to a healthy life. We used the skills of peeling and chopping vegetables that we practised earlier in the enquiry to prepare the vegetables and after the soup was made, we all tried the soup and evaluated it to say what we like about it and what we would change for next time.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you draw a picture of your home and using initial sounds to label the features e.g. s-sofa, a-atic, t-table.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> We had to explain the physical features of different animals which would help us identify what type of animal it was.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> How would you make the soup even better?</p>

## Out of school Achievements



Leon recently achieving his first grading at Brazilian Jujitsu after 'showing up each week, learning techniques and really enjoying the sessions



Thomas is very proud to have been awarded his Green Blue Peter badge today for his eco work! He has been litter picking and creating safe spaces for animals and insects

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A packed lunch  
Water bottle  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!

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## Staying Safe at School – Fire and Lockdown Drills

Being safe is essential in all schools, and part of that means teaching children what to do in an emergency. At CCI, we practise two types of drill during the year:

### Fire Drill

This is simple and familiar to most children. When the alarm sounds, everyone lines up in register order at the top of the playground in silence so we can check everyone is safe.

### Lockdown Drill

This one may sound unusual, but it's important. It teaches children how to stay safe *inside* the school if there's a potential risk *outside*. During a lockdown, doors are locked, blinds closed, lights off, and children quietly hide under tables or in less visible parts of the classroom.

We've never had to use this in a real situation, and we explain it to children in a calm, age-appropriate way—such as staying safe during something like an earthquake or if someone outside is making a bad choice. Many children actually enjoy the drill, as it feels a bit like a quiet game of hide and seek.

Children who may need extra support with either drill are always prepared and supported in advance.

If you would like us to share your child's achievements of any sort, please email them to [christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk](mailto:christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk) and we will pop them on the weekly newsletter.

## **School Budget Update – Why Your Support Matters**

The **Friends of CCI** recently suggested we share a little more detail with families about our school's financial position, to help explain why we—both the school and the Friends team—rely so much on your generous donations.

**Before I go on, I want to emphasise that CCI is in a stronger financial position than many other schools in our local area.** That's because we are very fortunate to be a school that is consistently full—**225 children out of 225 places filled**. Much of our funding is allocated on a per-pupil basis, so being full is essential to maintaining our current level of funding. We're incredibly grateful to be a popular, well-attended school.

That said, like all schools, CCI receives its funding from the government via the Local Authority. Unfortunately, **South Gloucestershire** is currently the second lowest-funded out of all 151 education authorities in England, which means we are still working with significantly less than many schools elsewhere.

At CCI, **around 85% of our budget goes directly to staffing**—and this is a choice we make very deliberately. We prioritise spending on staff so that the children get the support they need, and so our experienced team (who are also more expensive due to their expertise) can continue to thrive and feel valued. Investing in our people is one of the best ways we can invest in your children.

After staffing, what's left is extremely limited. To give you an idea:

- We receive just **£6,000 per year** from the Local Authority to spend on **buildings, premises and IT**. This doesn't go far in a school building that is over 50 years old.
- We can only afford to allocate **£200 per year** to spend on essential resources like whiteboard pens, glue sticks, and exercise books.

Several years ago, our brilliant Parent Council came up with the idea of creating **Amazon Wishlists** so that families who were able to help could contribute directly to the resources each class needs. The response from our community has been nothing short of amazing.

Thanks to this generosity—alongside the tireless fundraising of the **Friends of CCI**—we've been able to continue offering children **enriching experiences**, well-resourced classrooms, and the little extras that make a big difference to school life.

We are hugely grateful to all the parents who help keep us afloat, and to **Miss Evans**, our expert School Business Manager, who ensures every penny is carefully managed to have the greatest impact possible.

**Thank you for your continued support—it truly makes a difference.**