



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 #5

## 3rd October 2025

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### Dates for Term 1

- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Flu Vaccinations, Zebra library trip, 9am SEND coffee morning with CCI
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Oct** – 10.30am Open Worship Harvest at Christ Church, 3.45-5.15pm Cheetah Target Festival
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Oct** – 9am Parent Council meeting, 2.30-3.10pm EYFS parent curriculum information sessions in classes (ch. to hall)
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Oct & 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.

### Key dates only for Term 2

- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Inset day (no sch. for children)
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – Children in Need – dress in own clothes, spots/Pudsey/Blush
- Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 9am – Mental Health and Well-being information session and coffee morning at CCI for both schools.
- 9am Parent Council
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Last day of T2.
- Christmas dates will be sent out separately!

### Weekly update from Anna Martin

I am really pleased to share that behaviour across the school has improved this week, after a sudden bout of playfighting. Children are showing kindness, respect, and care for one another, and responding well to the clear expectations we've been reinforcing. We've also been helping them understand why play fighting, even when it starts as fun, isn't safe. Thank you for supporting these messages at home.

To encourage more positive play, staff have introduced new activities at breaktimes – from creative construction to imaginative role-play – and the response has been fantastic. If you can donate any loose parts such as large building blocks, pieces of decking or plastic crates to enable this play, we'd be very grateful.



Meanwhile, our youngest children in Early Years have been discovering the joy of the school library during their active reading sessions. They've enjoyed exploring books, learning how to care for them, and beginning their journey as independent readers.



### Christ Church Schools' Partnership



On the last day of term; Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October both schools will be having a dress down day and break the rules day with suggested donations of 50p per rules broken. Christ Church Juniors will be raising money for a CCI Lego logo that we will be building with children at the Lego Event in February. Christ Church Infants will be raising money for the toilet's refurbishment. We always have great fun during a break the rules day but encourage you to speak with your child about which rules they are comfortable to break 😊

## Break the rules day – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct

To help create a more consistent experience for families across both schools, we've decided to turn the usual non-uniform day on the last day of term into a 'Break the Rules' day! Both schools will be fundraising for their own causes – at CCI, the money raised will go towards our ongoing toilet refurbishment project.

Children can choose to "break" any of the rules below, with each rule costing 50p. Payments can be made via ParentPay or by sending the money in with your child.

### Here are the rules they can break:

1. Wear what you want
2. Spray-colour your hair, wear a different hairstyle or wig (must be done at home)
3. Bring a toy or teddy to school
4. Wear face paint or make-up
5. Wear a temporary tattoo
6. Bring an unhealthy snack
7. Have a different drink in your water bottle (no fizzy drinks)
8. Wear a funny hat
9. Wear a sports kit or club uniform

If your child doesn't wish to take part, they can simply wear their own clothes as they would on a normal non-uniform day. They won't stand out – so please don't worry!

## Collective Worship

In October, we will be learning all about Black History. This is a special time in UK schools when we celebrate and share stories about inspiring Black individuals who have made a big difference in the world.

At our school, we always make sure to include stories from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds in our collective worship and teaching. However, having a focus during Black History Month gives us a special opportunity to talk with the children about fairness, equality, and the importance of treating everyone with respect.



## Living the Values



This week the school **children's awards** Ted in Cheetah Class. He came for a HT award and when one of his classmates also came in, he started telling me what other brilliant things the friend had done that day.

The **staff award** goes to Miss Essex for working two extra days this week to cover Mrs Jenkins absence, so that Lions had consistency.

The **children's home awards** go to;

**Carys in Cheetahs** – by replacing a friend's picture with her own when a little brother ripped it.

**Robyn Griffiths in Cheetahs** - has two this week! The first is for showing friendship to her classmate Ffion by walking with her to school and giving her a friendship note. She has also been bravely making new friends at a theatre school, despite lots of them being much older.

**Verity in Giraffes** - has shown great bravery towards friendships recently where she has joined new groups and clubs. She has helped others to be brave in making new friendships too, explaining that they don't always have to be best friends forever, sometimes you might just be friends for a small play, a short story or even a song!

**Jasper in Lions** - had two friends over to play who she no longer sees very much and she really remembered how to be a good friend.

**Thea in Pandas** - has shown a real increase in offering support and help to her little sister since joining Christ Church. An example being at dinner when her sister was coughing during dinner she leaned over to pat her back and offered her water.

**Rocco in Cheetahs** - for inviting Robyn for a playdate with his family this week.


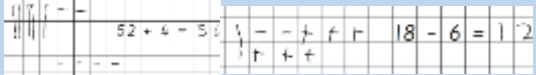
**Jacob in Penguins** - has shown wonderful friendship to Luca. Every night, Luca snuggles up and Jacob reads him a story. It has been lovely to see how kind he is being to his little brother.

**Matteo in Giraffes** - has been a wonderful friend to his sister, looking after her and sharing his toys. He also showed great empathy and friendship toward his mum when she cut her finger badly over the weekend.

**Zachary in Crocodiles** – for noticing that his sister was sad that he had the last ice-cream and, even though it is his favourite thing, giving it to her instead.

We have another **parent award** this week – this time it goes to **Sienna's mummy Suzy**. Suzy went out of her way to get hold of some swimming noodles for free for us as she noticed we didn't have many in the pool. Thank you Suzy!



EYFS	Y1	Y2
<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week we have been exploring the book 'Mixed' by Arree Chung. It is a book about the primary colours and has wonderful messages of love and friendship. We have had great fun colour mixing, drawing some of the characters from the story and labelling with the initial sound for example: 's' for his lovey smile.</p> <p>In phonics we have been recapping the sounds S, A, T, P. We have practiced the letter formation as well as playing word building games to blend the sounds to make short words.</p>	<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week in writing, we have been learning how to use the conjunction 'and' to join words together, to make our sentences longer. We wrote a sequence of sentences describing the wild thing from the story! We have also been working on our handwriting, we have been practicing the letters, r, v, and w.</p>	<p><b>Being an author:</b> As authors, we have been starting to think about what we can change about the story of 'Where the wild things are' to create our own story based on this well known story. This week we have been thinking about and creating a new setting and a new character and have come up with some expanded noun phrases to describe them. We have then used these expanded noun phrases in sentences and used the conjunction 'and' to join 2 sentences together to become a compound sentence.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> We have challenged ourselves to write some CVC words in our special drawing club books e.g. pat, tap, sat etc. Can you write these words?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Our challenge this week was to use a range of adjectives in our writing to describe a noun.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you change any of your adjectives to even better ones? (eg. Vast sky rather than big sky)</p>
<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week in EYFS we have been learning about patterns! We have used a wide variety of resources to create patterns such a conkers, pine cones and sticks! We have talked about patterns being ABABAB or challenged ourselves to create more complex patterns e.g. AABAAB</p>	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week in Maths we have used a range of different resources to add within 10. We started the week by using the first, then, now stories to tell the story addition. Then we had to write the matching number sentences.</p> 	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> As mathematicians we have been learning how to add and subtract ones and tens to 2-digit numbers (not yet crossing over the 10 boundary). Examples are: 23+5, 47-3, 13+20, 54-30. We have learnt how to draw these out in our books neatly:</p> 
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you make a pattern at home using resources from around your home?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> We tried to work out what the missing part of the first, then and now story was. For example 'first there were 5, then 2 were added on, what is the missing part?'</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Read a word problem and see if it will be an addition or subtraction question.</p>
<p><b>Enquiry: 'Who am I?'</b> This week we have talked about being a Philosopher and how we all have different opinions and interests. We looked at the book 'You Choose' and explained our own choices and gave reasons why.</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: 'What grows near me?'</b> This week we have been learning how to cut different fruit and vegetables safely. We learnt how to use the claw grip to ensure we didn't cut our fingers! Then we moved onto learning all about different animals and their food groups.</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: 'What grows near me?'</b> This week we have recapped what herbivores, carnivores and omnivores are. We have practised peeling and chopping up vegetables safely in preparation for making soup next week and we have thought about which vegetables might be tasty in a healthy soup.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you explain your perfect: Meal, House, Holiday etc. and give reasons why?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> As a challenge, we had to think of different characteristics of animals to group them in different ways.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you remember 2 animals of each herbivore, carnivore and omnivore?</p>

## Out of school Achievements



Grace received her stage 2 certificate for swimming this weekend and is excited to be moving to stage 3 in the big pool!



## School Budgets and donations

Thank you to the parents who came along to the Friends AGM on Tuesday. It was wonderful to hear how much money the Friends (and families who donate so generously) raised for the school so that we could organise lovely events such as theatre trips and music workshops.

We are forever grateful to our Friends and our incredible families as we are only able to do all of the wonderful things that we do because of this.

The Friends and Parent Council always urge me to share the reality of our school budget so on next week's letter I will explain what our funding gets spent on and why school's have to ask parents for so much help.

## Mental Health & Well-being award

We are delighted to have been awarded the South Glos Mental Health and Well-being Award and received strong praise for our application. The letter we received is attached the newsletter email but here are the headlines;

- Clear policies and curriculum intent that are well-aligned to the school's values and ethos.
- Synergy and connectedness between our vision, policies and actions – we live out what we say we will and we act when feedback tells us we can do better.
- Staff well-being is a priority and this has been documented through Ofsted and SIAMS inspections.
- We have improved our support of parents in this area, with a new webpage, policy and planned coffee morning.
- We support children well with effective interventions.

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.