



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 #3

## 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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

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

### Dates for Term 1

- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Penguin trip to the Library, Experience Harvest Zebra and Cheetah Y2
- Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Experience Harvest Penguin
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Flu Vaccinations, Zebra library trip, 9am SEND coffee morning with CCJ
- 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 day, enrichment session 1 and hot chocolate awards.

### Y2 tours of Christ Church Juniors

- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am
  - Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am
- Please book these by calling the CCJ office on 01454 866516

## Christ Church Schools' Partnership

We're excited to invite parents from both schools to a **shared coffee morning at CCJ on Wednesday 24th September**. This will be a great opportunity to meet other parents, enjoy a warm drink, and learn more about the upcoming **Triple P – Positive Parenting Program**. The Triple P course will begin at CCJ on **Tuesday 4th November** and will run for **6 weeks**. It's designed to support families in building confidence and skills to manage parenting challenges in a positive and practical way.

We understand how tough parenting can be at times, especially when behaviour is challenging. Whether or not you decide to join the full course, we hope this coffee morning offers a space to connect, share experiences, and leave feeling a little more supported.

### Weekly update from Anna Martin

It has been wonderful to see the children become totally engrossed in their learning this week, through careful planning and delivery by the staff. In Y1 the children have been learning about the story 'Where the Wild things are' they made masks and planned a party as part of their learning. This worked brilliantly to 'live' the story before they wrote about it, leading to some really purposeful writing.



The Y1/2 enquiry 'How can we live a healthy life?' was launched this week with some vegetable soup and smoothies tasting. The children loved trying to guess what ingredients had been used to make the foods and rate them out of 10. This really helped them to try new foods and hopefully make healthier choices as they grow up.



## Celebrating Our Diverse and Welcoming Community

As a school at the heart of our local community, we want to take a moment to celebrate the kindness, openness, and diversity that make our school such a special place for all families.

We know that national events or symbols—like flags or celebrations—can mean different things to different people. While many display flags with pride and positive intention, we also understand that for some, especially those new to the area or from different backgrounds, this can feel unfamiliar or even unsettling.

At CCI and CCJ, we are proud to be places where everyone belongs. We are committed to making every child and every family feel safe, valued, and welcome—regardless of background, ethnicity, or heritage.

Thank you to all our families for continuing to show warmth and respect to one another. It's through small everyday actions—kind words, open conversations, and helping hands—that we build a truly inclusive community for our children to grow and thrive.

## Collective Worship

**Monday** – Mrs Rylands told the children the story of 'The Last Chip', a story of a little pigeon who is starving and the only person who helps him is a young person who is unhoused and is sleeping on the streets. It is an excellent example of friendship and putting others first.

**Tuesday** – The hall was in use so the Y1/2 classes had class worship instead. The teachers talked to the children how important it is to show friendship to everyone, even if they behave differently to them.

**Wednesday** – Miss Gould led our weekly Achievement worship and gave out the values awards and first reading raffle winners.

**Thursday** – Mr Jones talked to the children about using encouraging words that build friendship rather than discouraging words that can destroy it. The new GLOW team led a drama in front of the school that illustrated this point really clearly.

**Friday** – Mr Jones told the children about Nicky Winton, who helped to rescue hundreds of refugee children during WW11. This encouraged them to explore their own spirituality and thinking about others.

## Living the Values

This week the school **children's awards** go to Leah in Cheetah Class and Darcie in Penguin Class. Leah has been showing consistent friendship to the Y1 children in her class by supporting and guiding them in a very gentle way. Darcie was very supportive to Tabitha when she had an issue earlier this week. Darcie was also nominated by another parent because she was so kind when her child had hurt themselves.

The **staff award** goes to Miss Evans for showing friendship to a family in urgent need or transport to school. Miss Evans always goes above and beyond for our families and it is so appreciated.

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

**Alfie in Panda Class** – for showing friendship to his little brother Reggie by being patient and kind.

**Tilly in Zebra Class** – for showing friendship to others at Beavers even though she was nervous about being new herself.

**Bodie in Tiger Class** – by showing friendship to his little sister by including her in their family games and at story time.

**Faye in Panda Class** – for showing friendship to the younger children her mummy childminds for, by playing with them and sharing her own toys.

**Darcie in Tiger Class** – for always showing friendship to her little brother when he misses her, no matter how tired she is.

**Hugo in Giraffes** – for showing friendship at a recent party when he only knew one person there but understanding that he needed to share his friend to be kind to them.

**Demi in Penguin Class** – for showing friendship to her new football team by encouraging them and supporting the whole team despite being new and feeling a bit nervous.

This week we are also giving out a **family values award** to the Davis family. They stepped in to help out a family who needed urgent help to move and it was such a wonderful example of friendship.

## Mental Health Matters

At CCI, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and well-being of our pupils, their families and the staff. We have a supportive and caring ethos and our approach is respectful and kind, where each individual and contribution is valued. At our school we know that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable and at times, anyone may need additional emotional support. We take the view that positive mental health is everybody's business and that we all have a role to play.

We recognise that children's mental health is a crucial factor in their overall well-being and can affect their learning and achievement. All children go through ups and downs during their school career and some face significant life events. Please see our new webpage under 'key information' for information and links to different websites about how can support your child, someone in your family or yourself;

<https://www.christchurchinfants.co.uk/mental-health-matters/>

## Our curriculum

At CCI our curriculum has been designed to ensure that every child can 'Live life to the full' by offering engaging, enquiry based, learning experiences from their individual starting points built upon our vision and 6 Christian values.

This enquiry-led approach enables us to create a bespoke, locally focused curriculum that goes beyond the National Curriculum.

'States of being' enable learners to focus on and/or combine powerful knowledge in different enquiries. Each knowledge-engaged state symbolises an aspect of the curriculum, helping learners to master both the 'know of' and 'know how' of a subject, not just remember it. For instance, we want our learners to be Scientists, not just learn about science.



Each enquiry provokes learners with a key question too big to answer in one go, but not so conceptually large that they cannot understand. The purpose is to guide learners through a scaffolded learning sequence where they draw on the different states of being in order to answer the key question.

**The current enquiries are;**

**EYFS – 'All about me' and the children will be taught about all of the different states of being.**  
**Y1/2 – 'How can I live a healthy life' and the main states of being are Science and Philosophy.**



## Parent Survey results 2024-25

At the end of last year we asked families what they thought of our school and what we could do to improve. We always want to hear feedback about how the year has been and what we could improve on so are really grateful to those who managed to complete the survey. Here are a few of the headlines and actions we will take to improve;

- We were delighted that 100% felt that the school was well led and managed and would recommend it to another family.
- 100% felt communication was effective and that we promote well-being.
- 91% felt regular information is sent about children's progress.
- 87.2% felt our values teaching impacts how children behave outside of school.
- 99% felt that staff are always welcoming.
- 93% felt concerns were addressed quickly and effectively.
- 99% felt teachers were supportive and accessible.

Favourite moments included;

- 'The experiences provided in terms of trip, visits, creative activities etc have been outstanding with no favourite. The breadth of enthusiastic exposure, the children have had to different things has been the highlight for me. The teachers are constantly introducing fun and creative ways to learn which is invaluable in my opinion. There's no shortage of enthusiasm.'
- Hard to choose but Sports Week (especially Sports Day) was just brilliant - really championed diverse activity and skills
- The afterschool playtime - ideal to allow the children to burn off any extra energy and excellent for parents to form friendships with others. Provides a good opportunity to build on the CCI community feel.
- The leavers event was magical and better than previously in my opinion. The small extra's like taking them to the care home or library - really just add value to the overall experience.
- And, the time put into positive transitions to the juniors (and new starters at CCI) has been really beneficial, the children are excited more so than nervous which is fantastic!

Areas to improve included;

- More time spent building new friends in their new class at the start of the year
- School dinners. They're OK but I don't think they look very appetising or nutritious.
- On reports, amend the word 'below' to 'working towards'.
- More maintenance of facilities, e.g. cutting back overhanging trees etc
- Events being on the same day (Sports Day + Summer BBQ) make it difficult for working parents to attend
- For information to be sent out in fewer formats! There are so many emails/newsletters/other. Just one area to go to for information would be easier!

**We will work through all improvement areas to see if we can improve these at all.**



EYFS	Y1	Y2
<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week we have started 'Drawing Club' – our weekly writing programme where we look at a different story every week and focus on drawing the main character, setting and using our imagination to create new story events! We will be having fun drawing different pictures in small groups. This week we are looking at the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.</p> <p><b>Phonics:</b> This week we have begun our Bug Club Phonics sessions! We are following the Read Write Inc letter formation rhymes and have learnt S (Whoosh slither down the snake) and A (Whoosh around the apple down the leaf).</p>	<p><b>Being an author:</b> This week we have started a new book called 'Where the Wild Things Are'. We started the week by having a Wild Rumpus party, where we made crowns and wolf masks with lots of glitter and music! Then we moved onto drawing the setting from the story and labelling it using key words. After that, we moved onto write a sentence to describe the setting.</p> 	<p><b>Being an author:</b> As authors, we have started looking at the book 'Where the wild things are' by Maurice Sendak. We have been working on using the co-ordinating conjunction 'and' to join sentences about the story (eg. Max sailed in a boat and went to an island). We have also tried to use some more expanded noun phrases (eg. warm, fluffy blanket) to describe the setting of Max's room, still using the conjunction 'and'.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you write our new sounds 's' and 'a' using a whoosh to start each letter? Can you think of any words that begin with the 's' and 'a' sound?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> As a challenge, we tried to write a simple sentence using some describing words, such as, 'tall trees'.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you try and improve some of your adjectives? For example, use a word such as massive, large, huge or gigantic instead of 'big'.</p>
<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week we have been exploring comparative language such as tall/short, heavy/light, big/small. We have had fun using scales to compare the weight of objects in the classroom and have used playdough to make different length worms.</p>	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> This week we have been learning to write digits to 10 and then using a number line to find one more and one less than a number within 10. As part of our mental maths, we have been answer questions about number bonds to 50, such as '___ + 3 = 5'</p>	<p><b>Being a mathematician:</b> As mathematicians we started off the week comparing and ordering numbers, using the greater than, less than and equals symbols (&gt; &lt; =), making sure to look at the tens first to compare numbers and looking at the ones if the tens are the same (eg. 45 and 42). We have also been working on counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s, trying to learn them off by heart.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you choose two objects at home and use mathematical language to compare them?</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Our challenge this week was to find two more than a number using a number line.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you count backwards in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s?</p>
<p><b>Enquiry: 'Who am I?'</b> We read the book "Colour of Us" and looked at the amazing variety of skin colours in our class. We used a range of different colour paints to find a match to our own and made hand prints. Together we will cut out our hands and make a rainbow of us, celebrating the differences.</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: 'How can we live a healthy life?'</b> We have started a new enquiry this week 'How can we live a healthy life? We launched the enquiry by trying lots of different fruit smoothies and identified what fruit we could taste. Then we had a go at being Artists and drew the inside of different fruits using only a pencil.</p>	<p><b>Enquiry: 'What grows near me?'</b> We started our new enquiry with an exciting soup tasting session. We tried 4 different soups and tried to identify vegetables that were in them. We have learnt that root vegetables grow in the ground but other vegetables grow above the ground on plants. We had a go at doing some observational drawings of vegetables using pencils and colour pencils.</p>
<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you draw a self portrait using paints, pastels or pencils? Look closely in the mirror at your features.</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> We had to try and identify which smoothie was which, just by using our taste buds!</p>	<p><b>Extension challenge:</b> Can you try and add some shading to your drawings to make them look more 3D?</p>

## Out of school Achievements



Marcos was a little nervous about getting back to playing matches again, but his confidence grew as the game went on. He scored two goals and was recognised as Player of the Match

## Year 2 Leavers Hoodies

Leavers Hoodies for current year 2 children are now available to purchase. Please follow the link below-

[www.unicornworkwear.net](http://www.unicornworkwear.net)

Closing date to order will be **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**. (Hoodies will no longer display children's names on the reverse)



# WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER COFFEE MORNING

Christ Church Junior School welcomes you at 9.30am

**MRS GROVES AND MRS EATWELL**



Special Guest Speaker

## TRIPLE P PARENTING

"Suggesting simple routines and small changes that can make a big difference to your family"

Create a stable, supportive and harmonious family  
Encourage behaviour you like

Deal positively, consistently and decisively with problem behaviour

Build positive relationships with your children

Plan ahead to avoid or manage potentially difficult situations

Deal with teenagers emotional behaviour

Take care of yourself as a parent



**ALL WELCOME  
PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY**

**CCJ & CCI**



Registered charity number: 1194887

**TURTLE CYP**

**Sprouts  
gardening  
club - ages  
6-11**

Staple Hill  
Community Hub,  
1A, Berkeley House,  
Berkeley Rd,  
Staple Hill, Bristol  
BS16 5HS

Harvesting:  
Carrots and  
Potatoes.

Thursdays  
3:45-5pm  
Term time only

Making a  
miniature tray  
garden.  
Maintaining  
flower pots.

Contact Barbara for  
details;  
barbara@turtlecyp.co.uk  
or 07510 380596

The  
Staple Hill Community



Registered charity number: 1194887

**TURTLE CYP**

**Terrapins  
afterschool  
club - ages  
6-11**

Staple Hill  
Community Hub,  
1A, Berkeley House,  
Berkeley Rd,  
Staple Hill, Bristol  
BS16 5HS

Bagels  
Noodle bowls  
Fruit kebabs

Tuesdays  
3:45-5pm  
Term time only

Fort building  
Make dream  
catchers  
Scavenger hunt  
Board games

Contact Barbara for  
details;  
barbara@turtlecyp.co.uk  
or 07510 380596

The  
Staple Hill Community



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