



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 #2

12th September 2025



www.christchurchinfants.co.uk



christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk

Dates for Term 1

- Sunday 14th Sept 10.30am** – Education Sunday (Anna Martin and Gareth Jones attending worship at Christ Church)
 - Fri 19th Sept** – EYFS full-time
 - Mon 29th Sept** – Penguin trip to the Library, Experience Harvest Zebra and Cheetah Y2
 - Tue 30th Sept** – Experience Harvest Penguin
 - Mon 6th Oct** – Flu Vaccinations, Zebra library trip, 9am SEND coffee morning with CCJ
 - Tue 7th Oct** – 10.30am Open Worship Harvest at Christ Church, 3.45-5.15pm Cheetah Target Festival
 - Thu 9th Oct** – 9am Parent Council meeting, 2.30-3.10pm EYFS parent curriculum information sessions in classes (ch. to hall)
 - Thu 9th Oct & Tue 21st Oct** – 3.30-6.30pm Parent/Teacher meetings
 - Mon 13th Oct** – Cheetah Library trip
 - Thu 16th Oct** – 3.30-4.30pm New EYFS 2026 Open evening (designed for children to come along and play and explore the school)
 - Mon 20th Oct** – Crocodile library trip
 - Fri 24th Oct** – Last day of Term 1 – non-uniform day, enrichment session 1 and hot chocolate awards.
 - Y2 tours of Christ Church Juniors**
 - Thu 4th Dec 9am
 - Wed 10th Dec 9am
- Please book these by calling the CCJ office on 01454 866516

Weekly update from Anna Martin

It has been a wonderful week at CCI this week, despite the rain and tiredness kicking in. The children have demonstrated some wonderful listening skills and taken on board reminders about our three behaviour rules; Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe.



Swimming has started for our Y1 and 2 children and we have been so impressed with their behaviour in the pool. Thank you so much to our office team for testing the pool daily to make sure that the temperature and chlorine levels are just right.



We have seen so many examples of children living out our termly value of friendship and they really are putting others first, which is making school feel very calm and happy.

We'd like to thank our families for making such an effort to get all of our children to school on time every day and with all of the belongings they need. Don't forget they need raincoats and everything needs to be labelled with their names!



Christ Church Schools' Partnership

At the end of last year, for the first time, we held an end of year celebration picnic lunch where every family across our schools was invited to come and eat on the CCJ field. We had a range of activities such as face glitter, parachute, penalty shoot outs and of course all the play equipment. We then ended the year after lunch at 1pm.

On the day, the feedback was brilliantly positive about the opportunity to celebrate together and end the year in this way. We are proposing making this an annual event, but we wanted to give you the change to share your feedback about the event. If you want to share any positive or even better if comments, please see Anna Martin or Pippa Osborne.

Enrichment sessions

We are always looking for ways to develop the children's wider experiences at CCI so that they are all given diverse experiences of all aspects of life that help them to become inclusive, active and resilient citizens, enabling them to live life to the full. We need to make sure we are giving all of our children the chance to try things they may not have the opportunity to do if they don't attend clubs or parents/carers can't take them to extra-curricular events and clubs. We will be focusing on the following areas;

- Inclusive opportunity
- Developing character
- Equality of opportunity
- Personal development
- Preparing for modern life
- Developing diversity
- Challenging gender stereotypes

To achieve this, we will be holding enrichment mornings on the last day of every term, starting again for the year next Friday 24th October. Each teacher and TA team will choose an activity to plan and deliver including some of those you can see below;

- **Inclusive sport** - focusing on team building, accessible sport for all and addressing gender stereotypes such as dance being for girls and football for boys.
- **Music/Drama/Dance** - building confidence and increases diversity
- **Engineering** – promoting resilience, gender stereotypes, collaboration
- **Science experiments** - resilience, gender stereotypes, collaboration
- **Technology** such as Coding (Learn pads in classroom) – being prepared for the future
- **Art** – promoting diversity and creativity
- **Food technology** (Cooking and food preparation)
- **Den making/fire building/forest school skills**
- **Gardening** (extending range of knowledge about growing plants and food we can eat)

Every class will have 2 sessions on each of these enrichment days resulting in having tried 8 different activities over a year, as we don't do these at the end of Terms 2 and 6 as these are very busy. This time they will start in their own class and then move to the class next door for their second session.



Living the Values



This week the school **children's awards** go to Oscar in Zebra Class. Oscar came into first aid to check his friend was ok after a nasty fall and the member of staff on first aid spotted what a lovely friend he was.

The **staff award** goes to Mr Jones for covering Mrs Rylands and Premier Sport last week when needed. Mr Jones always steps in willingly, reassuring whoever he is helping that it is no problem at all. This is very appreciated by your colleagues Mr Jones!

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

Isaac in Crocodiles – for showing friendship to Belle as she prepared to move house and school, reassuring her that she'd be ok and make lots of lovely new friends as well as always having him.

George F in Lions – for always thinking about your friends by taking along an extra toy for them to play with and sharing brilliantly.

Elijah in Lions – for putting his brother Boaz first on his birthday, making sure that he felt really special.

Mia in Giraffes – Rosie's mum wanted Mia to receive the values award for being so supportive and friendly to Rosie when she was a bit worried about starting in a new class.

Leo C in Pandas – for looking after his mummy, when she was in pain and being so thoughtful.

Elizabeth in Tigers – for being brave enough to make some new friends, despite feeling really shy.

Florrie in Pandas – for being a great friend to Megan, her 87-year-old friend from Bible Study Group. Florrie made Megan feel really special by treating her to tea, biscuits and birthday hugs.

Rhys S in Penguins – for showing friendship to Reg when he was feeling nervous about starting Beavers and making sure he stayed with him throughout his first session.

Parent Council

Anna Martin meets with a group of parents each term to discuss any issues, questions or concerns that our parent community may have. These meetings are very relaxed over a coffee and younger siblings are very welcome to attend. All are welcome, even if you just come along once!

We will write to parents who have previously attended in order to ask around for agenda items on class Whatsapp groups and also ask you to email in with anything you'd like to raise. Positive feedback is also always welcome!

Here are the 6 meeting dates for the year – all are straight after morning drop off so just come along to the office;

9/10/25	18/12/25	12/2/26
26/3/26	14/5/26	11/6/26

Our School Vision



Our school vision statement 'A caring community, courageously learning, inspired to live life to the full' consists of three distinct elements and everything that we aim to do at CCI revolves around them. Our vision has been formulated by the various different stakeholders in our school community and has been written for everyone in our community. We all have an important part to play in living out our vision and values - making sure that they are more than just words on a page or a sign on a wall.

Our school vision is based on the Bible verse in John 10:10, where Jesus says, '...I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.' We believe that we shouldn't sleepwalk through life, but that we should make the most of every opportunity so that we can become the best version of ourselves and make a positive contribution to the world.

Collective Worship

Monday – Mrs Martin talked to the children about the three school rules and how we need to show these at all times to show friendship to others.

Tuesday – Mrs Jenkins introduced the Jigsaw theme of the term (Personal, Social, Health Education scheme of work) 'Being me in my world' and explained how the children are being philosophers, learning about their place in their class, school and global community.

Wednesday – Miss Smith led our weekly Achievement Service and Living the Values

Thursday – Mr Jones led our Roots and Fruits worship, teaching the children about how showing friendship can mean sticking together in good times and bad.

Friday – Mr Jones led our Spirituality Worship, thinking about ourselves and what we can do when we feel worried, where support can be found and from who. Mr Jones explained that God can be a great support to Christians.

Communication at CCI

As a school we place great importance on having open and honest communication with all of our families and we believe this is essential for CCI to be the best it can be for you. This communication comes in many forms and can feel overwhelming at times so we thought it would be useful to tell you what you can expect from us. We do choose to repeat the same information in different ways as some of our families find access to written English hard, some don't like newsletters and some don't use Facebook.

Parent/teacher meetings

All families will be offered 2 face to face meetings in the hall with your child's class teacher. These will be in T1 and 3.

Reports

Rather than sharing just one long report at the end of the year, we choose to write 3 one-page reports for you in T2, 4 & 6 so that you know exactly how your child is getting along at school.

Emails to parents

You can email your child's class teacher about anything to do with your child's academic progress or anything else that you are worried about or think they need to know. Anything that is more to do with lost belongings, details about pick-ups, time off and lunches etc can be emailed to the office team instead. There is a list of staff emails with the newsletter email. Teachers will also email you about the class so please look out for these.

Facebook and Instagram pages

Our school Facebook is a place where we celebrate lots of brilliant things and we also share details about events and reminders on there. Please join our page if you haven't already and change your Arbor permissions if you want photos of your child to be shared on there. <https://www.facebook.com/CCIDownend/> and christchurchinfants (Instagram)

Website

This is where you will find information about of vision and values, term dates, inset dates, policies and our curriculum. <https://www.christchurchinfants.co.uk/>

Weekly newsletter

We email a weekly newsletter home each week with lots of information so please make sure you read this and refer to these as a first port of call.

Phone/email/speaking to the teacher

As mentioned earlier you can email your teacher if you aren't at school much but you can also phone to make an appointment or to speak them before or after school. If you are doing the school run then you can catch the teacher on the door before or after school too but obviously their priority will be greeting the children in the mornings and making sure everyone leaves the classes safely at the end of the day.

Gate

Mrs Martin will usually be outside the main school entrance greeting families and Mr Jones, our Deputy Head, will also meet families there. Some days Mrs Rylands, our SENCO, will also be there. You can always talk to the senior leadership team when you see them there and they will be more than happy to help.

Parent Council

See above

Home Learning Expectations and guidance

Whilst we think it is really important that children switch off and relax once they are not at school, it is also important that the learning at school is being supported at home – balance is key! It is proven that children who regularly practice basic skills at home will retain these more easily and make better progress in school. One of the best gifts you can give your children is to support them with reading by reading books to them and by supporting them to read at home.

Once children can read the whole world opens up to them and there are also so many other benefits shared in the link below;

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/impact-and-research/Research/the-benefits-of-reading/#:~:text=Children's%20brains%20experience%20the%20most,%2C%20social%2C%20and%20emotional%20growth.>

We would love to have so much more time in the day and lots of extra adults so that we could hear children read more in school but the reality is that we don't and our adults are already stretched pretty thin. If every child read with an adult in school on a weekly basis it would take up one whole day per week!

So, we need your help! Please see the guidance below for the home learning that we would love your child to do but if you can't manage to do all of this, please at least read with them 5 times per week.

EYFS	Y1	Y2
Read for 10 mins 5 X per week Say/write phonics sounds 5 X per week Read key words (flashcards) 5 X per week	Read for 10 mins 5 X per week Practice reading and writing spellings 5 X per week Play a 10 min maths game online 5 X per week (see Y2) Handwriting and phonics sheets may also be provided	Read for 10 mins 5 X per week Practice reading and writing spellings 5 X per week Play a 10 min maths game online 5 X per week (ICT games, White Rose app, Top Marks, Hit the Button)

EYFS children will receive reading books, reading logs and key words this week.

Please write in their reading logs when you read with your child as teachers do check this each week to see if anyone needs additional reading support in school. Bug Club can also be used for reading if your child is reluctant to read books or wants to play phonics games instead. Log ins are in the front of reading logs (will be sent to EYFS next week).

Premier Sports After School Clubs

Monday After School Football Year 1 only- 3:10pm - 4:40pm (from 8th September - 20th October)

Tuesday After School Gymnastics Year 1 & Year 2 Club- 3:10pm - 4:40pm (from 9th September - 21st October)

Wednesday After School Football Year 2 only Club- 3:10pm - 4:40pm (from 10th September - 22nd October)

If you would like more information or check availability please email office-008@premier-education.com



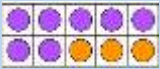


Flu Vaccination

Please follow the link to give consent for your child's nasal vaccine.

This will be taking place on Monday 6th October.

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2025/consent?v=4>



EYFS	Y1	Y2
<p>Being an author: This week we have enjoyed getting to know your wonderful children and have been sharing stories together, asking questions and talking about the pictures. We have begun to introduce the small whiteboards on the carpet and have practiced using the pens to make lots of different marks and shapes like zig zags, dots, circles etc.</p>	<p>Being an author: This week we have been working hard on using finger spaces in our writing. We have been writing simple sentences to retell the story of 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled'. We have also been trying to form our letters correctly, this week we worked on the letters 'd, a, c, g'.</p>	<p>Being an author: In English, we have been writing the story of 'The Squirrels who Squabbled', making sure we use capital letters and full stops to separate sentences. We have tried to make sure to include some expanded noun phrases in our writing which we started learning about last week. For example, the cold, rushing river and the tall, towering tree.</p>
<p>Extension challenge: Can you write your name?</p>	<p>Extension challenge: To use the word 'and' to join two words together.</p>	<p>Extension challenge: Can you use the conjunctions: and, but, so in your sentences?</p>
<p>Being a mathematician: This week we have been learning about subitizing (counting amounts by sight). We have been rolling a dice and quickly saying the total number of dots. We have also been matching numerals to amounts and ordering numbers to 5 during our EYFS baseline activities.</p>	<p>Being a mathematician: This week we have continued to work on a number of our key skills. We have used practical resources to find one more/less within 10, plot numbers on a number line, compare amounts and make numbers to 20. See some of the resources below:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>	<p>Being a mathematician: We have been working on partitioning numbers to 100 in different ways. We have recalled the tens and ones in a 2-digit number (eg. 42=40+2 because there are 4 tens and 2 ones) and then we have moved a ten across to find other ways to partition it (eg. 42=40+2, 42=30+12, 42=20+22, 42=10+32). We have also been identifying numbers on a number lines.</p>
<p>Extension challenge: Can you order numbers to 10 and add objects to match e.g. 7 objects on 7?</p>	<p>Extension challenge: The challenge this week was to write the matching calculation to the tens frame. For example:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;">  <div style="text-align: left;"> <p>7 + 3 = 10</p> <p>3 + 7 = 10</p> </div> </div>	<p>Extension challenge: Can you estimate where different numbers are on a number line where not all the in between lines are shown.</p>
<p>Enquiry: 'Who am I' finding out about our first enquiry. The teachers shared photographs of our families and we talked about who is in our families in a circle time session. We have talked about how we have changed and have compared ourselves to our baby photos. In Art we have painted self portraits and added them to our class display wall.</p>	<p>Enquiry: 'What makes a good team?' This week we finished our first enquiry 'What makes a good team?' We worked together to complete simple challenges and then created a class WANTED poster to advertise what qualities someone would need to join our classes.</p>	<p>Enquiry: 'What makes a good team?' learning about what it means to compromise and creating wanted posters for a member of a good class team. We have learnt all about the skills that are important such as listening, following the rules, compromising, working with others, helping each other and being kind.</p>
<p>Extension challenge: Can you draw a picture of your family and share some information about them?</p>	<p>Extension challenge: To present our posters to the class and to talk about what we had identified and why.</p>	<p>Extension challenge: Can you think of things that we should try not to do to make sure we are a good team?</p>

Year 2 Leavers Hoodies

Leavers Hoodies for current year 2 children will be available to purchase from Monday 15th September. Please follow the link below-

www.unicornworkwear.net

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

Out of school Achievements



Well Done Noah, great achievement

Free School meals

School meals can save you time on preparing lunches and offer children and young people a wide choice of healthy and tasty food.

A hot, freshly prepared meal can also help with learning, concentration, and behaviour.

Universal infant free school meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2

All children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 get a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM). These are free of charge and not linked to any benefits a family may claim.

If you are on a low income, you should still apply for free school meals so that your child's school can claim the Pupil Premium, this can range from £955 to £1,345. This extra money is paid direct to schools for each child eligible for free school meals and used to support your child's education.

Free school meals

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods, and your monthly average income over three assessment periods should be no more than £616.67)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

You can check if you are eligible for free school meals by using the online application form below

https://oneb2b.southglos.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE%2f

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