



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 #1

5th September 2025

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Dates for Term 1

- Mon 1st Sept** – INSET Day – no school for children
- Tue 2nd Sept** – 2 hour visits for EYFS, full day for Y1/2
- Wed 3rd Sept to Thu 18th Sept** – Alternate full days for EYFS
- Sunday 14th Sept 10.30am** – 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

Mrs Osbourne would like to offer our Y2 families and prospective new EYFS families the chance to visit CCJ so please see the dates below;

Thu 4th Dec 9am
Wed 10th Dec 9am

Please book these by calling the CCJ office on 01454 866516

Please also see a one page overview send out with this newsletter of draft dates for the whole year.

Weekly update from Anna Martin

It has been wonderful to welcome our new EYFS children into our CCI family this week and to see our Y1 and 2 children settle into their new classes so well.

Our new Tigers, Lions and Pandas have shown us how brilliant they are already and managed their first lunchtime very well. They even coped with their first ever wet play on day one!



The Y1 and 2 children have shown so much friendship to each other and the younger children around the school as they have helped them to remember the new routines and to feel settled quickly.

The behaviour has been fantastic across the school this week and we are all very much enjoying the start of term.

Collective Worship

Once the children are all in school full time, they will usually join a daily 15 minute assembly or worship in the hall. Mrs Martin and Mr Jones mostly lead these and other staff also take turns.

We follow a weekly pattern and share what we have learnt about on the weekly. Y1 and 2 children have learnt about this week;

Tuesday – The children heard the Bible story of the 'Four Friends' and thought about how they could show friendship to the new EYFS children at lunchtimes.

Wednesday – We celebrated children for brilliant learning, behaviour and living out the values.

Thursday – The children learnt about why Christians say the Lord's Prayer and what the words mean.

Friday – The children learnt what our school vision means and which Bible verse underpins this.

Living the Values



Each week we celebrate people who have lived out our school value of the term. We write to parents to ask for examples from home and ask staff to nominate children and colleagues for the school awards.

This week the school **children's awards** go to;

Ted in Cheetah Class – for spotting that someone needed help at lunchtime and offered to let them in front of him in the lunch queue so they didn't have to wait as long.

Jeniece in Zebra Class – for showing friendship to a younger child when it was their first time at Taekwondo and they were feeling very nervous.

Grayson, Ted and Ethan in Y2 – for showing friendship to a new child in EYFS by letting him join in with their football game and encouraging him.

The **staff award** goes to Miss Edwards, who has been incredibly supportive to Miss Griffin as she gets used to the CCI Way.

The **children's home award** goes to Tabitha in Penguin Class for showing friendship to her family by choosing to use her birthday money to pay for an outing and gift for her sister.

Christian Value of the Term

Friendship



Bible Story: The Four Friends

We focus on 6 Christian Values each year and in the first term we focus on Friendship. The Bible Story that we use to explain this to the children is the story of 'The Four Friends' whose paralysed friend wanted to go to see Jesus to see if he could heal him but needed his friends help to get there. When they saw the large crowds, the four friends realised that there was no way they could carry him through, so they removed part of the roof and lowered their friend down. Jesus saw the commitment of the friends and healed their friend.

The Bible Verse that we use to support this value is from Luke 10:27 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

We aim for our children, parents, staff and governors to care for each other; to respect and trust each other and to encourage and listen to each other. We want the children to learn how to care for the wider world as responsible, kind and generous individuals putting the needs of others before their own.



Baby News

Huge congratulations to Mrs Perry (Tiger teacher) and her family on the safe arrival of baby Maia! Mum and baby are doing very well, despite her slightly early entrance to the world, and big sister Nina is totally in love!



Use of the school site before and after school

We love our families to be able to socialise after school together and like to be able to offer our school grounds to you to do this after school. Our after-school club do need to use the playground when the field is wet or there are sports clubs on the school field so we do unfortunately need to restrict this so that the space can be shared.

This means that our families will have the space to use from 3.10pm to 3.45pm and then the school bell will ring, signifying that it is time for families to leave the school site. Please don't think that we are being rude, it's just a way of us managing the site fairly and safely.

There are a couple of safety issues that we need to point out so please make sure that your family follows these and that you tell anyone who brings your child to school.

Climbing posts

We teach the children to climb on these with their feet on the lower parts and just their hands on the top parts. This is to prevent them from falling onto the playground. Please make sure the children are doing this after school too.

Balancing ropes

Please make sure the children don't use these to flip over as again they could fall onto the concrete. The ropes that hang down are weighted with plastic ends to keep them straight but these are fairly heavy so please do not allow your child to swing them towards other people as they may hit someone else in the head causing an injury.

Bikes & scooters

Please can children get off their bikes and scooters as soon as they reach the school gates and then wheel them once they are on the school site. This is so that no-one is knocked into when the site is congested.

School equipment

Children should not use the school bikes and scooters outside of the school hours for the same reason. They can use the green crates at the top but please make sure these are stacked neatly on the all-weather safety surface at the far end of the playground when they have finished playing rather than being left all over the playground.

Thank you!



Christ Church Schools' Partnership



At both CCI and CCJ, we have been so delighted to welcome everyone back, as well as welcome our new starters. At CCJ, our wonderful new Y3 children are settling really well and already feel like they have been with us for ages. At CCI, it has been so special to welcome in the new reception children as they meet their class and begin to explore the school.

We really encourage all our families to feel part of our shared Christ Church schools' community, as there are so many similarities between our schools. Each week in our newsletters, we share a joint box about events, learning and projects that are happening in both our schools. We hope you find it useful

CCI Annual Timetable 2025-26 (please note these dates can change, but we do try to stick to these to make them easier for you to attend.)

Term 1 - 1/9 start	Term 4 - 23/2 start
<p>1/9- INSET Day</p> <p>7/10 10.30-10.45am- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>9/10 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>9/10 & 21/10 3.20-6.30pm- Parent/Teacher meetings</p> <p>9/10 2.30pm- EYFS parent information session</p> <p>24/10- Last day of term, Non-Uniform day and enrichment sessions</p>	<p>3/3 3.10-3.45pm- Parents invited in to look at books</p> <p>2 – 6/3- Book week (5/3- World Book Day fancy dress)</p> <p>26/3 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>31/3 10.30-10.45am- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>2/4- One page school reports sent home</p> <p>2/4- Last day of term, Non-Uniform day and enrichment sessions</p>
Term 2 - 3/11 start	Term 5 - 20/4 start
<p>3/11- INSET Day</p> <p>14/11- Children in Need non-uniform day</p> <p>18/11 9am- Coffee morning to support families with mental health and well-being</p> <p>4/12 or 10/12 9am- Y2 tours at CCJ</p> <p>KS1 class nativities – all at 9am in the school hall 8/12 Penguin, 9/12 Zebra, 10/12 Cheetah, 11/12 Crocodile, 12/12 Giraffe</p> <p>9/12 10.30-10.45am- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>16/12 am- Y1 Theatre trip</p> <p>17/12 am- Y2 Theatre trip</p> <p>17/12- Christmas jumper day, EYFS singalong 9am (parents invited), Christmas lunch</p> <p>17/12- One page school reports sent home</p> <p>18/12 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>18/12 2.30pm- Rock Steady concert (for parents of children attending Rock Steady)</p> <p>19/12- Last day of term, Non-Uniform day</p>	<p>20/4- INSET Day</p> <p>24/4- School trips for EYFS to Court Farm</p> <p>4/5- Bank Holiday</p> <p>7/5 & 8/5- School trips for KS1 to SS Gt. Britain</p> <p>12/5 10.30-10.45- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>14/5 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>22/5- Last day of term, Non-Uniform day and enrichment sessions</p>
Term 3 - 5/1 start	Term 6 - 1/6 start
<p>30/1- INSET Day</p> <p>27/1 10.30-10.45am- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>27/1 & 5/2 3.20-6.30pm- Parent/Teacher meetings</p> <p>9 – 13/2- Wonder Week</p> <p>12/2 3.20-4.20pm- on Art gallery at Christ Church for families</p> <p>11/2- Internet Safety Day</p> <p>12/2 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>13/2- Last day of term, Non-Uniform day and enrichment sessions</p>	<p>26/6- INSET Day</p> <p>11/6 9am- Parent Council meeting</p> <p>23/6 10.30-10.45am- Open Worship at Church (parents invited)</p> <p>23/6 or 25/6 3.10-3.45pm- Current EYFS & Y1 parents can visit new classes</p> <p>25/6 8.30-12.30- Y2 at Pomphrey Hill for Olympiad</p> <p>TBC 4.30-6.30pm- Summer Social</p> <p>3/7 (TBC) 12.30-3pm- Sports day for EYFS & KS1 at Cricket Club</p> <p>15/7 1.30-3.10pm- Y2 Leavers Assembly and Bear presentation</p> <p>17/7- One page school reports sent home</p> <p>21/7- Non-Uniform day and last day of the year</p> <p>The last day is likely to be a half day ending with a picnic at CCJ 12-1pm. Yet to be confirmed.</p>

Behaviour expectations at CCI



At CCI we work really hard to help young children to understand what is acceptable behaviour and what isn't and we do this in lots of different ways. We are currently updating our behaviour policy but I wanted to share the headlines here. You can see our one-page summary of the approach here but this doesn't explain the sanctions and what these are for so I wanted to explain these, along with the changes we are making this year.

Sanctions:

- Any play fighting will result in a time out as this often leads to children being hurt.
- Deliberately hurting another child – 20 mins time out with a member of the senior leadership team (SLT) in that playtime or the next one. Parents will be notified via email or phone.
- Deliberately hurting an adult – internal inclusion; working 1:1 with a member of SLT for the rest of that session in the meeting room. Parents will be notified by phone.
- Swearing or making a racist comment - 20 mins time out with a member of the senior leadership team (SLT) in that playtime or the next one. Parents will be notified by phone.
- Running away from an adult or out of a safe area when an adult is giving an instruction and children have been asked not to – 20 mins time out with a member of the senior leadership team (SLT) in that playtime or the next one. Parents will be notified via email or phone.
- Deliberately damaging equipment or throwing equipment - 20 mins time out with a member of the senior leadership team (SLT) in that playtime or the next one. Parents will be notified via email or phone.
- Repeated behaviour or a combination of these could result in a fixed term exclusion of 1-3 days.

We will be teaching children to do the following and have the expectation that they all do these things;

- Walk silently and calmly around the school so they are safe and no-one is disturbed.
- Don't interrupt others when they are talking.
- Be respectful to others – say sorry, please and thank you.
- Lining up quickly and sensibly at the end of playtimes.

Obviously we know that our children are very young and still learning and that they need our support and understanding. However they also need to be taught what is acceptable behaviour and that there are clear and consistent consequences to certain behaviours.

Children who need more support have tailored plans in place and we work closely with these families. Please try and remember that all children progress at different rates and to show compassion to children who may find school more challenging than others.

We will be praising children in lots of different ways and are particularly focusing on how they show respect around the school and in their classes this term.

TERM TIME UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Parental responsibilities

As a parent you have a legal responsibility to make sure your child gets a full-time education. Schools are required by law to keep attendance registers. Absences must either be marked as: **authorised** (only the school can authorise the absence) or **unauthorised** (where no acceptable reason is given).

You can find out more information around school attendance and absence on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

Penalty Notices

A penalty notice is a fine issued by South Gloucestershire Council to parents/carers of a child who has failed to attend school regularly and whose absence is unauthorised. It does not require the parent to attend court but is an alternative to prosecution in the magistrate's court. Parents/carers who pay the fine in full within the time limits cannot later be prosecuted for the offence to which the penalty notice relates.

Penalty notices have been introduced because reducing absence from school is a key priority of the government and local authority. Missing school may limit a pupil's attainment, disrupt school routines and the learning of others, and can leave a pupil vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

Changes to Penalty Notices from 19th August 2024

The Department for Education have announced changes in relation to the issuing of Penalty Notices, which will come into effect on 19th August 2024. These changes will apply to absence from school from the start of Term 1 2024-25. The changes are summarised below. South Gloucestershire Council's Penalty Notices Code of Conduct is being amended to reflect the change in national policy.

A new national threshold for Penalty Notices

If your child has 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks, after 19th August 2024, you may be issued with a Penalty Notice. There are two sessions in each school day (morning and afternoon). The sessions of absence can be consecutive (for example 10 sessions of unauthorised holiday in one week) or not (for example 10 sessions of unauthorised absence, spread across the 10 school weeks). This is a change from South Gloucestershire Council's current threshold.

There is an increase in the amount that a Penalty Notice is charged at and a decrease in the number of Penalty Notices that can be issued within a rolling three year period

On the first occasion that a parent is issued with a Penalty Notice in respect of their child, on or after 19th August 2024, the Penalty Notice will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This amount will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

If a second Penalty Notice is issued, within 3 years of the date of issue of the previous Penalty Notice, to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160. There will be no reduction if the Penalty Notice is paid within 21 days. This will apply even if the previous Penalty Notice has been issued by another local authority.

If the threshold for issuing a Penalty Notice is met for a third time (or subsequent times), within three years of the first Penalty Notice being issued, a third Penalty Notice cannot be issued. Instead, alternative action will be considered, which may include prosecuting a parent for the offence of failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. This will apply even if one, or both, of the previous Penalty Notices were issued by another local authority.