



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

13th September



www.christchurchinfants.co.uk



christchurchinfants@gmail.org.uk

Dates for your Diary - Term 1 Dates

16 & 17th Sept. - Experience Harvest Y2s

20th Sept. EYFS full time

9am 24th Sept. - SEND families coffee morning

9am 24th Sept. - Open worship at Christ Church, families invited (children don't perform or take part)

2pm 27th Sept. - Friends AGM in the hall

9am 2nd Oct. - Families in receipt of Pupil Premium funding coffee morning

8.40-9am 3rd Oct. - Parents invited in for a reading/writing session with children in their classes

9am 8th Oct. - Parent Council meeting with Anna Martin – all parents' welcome

15th Oct. - Harvest Festival at Christ Church (families not invited to this one as it can unsettle EYFS a bit so early on)

5.30-7pm - 23rd Oct. EYFS 2025 Open Evening

23rd Oct. – One-page reports sent home (we send three over the year, with the last one having additional comments about your child)

Thursday 24th Oct. – Last day of school for children. Enrichment sessions, hot chocolate awards, non-uniform day fundraiser

Friday 25th Oct. – Inset Day/staff training

Monday 28th Oct to Friday 1st Nov. – Half term

Monday 4th November – Term 2 starts, school for all children

Weekly summary from Anna Martin

This week we have been focusing on what makes a good friend in Y1 and 2 classes as part of the children's enquiry and to support the learning about our Christian value of friendship. The children had some brilliant ideas about what makes a good friend, such as 'if someone is hurt you can help them', 'you should listen to others', 'always be kind', 'be fun' and 'always work together'. They also showed friendship in the task itself by working collaboratively and helping each other when they were stuck.

I also wanted to share a few photos of our Y1 children enjoying some much needed independent learning through play to help them cope with the demands of Y1 learning and a more structured curriculum. It can be a big jump from EYFS to Y1 and the staff do their best to ease the children in gently with plenty of socialising and playing.



Our EYFS children have been busy acting out well-known stories, role playing in cafes and shops, writing secret messages and creating delicious recipes from playdough.

We have been super impressed with how well our EYFS children have adapted to having school dinners this week and then playing with the older children at playtimes on Thursday and Friday. Our Y1 and 2 children have been such wonderful role models and shown so much kindness to them as they learn how to cope with busy school life.

Collective Worship

This week Mrs. Jenkins, our RE and PSHE lead, led a worship introducing the new PSHE Jigsaw theme of 'Being Me'. Harriet Jolly, the Children's Minister from Christ Church, also came in to tell them about Bible Club starting on Mon 16th Sept at lunchtimes and to invite the children along (email sent yesterday to Y1/2 families).

Then the children thought about friendship and how sticking together is so important. They explored the proverb 'There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother' (Proverb 18.24).

On Friday they further explored spirituality, thinking about themselves and how they manage worries.

Living the Values



This week Cierra in Penguin Class has been really brave about broadening her friendship group and has been so proud of herself for finding out about new friends in her class and becoming friends with lots of new people. Cierra you are such a kind friend to others!

Mrs. Brock has been nominated by a colleague for showing friendship to Mrs. Anderson following a recent bereavement.

Living the Values at home

Sylvie in Zebras for reassuring her friend in her old swimming group that she'd be ok without her when she moved up a group.

Megan in Penguins for making sure her little sister was not left out on holiday when Megan made new friends.

Daisy in Giraffes for showing friendship to her Mummy after a tough day.

Olivia in Tigers for showing love and friendship to Mrs Perry for being her lovely new teacher.

Belle in Pandas for always showing care for younger children and putting their needs before her own.

Finley G in Crocodiles for showing care to Ethan by sending a message when he was unwell.

Immy in Penguins has been a great friend to her church friend who has spent lots of time in hospital.

Ethan in Crocodiles for looking after his mummy when she was ill.

Reading session for parents & children – 8.30-8.40am Thu 3rd October

Lots of families ask us for support with helping children to read at home. This can be because a child is a bit reluctant to read, lacks confidence about mastering a new skill or because they need help to develop the speed with which they read (fluency) and their understand of the meaning of the texts (comprehension).

We would like to invite all children with 1 adult (can be a family member or friend if you can't attend and younger siblings are welcome) into school 10 minutes early on **Thursday 3rd October 8.30-8.40am** to see the teachers teach a short phonics or reading session to your child and then give you some tips on how to support your child with reading at home.



The school day will then begin as normal at 8.40am so we will then let any children who aren't here at 8.30am and you will be free to go.

If you would like to attend please just turn up at 8.25am at the classroom door on that day for your child's session. If you have children in more than one class or year group just choose the class where you feel your child needs the most support or which age you would like to know more about.

We will send you away with lots of information so if you can't attend, we will make these available. We are also planning to make some videos of teachers reading with children so you can revisit this at home.

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 at the end of November/start of December in Term 2 and in mid-March in T4.

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 T1, T3 and T6 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 page

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/>

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/and>

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

Mrs Martin invites a group of parents in once per term so that they can share any issues as well as feeding back on what we do well. The agenda for these meetings is created by you and everyone is welcome so please look out for these dates at the top of the newsletter if you'd like to join the group and emails requesting discussion points.

Out of school achievements



Last week Sylvie got her 10 m badge and level 3 badge and is moving up to green hats!



Well done Etta and Bethany on your end of term trophies



Clara is really happy completing Stage 1 and getting her Puffin badge



Jeniece has received a medal and certificate for completing the summer reading challenge.

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.

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 next 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).

Minecraft resources

We have several children in school who sometimes need to play in smaller groups at playtimes as the playground can be a bit overwhelming so we are trying to gather some resources that we know they would enjoy playing with.



We know that Minecraft toys and resources are very expensive so families tend to sell them on when they no longer need these but if you do have any at home then we would LOVE any donations...anything Minecraft will be loved here!

Temporary Vacancy at CCI

We have some funding to support a few children at playtimes for a period of about 7 weeks for 1 hour per day and thought someone in our community may be able to help.

You don't need a qualification although we would need to ask for 2 references and to carry out a DBS check to check your suitability to work with children. You'll also need to complete an application form.

The role would ideally start as soon as possible and would be 12.10-1.10pm Mon-Fri, for approximately 7 weeks.

You would be joining our lunchtime team but would specifically be supporting children in their play, helping them to manage tricky social situations and teaching them how to respond safely and appropriately. There will be specific children that we ask you to work alongside, some of whom may have Neurodiversity such as Autism.

If you are interested in this role then please email me at anna.martin@sgmail.org.uk



EYFS	Y1	Y2
<p>Being an author: As authors this week, we have been practicing making different marks in sand, crayons and whiteboard pens, even attempting to write our own names! The children were supported with name cards for reference, showing great determination and perseverance.</p>	<p>Being an author: We have been using the text, Cyril and Pat which is a lovely story about friendship. Our focus this term is sentence writing and we have been practising using finger spaces this week.</p>	<p>Being an author: We have been sharing the book Cyril and Pat by Emily Gravett, a story all about friendship. We have been using adjectives and nouns to write noun phrases. Such as fluffy tail and kind friend, to describe the characters in the story.</p>
<p>Extension Challenge: Are there any other letter shapes or sounds you know?</p>	<p>Extension Challenge: To use capital letters and full stops as well as interesting verbs.</p>	<p>Extension Challenge: We have challenged ourselves to write extended noun phrases such as long, fluffy tail and kind, thoughtful friend to make our writing even more interesting to read.</p>
<p>Being a mathematician: We have been counting small amounts of objects or actions and trying to order numerals 1-5. We have been practicing counting the number of children who are in the class each day, how many children are standing in the line and talking about how old we are.</p>	<p>Being a mathematician: We have been using a range of models including tens frames, part-part- whole models to add numbers to ten and record as number sentences.</p>	<p>Being a mathematician: We have been focusing on place value, using numbers to 100. We have recapped how many tens and ones are in each number and recorded this in our books, writing both numerals and words. We have used our knowledge to solve the problems systematically and we have been using lines to record numbers to 100, thinking carefully again about how many tens and ones each number has.</p>
<p>Extension Challenge: Can you spot any numbers around your home? In a story book, on a clock, on your front door?</p>	<p>Extension Challenge: We have given the children reasoning challenges to solve so they can spot the mistake of others and explain their thinking.</p>	<p>Extension Challenge: We have been challenging ourselves to explain where numbers would fit on a number line using mathematical language.</p>
<p>Enquiry: The children have loved sharing their photographs from home and talking about some of the people who are special to them. They have shared experiences of places they have visited and the memories they have from going there. We have been impressed with their confidence and listening skills.</p>	<p>Enquiry: 'What makes a good friend?' We have come to the end of our first enquiry, 'What makes a good friend?' and completed our challenge. The children created their own list of ingredients for a great friend. For example, kindness, sharing..</p>	<p>Enquiry: 'What makes a good friend?' We have been exploring how we can all be good friends to those around us. We have been working in teams and thinking about what skills we have used that help us work in a team and how these skills support us to be a good friend. We have written a recipe that includes the attributes of a good friend!</p>
<p>Extension Challenge: What is your favourite thing to do or play? Why is it your favourite?</p>		<p>Extension Challenge: We have been discussing why these attributes make a good friend and how we can support each other to be a good friend</p>

Parent Governor Vacancy

Christ Church C of E VC Infant School is looking to recruit a new Parent Governor. Our Governing Body is a diverse group of individuals, working together to provide strategic leadership and accountability to the school. We are the critical friend of the school, using our wide range of knowledge and skills to deliver the key functions of the Governing Body.

You do not need any previous knowledge or experience in the school environment – a strong Governing Body has a broad range of skills, so whatever your background, if you are willing to get involved and contribute your time then we would love to hear from you. Being a Governor is interesting and rewarding, providing an opportunity to impact the effectiveness of our school and raise our school standards.

To apply, please complete the Governor Application Form which will be emailed out today and return via email or to the school office by Midday on Friday 27th September. For any further information, please contact our clerk at samantha.beament@gmail.org.uk.



Quartet Community Foundation

MUD PIE EXPLORERS

Family groups

Join us for a 15 week family group to explore and play in nature. Fully funded by the Quartet Foundation
Age 5-12
Tues 10-12 in Downend
Fri 10-12 in Southmead

Starts w/b 23rd September for families of children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Booking requests:
nickie@mud-pies.co.uk



Bristol Family Hubs

Bristol City Council

Bristol Parenting Groups

- Are you pregnant or a parent of a 0 - 8 year old?
- Would you like to add ideas and skills to your parenting toolbox?
- Would you like to develop more confidence in your parenting?
- Would you like to understand your child better?

Free groups for adults run by Bristol Children's Centres

Scan here to find out more and register your interest!



Your parenting toolbox:

- Listening
- Play
- Praise
- Nurture
- Empathy
- Connection

For more information please call: 07721 311 497 or email: pso@bristol.gov.uk

Once you have registered your interest via: www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups we will be in touch to find the best group option for you.

nbcc Wellspring Settlement **Central** Bristol Children's Centres **EBCC** East Bristol Children's Centres **South Bristol Children's Centres**

We have been asked by the local library to remind parents that the summer reading challenge finishes this weekend. There is still time for your children to get to the library and earn themselves a medal if they have signed up over the summer. If you have time to go on Saturday there is the extra bonus of a Lego Club at Downend library at 10.30 to enjoy!



Summer Reading Challenge 2024
Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers

READING **ACROSS** Celebrating Creativity **CREATE!**



The Friends of CCI have registered for the ASDA Cashpot for schools scheme. This is a really easy way for us all to generate some funds for CCI this term.

If you already shop at Asda and have the Rewards App simply select Christ Church Infants from the list (easier to search by postcode BS16 5TG than the school name) and make sure you scan your rewards card for every shop, Asda will then donate 0.5% of your basket cost to CCI. If you don't shop at Asda you can still help by Downloading the App for free and selecting CCI from the list of schools, for every person that does this we get £1 for CCI! The scheme is for online and in person shops and is for Groceries and the George range.



Teachers email address-

- Anna.martin@sgmail.org.uk – Headteacher
- Gareth.jones5@sgmail.org.uk – Deputy Headteacher/
Penguin Teacher
- Jenni.rylands@sgmail.org.uk – SENDCO/ Penguin Teacher
- Rachel.chevassut@sgmail.org.uk – Zebra Teacher
- Amelia.gould1@sgmail.org.uk – Cheetah Teacher
- Claire.mills@sgmail.org.uk – Crocodile Teacher
- Helen.Anderson1@sgmail.org.uk – Crocodile Teacher
- Helen.Smith5@sgmail.org.uk – Giraffe Teacher
- Katherine.jenkins@sgmail.org.uk – Lion Teacher
- Stephanie.essex@sgmail.org.uk – Lion Teacher
- Georgia.robbins@sgmail.org.uk – Panda Teacher
- Sophie.perry6@sgmail.org.uk – Tiger Teacher
- christchurchinfants@sgmail.org.uk – School Office

Dear Parents & Carers,

Instructor Nick here - Taekwon-Do is now at Christ Church Infant & Junior Schools, Downend & we are offering a Month Free! It's on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**, spaces will be limited and may be subject to a waiting list. It's all about high performance freestyle Tae Kwon-Do & developing that Self-control and Confidence. Yes, we have the black belts, kicks and tricks, but it's all about:

- T eamwork
- I ntegrity
- G rowth
- E nergy
- R espect
- S elf-Control

The upcoming 4 week free trial will run at Christ Church Infant & Junior Schools starting next week and will continue at that location going forward:

Infants (School Yr 1-2): **Wednesdays 3:20-4:10**
Juniors (School Yr 3-6): **Tuesdays 3:20-4:10**

Please do not enter the building on pickup, release will be outside.

Our classes are the lowest priced pro Tae Kwon-Do sessions in the area! After the free trial, should you wish to continue, classes are just £34 a month, which includes **all training, belts, gradings, replacement uniforms, patches, licensing & insurance**. Siblings train at a huge £9 per month discount too!

To register your child via mobile or desktop, please fill out this short form: www.tigemartialarts.club/monthfree

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Kat, TMA admin by email: admin@tigemartialarts.club or by phone between 10am-3pm **07921855900**.

Once booked, we'll contact you before the start to confirm details. To find out more: www.tigemartialarts.club

Thanks as always for your support,

Instructor Nick

Head Instructor - Tiger Martial Arts