



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

## 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024



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



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### Dates for your Diary - Term 1 Dates

16 & 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Experience Harvest Y2s

20<sup>th</sup> Sept. EYFS full time

9am 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. - SEND families coffee morning

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

2pm 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Friends AGM in the hall

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

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

9am 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Parent Council meeting with Anna Martin – all parents welcome

15<sup>th</sup> 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 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. EYFS 2025 Open Evening

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

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

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. – Inset Day/staff training

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. – Half term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Term 2 starts, school for all children

### Weekly summary from Anna Martin

It has been wonderful first week back despite the rain and absolutely brilliant to get to know our new EYFS children. We are incredibly proud of how well they have all settled into the new routines and have behaved. They are all very polite and kind and are really looking out for each other already. We feel so privileged that we get to be a part of their school journey and it really is a very special experience. I would like to thank all of our EYFS families as you have helped to prepare your children so well for school and we are really enjoying getting to know you all.

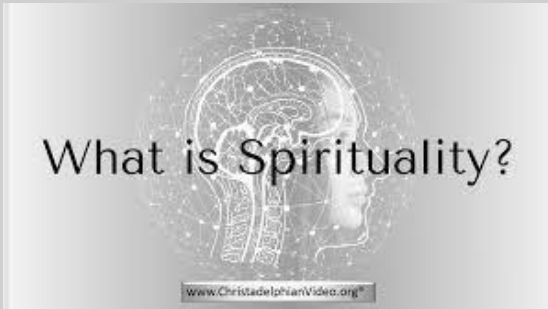


We have talked to the Y1 and 2 children this week about our raised expectations in their behaviour around the school and launched a whole school challenge to try and encourage the children to be more respectful. Each class has a hot air balloon that will be moved up towards the clouds if they are spotted being respectful, doing things like being polite to the lunchtime staff, keeping their cloakrooms tidy and wonderfully walking and lining up around the school and at the end of worship and playtimes. I have to say their behaviour has been fabulous so far and the staff are feeling incredibly positive about the year ahead with their new classes.

## Collective Worship

This week we talked to the children about the new value of Friendship and how it is really important to show respect to our friends. We linked this to our 3 school rules of being ready, respectful and safe at all times.

Mr. Jones then talked to the children about 'What is Spirituality?', reminding them what they had learnt last year and they learnt a new song.



## Living the Values



This week we have seen so many examples of the children showing friendship to each other but have chosen to celebrate Penny in Zebra Class and Kip, one of our new Tigers. Penny came back from the school holidays having made cards and friendship bracelets for lots of staff and her friends and it made them all feel very loved.

Kip saw that one of his friends had dropped some of their lunch and couldn't pick it up so he stopped eating his own lunch to pick it up for them. What a kind friend!

Leah in Penguin Class demonstrated courage and perseverance in the holidays by swimming in the sea without goggles and climbing a huge mountain. Well done Leah!

## Christian Value of the Term



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.



## 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.

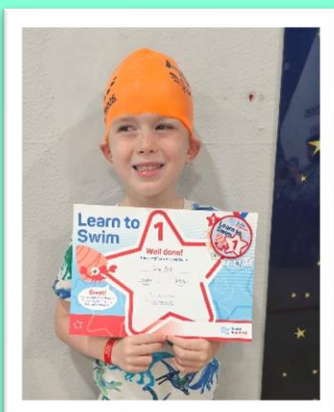
### Bikes & scooters

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

Please can children be discouraged from using 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!**



### Out of school achievements

Well done Oscar, great achievement

Well done Leah, amazing achievement



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

The Department for Education have announced changes in relation to the issuing of Penalty Notices, which will come into effect on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.