Christ Church, Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Through God's love, we learn, aspire and achieve; we flourish.

Newsletter Issue No. 449 **Date 11/09/26**

Christ Church Instagram

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It is so lovely to welcome everyone back to a full week of school. Returning from the break and adjusting to the changes can be challenging so we thank you for your patience and understanding with this. We have had lovely feedback from the Welcome Meetings and hope you are feeling informed about the year ahead for your children: where to find information, homework and the general expectations and organisation.

We will be organising the Parent Reps for the classes and will be holding a Parent Forum meeting in the next few weeks so we can talk together, share information, updates and ideas. Our school councillors have been elected and met today for the first time this term. We thank also our outgoing school council for their support last year and the ideas they brought - we all particularly love the fruity water at lunch times!

We have worked together in the classes to think about the rules and expectations each class feel to be a priority in order to collaborate well and be in the best place ready to remember more and to build on their new learning.
We also want to thank the Friends who have supported us to join the The Superkind Social Impact Schools Award. This celebrates schools where children and adults work together to make a positive difference to other people and to the world around them. We felt this was a perfect activity to support as a whole school as it mirrors our ethos beautifully.

We have also introduced our Kindness Ambassadors into the classes. Each week, two children in each class will be identified to actively support their peers through noticing kind acts and promoting kindness and positive interactions. It is good to notice all the kind and wonderful things that happen during the school day. The children will wear their badges for the week then hand them on to the next pair the following week. You may see them coming home on jumpers.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs David has taken over leading PE and sport in the school. She has already been liaising with other schools in our partnership so we are looking forward to the sporting challenges coming our way this year. Please make sure you check the newsletter date page to keep informed

Nursery

It has been a lovely start to the year in Nursery! The children have been settling in, getting to know their surroundings and beginning to make new friends. We have been learning each others' names through lots of fun clapping, jumping, action songs and games.

Reception

We have had a great week in Reception. The children have been busy settling into new routines, getting to know teachers and making new friends. We have explored our different learning areas, enjoyed stories, songs and creative activities. We look forward to more new friends joining us next week.

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Year One

We have loved being back at school! The children have been sorting and counting, colour mixing and painting, climbing and swinging, plus much more! Take a look for yourself…

Year Two

This week, Year 2 have been considering the meaning of 'belonging' and the ways in which we can help others feel like they belong. To share our ideas, we worked in groups to create freeze-frames of things we might do, such as inviting someone to play tag and sharing out ice-cream.

"I learned a lot about making people feel welcome" - *Elodie*

"I feel happy and excited when I belong. I feel like I belong when I'm with my family." - *David*

Year Three

Year 3 started their topic of 'The Stone Age' this week. They looked at where this time period fits in on a timeline and were amazed to discover that humans are relatively new animals in the grand scheme of things! They discussed how the extinction of the dinosaurs links to this Ice Age and how this in turn led into the Stone Age. They had fun exploring the different Stone Age artefacts. Theo and Imman rated the replica axe and flint spear and arrow heads as their top favourite of them all! Isabella chose the fur as it reminded her of her cat!

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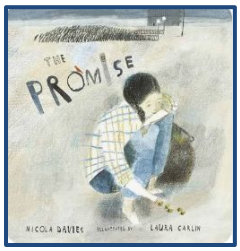
Year Four

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the new school year. This week in English, we have been exploring the importance of belonging and inclusion through role play activities. The children have enjoyed discussing what it means to be part of a group and considering how it might feel when someone is left out.

These important discussions have been inspired by our class text, *The Promise*. The children have been furthering their empathy and communication skills and understanding of the impact that kindness and inclusion can have on others.



Year Five

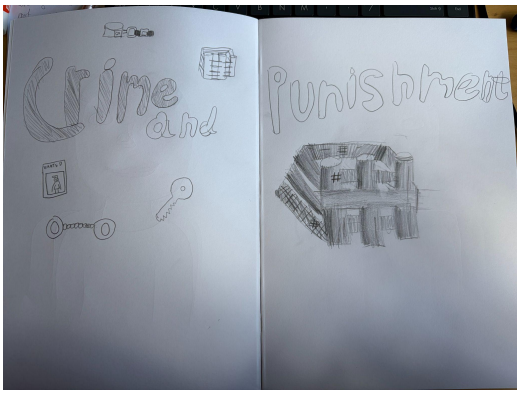
This week in Y5 the children discussed different issues our world has and what they want the world to be like. They created speeches to persuade others to want that world too.

'Imagine a world where lush canopies of trees tower over you, where green is a beautiful and vivid colour. But imagine a world where dark, grey buildings surround you or where dull skies engulf everyone. Shadows swallow anything in its path greedily like a ravenous monster. Imagine a better world where sparkling streams shimmer lightly as though kissed gently by the sun. Birdsong drifted between the trees echoing as it went. Imagine a world where sun beams light up the world as brightly as the shiniest star in the world.

By Sophie

Year Six

This week, in Year Six, we have started our new 'Crime and Punishment' History topic. In Art, we created a title page and looked closely at how to create cylindrical shading to replicate some prison bars. It was difficult to get the shading right so the bars looked 3D. We then looked at some specific objects that relate to the topic such as; handcuffs, flogging posts and wanted signs. We are looking forward to continuing this topic this half term.



Take a look at Eloise's started piece.

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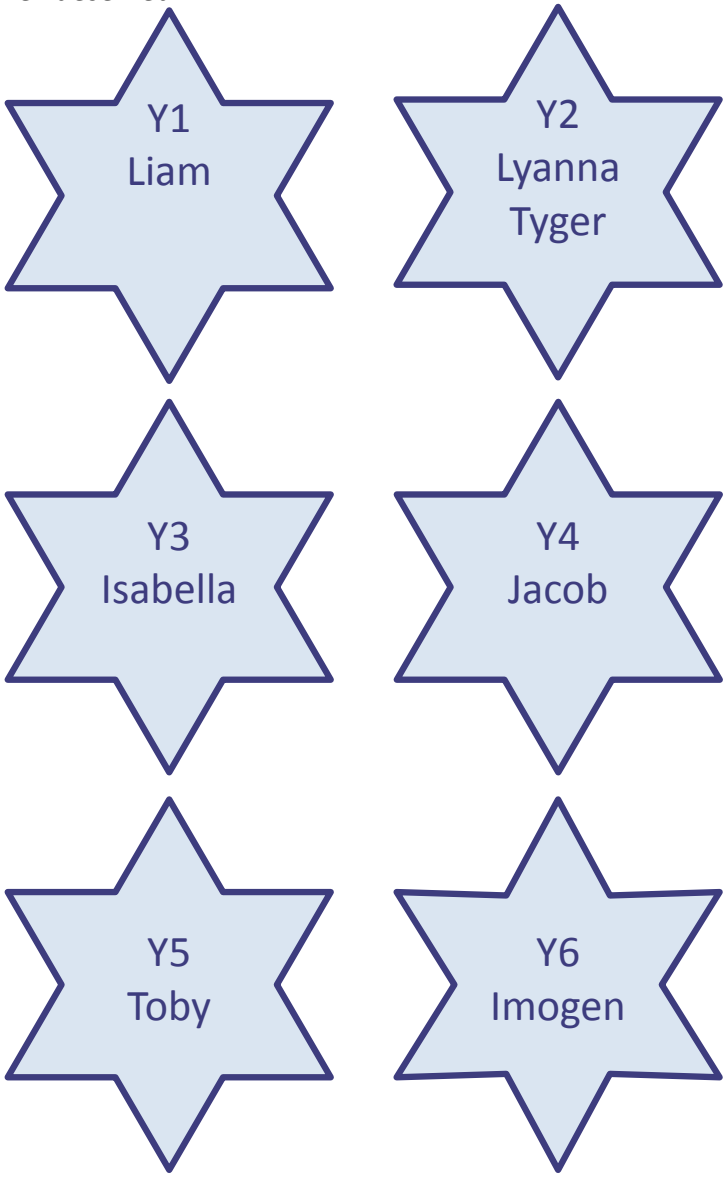
Certificates

Well done to these children who received certificates this week for their effort and excellent learning. They are very well deserved:



House Captains

There are so many times our children shine and make us proud and our Year 6 House Captain Elections were an excellent example of this. Thank you for all the Y6s who spent time preparing their speeches and manifestos and for delivering them so confidently in assembly. We are proud of you all. We want to congratulate: Annabel - York, Lottie - Canterbury, Cici - Salisbury and Ollie - St Albans who were elected by the children across the school who all had the chance to vote. Our captains did a fantastic job this morning sharing the certificates at the front of assembly. We look forward to all they will bring to the children in their houses and to our school.

New Pupils

We would like to welcome our new Nursery and Reception starters:
Nora, Elizabeth, Noah, Sam, Mia and Damir.
Boris, Louis, Alexander, Isla, Shakti, Amarachi, Ken, Artin, Jin, Winnie, Edward and Leo.

Also, we welcome Natan and Mateo who have joined our Year 1 class.

We know our parent body will also look out for you too as we welcome the families to our Christ Church community.

The BIG Question:

Story: UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham has pledged that, by Christmas, everyone sleeping rough in England will be offered a safe place to stay.

Question: Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?

Attendance

We will celebrate our attendance in the newsletter next week as we have only just returned to school. Please find our Attendance Policy on the school website for guidance.
Mr Smith (our Assistant Head) is our attendance champion in school.

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SEND updates:

We are committed to supporting the **mental health and wellbeing** of all our pupils. This year, we have introduced **McWorry Boxes**, giving children a discreet way to share worries with a trusted member of staff.

Staff have been working hard to build positive relationships and regularly check in with pupils, ensuring that every child feels **noticed, valued and supported**. This is an important part of the role of **Mrs Wright, our new Learning Mentor**, who will provide additional support for children's emotional wellbeing.

We are also delighted to welcome **Bertie, our therapy dog**, who made his first visit last week. The children were very excited to meet him, and we hope he will visit us weekly. Children will also have opportunities to help care for Bertie, developing responsibility and empathy while enjoying his calming presence.

Secondary Phase Transfer: If you would like any help or advice regarding Secondary Phase transfer 2027, please do get in touch. There are a number of useful links below:

- Leaflet and covering letter for parents of Year 6 pupils
- Open evening schedule
- eAdmissions Online Application Guide – step-by-step guide on making applications
- Secondary Transfer 2027 - letter to parents

Dates for diary: Friday 9th October @ 9am: Inclusion Coffee Morning - all very welcome

Details of useful courses below and attached flyers

MINI BACPAC course for Parents/Carers - Professionals and parents will deliver modules designed to increase your knowledge and skills with understanding Autism and using practical strategies to support your child.

For further details, dates and to sign up please see attached flyer.

BICS Family Minds Workshops:

BICS are inviting you to join our virtual workshops. These workshops aim to increase your knowledge of common wellbeing and mental health difficulties faced by children and young people. They also aim to provide you with strategies to assist you in supporting your young person.

Please note that these workshops are primarily aimed towards the parents/carers of children and young people.

See attached for more information.

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Weekly Reflection

At the start of a new term…

Renew our minds with the excitement of learning. **Transform our hearts** to show kindness, patience, and understanding to one another every day. Help us to shine bright, make positive choices, and embrace the fresh start you have given us.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
— *W.B. Yeats*

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
— *Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

Online Safety

A few online safety reminders for the beginning of the school year:

Keep talking – Ask your child about what they are watching, playing and doing online. Let them know they can always come to you if something worries them.

Set clear boundaries – Use parental controls, agree age-appropriate screen-time limits and remind children to keep personal information private.

Stay involved – Take an interest in your child's online world and regularly check that the apps, games and websites they use are suitable for their age.

Together, we can help our children enjoy the benefits of technology while staying safe, confident and responsible online.

Child Protection

We take children's safety very seriously and all information regarding safeguarding is on our website and also available from the school office.

Please contact Mrs Harry, Mr Smith, Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Turner or Miss Moore immediately should you have any concerns regarding children or adults at school.

head@christchurch.barnetmail.net or safeguarding@christchurch.barnetmail.net

Should you ever need to contact the school outside of school hours, please email Mrs Harry who will pick up the email as soon as she can.

Wishing you a very happy weekend!
From Mrs Harry & Mr Smith and all the staff

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Diary Dates

September 2026:

Wed 16th	Y4 (18:15) School journey meeting
Fri 25th	Macmillan Coffee Morning in suite
Wed 30th-2nd Oct	Y4 School Journey

October 2026:

Fri 2nd	YR - Y2 (PM) Drama4Free
Wed 7th	YR (18:00) Curriculum meeting
Fri 9th	Inclusion coffee morning 9am
Fri 16th	Just One Tree Day KS2 Creative Writing
Wed 21st	Y3 trip to Celtic Harmony Y5/Y6 Young Shakespeare
Thr 22nd	YR - Y6 Flu vaccines
Fri 23rd	Inset day