

The Christ Church News



22nd May 2026

Our value this term is: **COMPASSION**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE COURAGE FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday, Year 1 led a wonderful service, sharing their learning with confidence and enthusiasm—we were incredibly proud of them all. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended and supported the children.

We kindly remind all parents and carers about the **importance of parking safely** when dropping off and collecting children. The safety of our pupils, families, and neighbours must always come first. Parking considerably is everyone's responsibility. Please avoid blocking driveways, parking on pavements, or stopping in unsafe areas. These actions can put children and others at risk. By working together and making safe choices, we can ensure that our school remains a safe environment for everyone in our community. Thank you for your continued support.

We wish all our families a lovely half-term break—hopefully with plenty of sunshine to enjoy! We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the new term.

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates 26

Date	Event
1 st June	Children back to school First aid training workshops for Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3
2 nd June	Y2 Science Festival trip – information to follow (no more volunteers needed)
3 rd June	Y5 & Y6 Science Festival trip – (no volunteers needed)
4 th June	Y3 Science Festival trip - volunteers still needed please PTA meeting at The Swamp 7pm
5 th June	Y4 Science Festival trip – information to follow
8 th June	Book Fair arrives at school for the week

10 th June	Y6 Leavers' service Gloucester Cathedral – children only
11 th June	Whole school geography workshop day
12 th June	PTA Disco – information to follow
16 th June	Sports Day - KS2 morning and KS1 afternoon
17 th June	Y4 Robinswood Trip – information to follow
18 th June	Y4, 5, 6 first aid training Reception 2026 parent meeting
19 th June	Prince of Wales athletics – invited children
20 th June	PTA Summer Picnic (note change of date)
23 rd June	Reserve Sports Day
24 th June	Y1 Weston-super-Mare trip – information to follow
25 th June	YR Perrygrove Railway trip – information to follow
1 st July	Move up morning – children go to their new classrooms
3 rd July	PTA Beach Party theme non-uniform day
6 th July	Whole school skipping workshops
7 th July	2.45pm RSE meeting for parents TBC
8 th – 10 th July	Y6 Residential trip
9 th July	Y4 & Y5 Cheltenham Music festival trip
14 th July	2.00pm & 5.30pm Y6 Performance – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
15 th July	Rock Steady Concert 2.30pm
17 th July	Y6 Leavers' Service 2pm Last day - School finishes at normal time

Parent Surveys – Sharing Your Views

Over the coming terms, we will be introducing a small number of short parent surveys to help us better understand your views about different aspects of school life.

These will be pulse surveys, which are quick surveys made up of just a few questions. They are designed to give us a snapshot of how parents feel about a particular area at a particular time, rather than a long or detailed questionnaire. Each survey should take no more than a couple of minutes to complete.

We know from experience that surveys can sometimes be completed mainly when something is not going well. While we absolutely want to hear about any concerns, it is just as important for us to hear about what is working well too. Your positive feedback helps us understand what to continue and build on. We would really like to hear from as many parents as possible.

This is a **trial approach**, and we will be reviewing how effective these pulse surveys are and how well they work for families. Your participation will help us decide how we use them in the future.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us.

Please click on the link below by June 5th:

[Teaching and curriculum – Fill in form](#)

Thank you

Thank you to Mr Coltraro for spending time last weekend tidying our reflection garden. This is hugely appreciated and makes such a difference to the safety and enjoyment of playtimes. You might notice our newly painted fence which has really brightened up the space!



Thank you, also, to Mrs Jaynes, Miss Freer, Mrs Readman, Miss Hillier and Miss Greenwood for painting the reflection garden fence - it looks beautiful!



OPAL

Our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) lunchtimes continue to be a huge success, with children enthusiastically embracing the freedom to play, explore, create and learn outdoors. The playground has been full of imagination, teamwork and creativity as children have enjoyed building impressive marble runs, dressing up and performing role-play adventures, constructing with Duplo, making dens and discovering countless ways to invent their own games together.

The OPAL approach is based on the principle that play is essential for children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Through open-ended play opportunities every lunchtime, children develop resilience, cooperation, communication and problem-solving skills while having fun in the fresh air. It has been wonderful to see children of all ages working collaboratively, taking risks safely, sharing ideas and enjoying active, purposeful play.



Lots of the Year 2 children loved making an amazing marble run at lunchtime on Wednesday. Their teamwork and learning was evident; we were very proud of their kind sharing and respectful play.



Swimming Gala

A group of Y5 and a Y6 children represented Christ Church brilliantly on Tuesday evening at the Primary Schools Swimming Gala. The swimmers took part in a team relay race and there were some individual races too. All of the swimmers gave it their very best and showed excellent teamwork skills. A special well done to the Y5 relay team who came 5th out of 17 schools, and to Thomas who came 4th overall in the individual finals.



Year 1

Well done year 1 we are so proud of how confidently and clearly you all spoke during your class celebration service on Wednesday. It was so lovely to hear all about the wonderful things you have enjoyed learning this year!



This term year 1 have really enjoyed looking at different seascapes. This week the children have been busy creating their own seascapes and using different materials in their collages.



Prayer Space 2026

This week, children across the school visited the library which was transformed into a beautiful Prayer Space – a chance for reflection to explore big topics.

Some of the activities were:

- Big Questions – what would you ask God?
- The Empty Chair – an opportunity to think of those who aren't with us or have moved away
- Fizzy Forgiveness – thinking of someone you need to forgive and dropping a vitamin tablet into a jar of water to watch your feelings disappear and repair
- Labrinth maze – a quiet time to think and relax as your finger traces the pathways
- Say sorry – think of a person you might need to say sorry to draw a sad face on magna-doodle, say sorry, wipe it clean then draw a smiley face.

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to run the activities, especially Gill Heron. The children comment it is one of their highlights of the year and it allows them a special time away from the busyness of the classroom.





Year 2 WWT Slimbridge Visit

On Thursday, Year 2 visited WWT Slimbridge and had a fantastic day learning outside with a pond-dipping experience before exploring the grounds seeing the fluffy chicks and goslings as we walked along the paths.

It is a brilliant time to visit with your family. In the afternoon, the children loved playing in WellyBootLand and enjoyed PTA funded ice lollies as a treat. Thank you again to the staff and parents who helped.



We love visiting Slimbridge as it is Sir Peter Scott – Captain Robert Scott's son who set up the centre 80 years ago as Scott was inspired by Edward Wilson's love of nature and asked his wife Kathleen to make sure Peter grew up with a love of nature and look what happened!

Year 6

Y6 enjoyed a careers fair at St Gregs Primary School on Thursday morning. The children were able to visit a range of stalls advertising lots of careers - including the police force, building, opticians, computer science and lots more.



Maths Club

Some children in Y5 and Y6 enjoyed engaging in maths club involving a range of open-ended and practical activities.



Half term support

What support is available during May half term?

1. Community food support

Families can access free or low-cost food support in their local area, including:

- Food banks
- Community fridges
- Community pantries and local food projects

You can find food support near you using the Feeding Gloucestershire food map:

🔗 www.feedinggloucestershire.org.uk/food-map

2. Half-term food provision with activities

During February, May and October half term, a small number of sessions are available that include:

- A free meal for children and young people eligible for Free School Meals
- A safe, supportive space, with activities alongside the meal

These sessions:

- Are not part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- Run outside the main school holiday periods
- Have limited places, with priority given to children and families who need the most support

Bookings are made through the Family Hubs system:

 [Family Hub - Gloucestershire](#)

3. Urgent or crisis support

If you are experiencing a food or financial crisis, or need help urgently, support is available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

You may be able to get:

- Emergency food support
- Help with essential costs
- Access to wider family support services

Find out more and apply here:

 <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/crisis-resilience-home>

Why FSM vouchers stop during half term

Support during holidays is offered through community food provision and targeted half-term sessions.

If you usually receive FSM vouchers and are worried about food during the holiday, please use the support options above.

Other support and resources for families

You may also find help through:

- **Family Hubs services:** advice, support and activities
 <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk>
- Local voluntary and community organisations offering food and family support

Need help finding the right support?

If you're unsure which option is right for you, or need help accessing support, you can:

- Speak to your child's school
- Contact your local Family Hub

- Use the online resources and booking systems linked above

Support is available, and you do not need to manage alone.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital for success in primary school. Every day in school matters—not just for learning, but for helping children feel a strong sense of belonging within their class and the wider school community. When children attend regularly, they build friendships, develop confidence, and feel part of something important.

Missing school can quickly add up. A child who misses just one day every two weeks loses around 10% of the school year. This can make it harder to keep up with learning, particularly in key areas like reading, writing, and maths. Research consistently shows that pupils with higher attendance achieve better outcomes and make stronger progress over time.

At our school, we place great importance on ensuring every child feels welcomed, valued, and included. Good attendance supports this by allowing children to fully engage in lessons, activities, and shared experiences that build a sense of belonging.

We appreciate your ongoing support in helping your child attend school every day, on time. Together, we can ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive and succeed.

PFA

A reminder from the PFA. Thank you for those parents who have purchased the Pet Parade e-book. The link for your e-book has now been sent out so please check your emails and junk mailbox for a link sent from ccpspfa@gmail.com.

Thank you!

PFA Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th June – 7pm PTA meeting at “The Swamp” at Deya

Friday 12th June – Summer Discos

Tuesday 16th June –Sports Day, selling ice coffee and soft drink in cans

Saturday 20th June – Summer Picnic

Friday 3rd July – Beach party themed non-uniform day