

# The Christ Church News



12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Our value this term is: **RESPECT**

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Twitter: @ChristChurchCo3

**RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Zigzag lines** - Can we please remind all parents/carers that parking on or near the zig zag lines is dangerous to all our children. We would ask everyone who drops their child/children at school in the mornings (and picks them in the afternoon) to please not park on the lines / brow of the hill. We appreciate that everyone rushes around in the morning but to spare a little extra time and drop your child at a SAFE place, could effectively save a life or injury. Many thanks.

**Reception 2026** - It always seems early to be talking about next year. However, if you have a child with a sibling that already attends and will be applying for a place for next year, please could you ring the office so that we have an idea of how many siblings to expect. Also, please let others know that we are offering tours and these can be booked via Mrs Williamson or Mrs Knox in the office.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Pope

## Diary Dates 25-26 (please note these can be added to each week)

15 <sup>th</sup> September	Yr 2 Parent Information Meeting 3.20pm – info to follow
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Yr 5 Evacuee trip
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Yr 6 Swimming starts
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Uniform sale 3pm in the hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Yr R and Year 1 Phonics meeting 3.30pm
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 3, 5, 6 Literature festival visit – info to follow
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 2 Literature festival visit – info to follow
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 6 & Yr 4 Literature festival visit – info to follow
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 2 Cathedral / Mosque visit - TBC

21 <sup>st</sup> October	Yr 3 lead Harvest Festival service at Church 10am
21 <sup>st</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents' evening – info to follow
24 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET day – school closed for children
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half term – School closed
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Children back to school
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am Reception 2026 tours for prospective parents – book via office
10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> November	I sing pop rehearsals this week
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Positive noticing day
13 <sup>th</sup> November	I-Sing pop concerts – info to follow
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual & sibling photograph day
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity performance 2.15pm – ticket info to follow
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity performance 9.30am – ticket info to follow
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Yr R Everyman Theatre – info to follow
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Yr 4 lead Christmas Service – info to follow
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day – finish at usual time
5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET day – school closed for children
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children back to school

### Term 1 Value – Respect

*'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'*

Matthew 7:12

- Respect yourself
- Treat others the way you would like to be treated
- Respect others' thoughts, ideas, and beliefs
- Embrace difference
- Look after your belongings and your equipment
- Take care of our school
- Take care of our environment
- Gain respect by giving respect
- Forgive others and seek reconciliation

### Key Bible Story

Moses and The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-24)



The children have been learning the words and putting actions to this great song on YouTube called All About Respect. Our value this term is Respect, where we think about how to respect each other, our school and environment. Here is the link if you'd like to [sing the song at home](#).

### Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying their new topic on 'Forces'. They have loved investigating gravity and using newton meters to explore how forces can be measured.



### Year 6 Bikeability

Y6 took part in the Bikeability training this week – a fantastic opportunity to build their confidence and skills when cycling. Over several sessions, the children learned how to check their bikes for safety, signal clearly and ride

confidently on quiet roads. The instructors were incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm and progress. Well done to all our cyclists for showing great focus, responsibility and road awareness!



### Summer Reading Challenge

You have a few days left to finish the Summer Reading Challenge! If your child completed Bronze, Silver or Gold levels of the Summer Reading Challenge, please send their certificate and medal into school next week as we will celebrate everyone on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September** in our Celebration Service.



### Year 2 Bread-making in Design and Technology

This week, Year 2 used their bread recipe and design to create their own unique loaves of bread. We tasted different types of bread last week which helped us decide what we could include in our own designs: poppy seeds / sesame seeds / mixed seeds / cranberries / raisins / olives / sunflower seeds to name a few!

Special thanks to Mrs Mwakyegula and Ms Hakimi who worked with the children to help measure the correct ingredients and make sure there was a loaf of bread to cook!

Here is the recipe you can try at home!



## Year 2's Bread Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 110g wholemeal bread flour
- 100g white bread flour
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 7g of yeast
- 150ml lukewarm water
- Any extra ingredients (raisins / cranberries/ seeds / olives...)

### Equipment:

- Tray with baking paper or foil
- Mixing bowl
- Measuring jug
- Weighing scales

### Method:

1. First, preheat the oven to 220 degrees.
2. Then sieve the flour, salt and yeast in a bowl.

3. After, add the water and mix the ingredients together to form a dough. Add a little more water if it is stiff.
4. Next, tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead the dough until it is smooth.
5. Then, shape the dough and add your toppings.
6. After that, leave your dough for one hour so it can prove.
7. Bake your loaf in the oven for 25-30 minutes.
8. Finally, cool your bread then slice it to enjoy!

## Attendance

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development.

As evidence shows, that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Here's what the data shows:

- Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.
- Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

## PTA

Please support our PTA this year. They provide so many opportunities and resources for our children.



Sign up here: <https://square.link/u/PkGD8Gsb>

## PTA Uniform Sale

Next Friday 19th September the PTA will be holding a uniform sale from 3pm in the school hall. You can bring clean uniform donations to give the team (age 4, 5 and 6 donations very welcome) and browse for your next size up. All items £1.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

### ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

### GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

### CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

### ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debates.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### I WANT TO BELIEVE

#### CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

#### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: 'Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say?' Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

#### MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

#### REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

### Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Louise

"My son actually wants to go to school on his Rocksteady days. It has given him an alternative to academic learning."

Michelle

"I've seen him flourish socially and have friends across the year group."

Bekki

£44.88 per month (no payment in August).  
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START THEIR  
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info@rocksteadymusicsschool.com

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**41<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham Scout Group**

Teeth-gritting, keep-on-going, summit-reaching, giggling, fun-loving Beavers!  
Monday nights-every week in term time at Scout District HQ, Brooklyn Road, Cheltenham.  
Come and give it a go.  
Beavers: Mondays 5.00pm – 6.30pm



**BEAVERS**

We need  
helpers  
too!



**41<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham Scout Group**  
**Vacancies for Beavers !**

Our Beaver group meets on a Monday 5.00-6.30 at the Scout Hut on Brooklyn Road and we currently have vacancies for new Beavers. It is £12 a month for Subs and we meet in term-time only. If you think you have a keen child age 5,6 or 7 (Years 1-2) who would be interested in joining, please get in touch.

Please contact Harry "Brock" Butland, (41<sup>st</sup> Beavers Leader) by email:  
[41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com](mailto:41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com)



**Pate's** Grammar School

**Open Evening for Year 7 Entry**

**Tuesday 30 September 2025**

**5.00pm - 8.00pm**

**Headteacher's Welcome: 5.00pm, 6.00pm and 7.00pm**

**Tours start from 5.15pm**

We welcome you and your family to join us for our Autumn Open Evening. Come and explore our school on a self-led tour, with our students and staff on hand to help you discover all you want to know about Pate's school life and joining us in Year 7.

[Book now](#)

Parking available on site (subject to weather conditions).

01242 523 169  
[patesgs.org](http://patesgs.org)

Princess Elizabeth Way  
Cheltenham GL51 0HG



# Battledown Welcome back Autumn Fair

Saturday 20th September  
12 to 3 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for some family fun.....

A variety of craft, food & gift stalls

Toys, books & bric-a-brac

Live Music

BBQ

Games for the children

Cream Teas

Raffle

Tombola

Fire Engine

Arts & Crafts

and so much more.....

**Entry**  
**Adults: 50p**  
**Children: Free**

Battledown Centre for Children & Families, Harp Hill, Cheltenham, GL52 6PZ



# All Together Service

**Sunday 14th September**

*join us for fantastic  
pastries from 10am,  
service starts at 10:30!*

 **CHRIST CHURCH**  
CHELTENHAM

