

The Christ Church News



18th July 2025

Our value this term is: **THANKFULNESS**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents, Carers and the Christ Church family,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I'd like to take a moment to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this year so special. To our dedicated staff—thank you for your tireless commitment, creativity, and care. To our supportive parents and carers—your encouragement and involvement make a world of difference. And to our governors and the church—your guidance and leadership continue to help our school thrive. A thank you to all of our visitors and volunteers too. Together we are all stronger.

A special farewell goes to our Year 6 pupils who are moving on to secondary school. We are incredibly proud of all you've achieved and know you'll continue to shine in your new adventures. Remember, you'll always be part of our school family.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

Best wishes,

Mrs Pope

Farewells

As you know, Mrs Wyatt, Mrs Whybrew and Mrs Sheppard are leaving us this this year.

Mrs Wyatt has been our sendco for as long as the Y6 children have been in school! We would like to thank her for her dedication in the role as SENDCo. It's been a privilege to work alongside someone so passionate about inclusion and the wellbeing of every child. Her knowledge and guidance has made a real difference—not just to pupils, but to parents as well. We are especially grateful for her encouragement in helping to introduce the Thrive programme to our school which will leave a lasting, positive impact. Thank you – we will miss you. Happy 'early' retirement!

To Mrs Whybrew, we want to say a heartfelt thank you for everything you've brought to our school community in your role as pastoral lead. Your genuine care for the children, your constant positivity, and your calm, reassuring presence have made such a difference every single day. You consistently go above and beyond—whether it's offering a listening ear, supporting a child through a tough

moment, or simply being that dependable, encouraging figure so many rely on. It's been a real privilege to work alongside you. Your compassion, dedication, and tireless work will leave a lasting impact. Thank you for everything—you'll be greatly missed.

And to Mrs Sheppard, we thank you for being such a valued colleague and inspiring teacher. Your dedication to Christ Church has made a real impact—not just on your pupils, but on everyone who's had the pleasure of working with you. You bring warmth, patience, and professionalism to everything you do. Thank you for your support, your kindness, and all the moments of laughter along the way – we think that you will secretly miss sorting the tickets for Young Voices! We wish you all the very best for the future.



BBC Radio Interview

You can listen to Mrs Proctor speaking about the Year 2's Young Leaders Award from Sunday 13th July at 1 hour 8 minutes into the programme with Caroline Martin presenting.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002fh51>

Sunday 13 July 2025 This week | Calendar

SUN 6 JUL MON 7 JUL TUE 8 JUL WED 9 JUL THU 10 JUL FRI 11 JUL SAT 12 JUL TODAY 13 JUL MON 14 JUL TUE 15 JUL WED 16 JUL THU 17 JUL FRI 18 JUL SAT 19 JUL SUN 20 JUL

Schedule

SKIP TO: ON AIR | EARLY | MORNING | AFTERNOON | EVENING | LATE

EARLY

01:00 **Local BBC Radio** **Weekend overnights with BBC Radio 5 Live**
13/07/2025
Local BBC Radio joins BBC Radio 5 Live through the night on a weekend.

MORNING **BACK TO TOP**

06:00 **ON AIR** **Caroline Martin on BBC Radio Gloucestershire**
13/07/2025
Thought-provoking news on Sunday morning with Caroline, and features with faith in mind.
Listen Live

Year 6 "Matilda" Show

Year 6 families enjoyed watching "Matilda" this week performed by the Year 6 pupils. The rest of the school were able to see the dress rehearsal on Monday and it was fantastic! Many thanks to the Year 6 team for all their hard work. We are very proud of you all! Photos are on the Year 6 webpage in the "Matilda Performance" section.



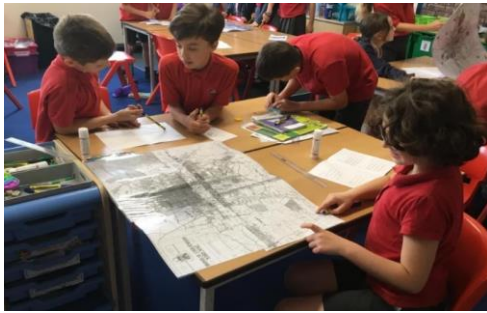


Summer Reading Challenge

Another reminder for the Summer Reading Challenge at the libraries in our area. We will celebrate all the children who complete it at school in a special assembly on Monday 15th September so bring in your certificates then!

The Library
Challenge
THIS YEAR'S THEME:
The Natural World
12 July - 13 September 2025
Suitable for children aged 3+
Scan the QR code or visit gloslibraries.uk

Y4 Geography Enquiry – How and why is my local area changing?



Year 4 scrutinised a range of maps, ranging from 1776 to 1939, in order to study how our local environment has changed.

Year 6

What a wonderful group of Y6 children we are saying goodbye to today. They have worked so hard this year and have made us really proud. We wish you lots of luck and happiness as you move to your new secondary schools and can't wait to hear about the amazing things you get up to. Have a lovely summer holiday!



School Council

School Council met with Lisa our Catering manager to discuss our Christ Church school menu, portion size and encouragement to ask for second helpings of a main dinner if they wish toyummy !



06

TERM TOPIC

Parents Newsletter

Marijana Filipovic-Carter
Head of Family Support
Jennifer Protheroe Minett
Family Support Practitioner



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

**NURTURING MINDS,
BODIES AND
FAMILY
CONNECTION
THROUGH NATURE.**



FAMILY SERVICES

MOVE
MORE
EVERY CHILD THRIVES

Research (and our own experience) tell us that today's generation of children spend more time on screens, sitting down, not being active, struggling to sleep and feeling disconnected from families. To tackle this, the NHS suggests that children should be active for at least 60mins of the day as a minimum - the more the better. But we also know how hard it is to get children outside playing or just going for a walk when there are too many temptations inside and adults are struggling to juggle work, provide entertainment, meet children's needs and keep their own sanity. This seems particularly to be the case during the long six weeks of the summer holidays.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

Given that access to fresh air and movement often go hand in hand, let us explore how spending more active time outside would benefit the whole family:



Physical health: spending time outdoors can encourage our children to walk, run, jump, climb and explore, all of which contribute to improving overall fitness, cardiovascular health and developing motor skills. Natural sunlight helps our body produce Vitamin D, essential to strong bone development and immune function. Finally, a healthy level of physical activity also lowers risk of childhood obesity.



Mental wellbeing: research suggests that time spent outdoors can have a profound impact on emotional resilience and happiness for adults and children alike. Time spent in nature can encourage mindfulness (being present in the moment), reduce restlessness and lower cortisol levels – all important factors for mental wellbeing.



Appreciation for nature: the more time you spend outdoors, the more likely you are to be invested in it. This leads to children developing a lifelong respect for the environment and its ecosystems. The more hands-on experiences we can provide, such as building insect shelters, feeding the birds, planting seeds and watering them, the more likely our children will feel a sense of responsibility for the natural world. Hobbies such as photography or sketching of landscapes can further nurture this connection to nature.



Independence and risk taking: a level of unstructured play is often involved in outdoor activities, which in turn allows children to develop independence. Furthermore, it provides opportunity for them to begin making decisions and problem solve for themselves, without high level pressure. Being outdoors can challenge children and encourage confidence to be built to explore beyond their comfort zones. Trying new things helps develop resilience and even encourages an awareness of risk and safety which can be transferred to other situations.

Social skills & collaboration: an outdoor space is the perfect setting for children to build relationships and learn to work together with other children and as part of a team developing empathy, social awareness and imagination. Shared experiences, such as picnicking and camping, can strengthen family bonds, provide time and space to be truly present and create special memories together.

HOW TO COMBAT RELUCTANCE

If you are thinking those benefits sound great, but what about children who are reluctant to get outside and engage in the great outdoors, you are not alone. Many of us have experienced children flatly refusing to spend time outside, whining during walks and full-blown tantrums because there isn't enough Wi-Fi in the woods. Insisting on spending active time outside is well worth the effort as introducing outdoor activities early in life lays the foundation for healthy habits that can last a lifetime. That said, it's never too late to create new healthy habits in our children and young people. And summer is the perfect time to fly the flag for change!

So, here are three top tips to encourage children to spend more time outside and experience the benefits we have already mentioned:



- 1** **Make it More Engaging by Creating an Outdoor Supply Kit**
 The idea of this kit is that it holds plenty of fun things accessible for children to engage with in the great outdoors. This can include whatever you and your children wish, but here are some ideas of things to include: ball, kite, chalks, binoculars, bubbles, magnifying glass, bucket (for collecting things), bug book, paper (to make planes and boats), racquets, bird book, doll, toy car, an old camera... Have them somewhere visible and easy to grab on your way out the door to feed anticipation and excitement.
- 2** **Make it More Fun by Planning a Playdate**
 This might be in your home garden or further from home. Bring a picnic filled with delicious foods, involve your child in choosing or making some of the contents and bring along what you can from your 'outdoor supply kit' mentioned earlier. Watering cans and hoses can provide just as much entertainment for younger ones, whilst planting and growing plants, vegetables and flowers can be rewarding and nurturing with a sense of responsibility for older children. Sunflower and herb planting are a great place to start.
- 3** **Set Everybody up for Success by Leading by Example**
 Children learn more by what we do than what we say, so it's time to lead by example. Create boundaries with technology and devices at home (this applies to adults too) and be intentional with spending more time enjoying the great outdoors together. Outdoor activities can easily be worked into day-to-day activities or structure too, rain or shine. Whilst your children may resist it initially, they'll learn to love the time spent as a family outside in time, especially if you are fully present too. This will help them meet their emotional needs and in turn improve their behaviour too.



Why not take part in our Move More Miles Summer Challenge? To celebrate being an official Charity Partner of Run Cheltenham 2025, Move More have launched the **MOVE MORE MILES SUMMER CHALLENGE** to encourage children and families to keep MOVING throughout the summer to benefit their mental health and wellbeing and a £500 sports voucher is up for grabs for your chosen school >> www.move-more.org/move-more-miles/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some links to help you on your way with ideas of family activities to do outdoors and get active:
[100 budget-friendly summer activities for kids - Skint Dad](#)
[Kids' sports and activities - Healthier Families - NHS](#)
[The Gloucestershire Bucket List - The definitive collection of 100 ultimate things to do in Gloucestershire](#)

School Uniform

Message from Monkhouse – uniform suppliers:

*'We're excited to introduce Klarna as a new flexible payment option for all online orders **over £50**. Just in time for back-to-school season, this update makes shopping easier for parents and carers by helping to spread the cost.*

With Klarna, customers have the following options;

- Pay in 30 days, or
- Split the cost into 3 interest-free payments

Please note: Klarna is currently available for **online orders only** and not available in stores.

We're thrilled to offer this added convenience and help take some pressure off back-to-school shopping!

See website: <https://www.monkhouse.com/school/christ-church-primary-school-urn-138940-id-372036>

Attendance

A huge thank you to our families for your continued support with attendance this year and maximising every learning opportunity that we have provided for your child. We know and appreciate that:



We finish the year with a cumulative attendance figure of 96.7%. This is an increase of 1.3% on the previous academic year. I look forward to continuing to build on this great progress with you all next year.

Thank you!



**Guitar lessons in
Christ Church Primary School**

Spaces available for September
Enrol Now www.lpmsignup.co.uk



Part of 



TIME FOR FUN!



For fun, friendship and activities that get you thinking as well as doing, join us at 41st Cheltenham Beavers. We have spaces for girls and boys aged 6 to 8 years in our Colony to start this September. We meet on Mondays from 5 to 6.30pm at Scout HQ, Brooklyn Road, GL51 8DS. For more details email us at:

41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com

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ROCK Values Respect + Optimism + Community + Kindness

**Open Week for Prospective Students Y7 Admission
September 2026**

Monday 22nd September 2025 to Thursday 25th September 2025
9.30am to 10.30am



Guided tour of the school by our students

See our teachers and classrooms in action

Talk in our Chapel from our Principal

Unlock Your Potential

To book a session, visit our website.




Meet the Family Hub team

freebies join in the fun interactive activities everyone welcome

Cheltenham
Party in the Park at Pittville Park
6 August - 10am-7pm
Gardners Lane Children and Family Centre Family Fun Session
8 August - 11am-2pm



Gloucestershire Family Hubs offering essential services, information, advice, guidance, and community connections

www.familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk 

ULTIMATE
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GET SET FOR ULTIMATE SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

Exceptional activity
camps for children
aged 4 to 14 at

**Dean Close
Prep School,
Cheltenham**

ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK



ROOKIE LIFEGUARD

THIS FANTASTIC PROGRAMME OFFERS EDUCATION IN:
SELF RESCUE, SURVIVAL, RESCUE, FIRST AID AND LIFESAVING SPORT SKILLS.

CLC Health & Fitness Centre will be running a Silver & Gold Rookie Lifeguard Course on
the following dates:

12:00pm-15:00pm (Age 8-12years)

Thursday 14th August- Friday 15th August 2025 (Silver Course)

Thursday 28th August- Friday 29th August 2025 (Gold Course)

Please note that all candidates will need to provide evidence of completion of the stage before when signing up
and will be required to swim 400m continuously in under 12 mins



Course Leader- Kelly Long

Email- hfcenquiries@cheltladiescollege.org

ENQUIRE OR BOOK AT RECEPTION