

The Christ Church News



11th July 2025

Our value this term is: **THANKFULNESS**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has certainly been a hot one! Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the beach and Y6 have had a fantastic time on residential. There are many pictures on the Year 6 class page showing this. We also enjoyed our Rock Steady concert. We would like to thank the fantastic PTA for the success of the summer picnic last Saturday. We raised a fantastic £2200. The PTA gave their time so generously in its organisation. Some members are changing their roles next year – to those members, thank you so much for the huge contributions that you have made. It is truly appreciated. Please do consider lending them a hand with events – they are volunteers and more hands make light work! Thank you to all who came and supported this event and sold raffle tickets, gave teddies etc. We hope you had a great time.

All library books must be returned to school on Monday next week. There are so many overdue and this means that the library is depleted.

This year, the house point winners were so close. Two houses had won on 12 weeks and one house on 11 occasions. As this is so close, we have made the decision that all children can wear non uniform on Monday.

Best wishes
Mrs Pope

Diary Dates Summer Term 2025

Date	Event
15 th July	Y6 performance 2pm & 5.30pm – book tickets via shop in Arbor for Y6 families
18 th July	Last day of school – finish normal time – Summer Holiday :) Y6 leavers' service 2pm in the hall
21 st July	INSET day – no school for children
2 nd September	First day back for children

Heidi's Heroes

On Thursday 10th July 2025, a group of Year 5 pupils attended a special event at Cheltenham Lido. This was to celebrate their participation in the Heidi's Heroes Programme.

The children had a wonderful time, enjoying a fun swim session in the glorious sunshine and received their certificates afterwards. Well done to everyone.



Year 1

Year 1 had a fantastic sunny day at Weston Super Mare on Thursday. The children had a lovely time building sandcastles, playing games and enjoying a beach picnic. The children enjoyed spotting the lighthouse on the horizon, as well as identifying physical and human features of the seaside that we will be discussing in geography next week. We finished the day with a delicious, but rather runny, ice cream.



4Front Theatre – “The Bizarre Bible” show

Last Friday afternoon our pupils enjoyed a performance from 4Front Theatre called “The Bizarre Bible” which took us on a journey through many different bible stories. Thank you to the anonymous parishioner from Christ Church who gave a donation which kindly helped cover the cost for the performance along with a grant we received so it was free for our families. The children laughed and laughed at the actors who did not stop for one hour of full-on entertainment, singing and humour! We hope they can visit again next year!



Year 2's Young Leader Award Celebration Service

Year 2 have completed their Archbishop of York Young Leader Award. They started in September and worked through the four areas of learning – Kindness, Perseverance, Teamwork and Action.

It was lovely to invite Sandfields Care Home to come and present the children with their certificates as we gifted them five beautiful cushions for their residents to enjoy. The children have learned that small steps = big changes and we can make a difference in our communities.

Bishop Rachel Treweek included this article about the project in her monthly newsletter, and it was included in the Diocese Education News this month too. You can read it here:

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/leadership-award-connects-children-and-care-homes/>



Thankfulness Value

Each class contributed to this beautiful display this term as we focus on the value Thankfulness. We hope your child/ren are able to talk to you about some things they are thankful for in their lives as we reflect on another busy school year.



CC Samba

Well done to the members of CC Samba Band who played at the Summer Picnic last weekend...we didn't get any photos of them performing on the day but here they are rehearsing!



"Open the Book" assemblies

We'd like to say a BIG THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers who come to lead us with Open the Book assemblies every fortnight. The children really enjoy the bible stories especially when their class gets to help with acting out the stories! Maureen, Brian and Maria – we really are so thankful you come and lead these assemblies!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic residential. There are so many photos on the class page:

<https://www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk/photographs-19/>

Thank you to the staff who gave their time so generously to take care of the children.



Attendance

Did you know: if child attends every day for the first week of the school term that is a strong indicator that they will go on to attend school regularly throughout the term. For example, children who had an unauthorised absence on any day during the first week of term had an average term-level unauthorised absence rate of 25% compared to an unauthorised absence rate of 2% for pupils who didn't miss any sessions in the first week.

Internet

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based login. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 13-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2023, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok star.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or extortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 330 reports of sextortion, alarmingly. In the first five months alone, police received an average of 17 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Smart actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should spend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen, show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



ALL TOGETHER SERVICE

Sunday 13th July

Join us from 10am for fabulous refreshments, then stay for a service of songs, prayers, a short bible talk, and a mouse called Monty!

