

# The Christ Church News



4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Our value this term is: **THANKFULNESS**

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**RESPECT**   **COMPASSION**   **PERSEVERANCE**   **CREATIVITY**   **FRIENDSHIP**

Dear Parents and Carers,

EYFS performed a wonderful service for the school on Tuesday. We were really proud of them and how they have developed this year.

We are looking forward to the summer picnic on Saturday. The forecast isn't as good as we had hoped but we will still go ahead, whatever the weather. Please come along and support the PTA in this event to raise vital funds for school.

A reminder that children are not allowed on the equipment before or after school. Thank you for helping us with this.

A reminder that all forms of smart watches, including fitbits, are not allowed to be worn at school. They can be distracting and take away from learning time and are often of great value. They can be used to play games, send messages, or check notifications. Some smartwatches also have cameras or recording features, which can raise privacy concerns in school. We want to create a safe and respectful learning environment for everyone. We are happy for children to wear a traditional analogue / digital watch if necessary. Thank you for your support in this.

Best wishes  
Mrs Pope

## Diary Dates Summer Term 2025

Date	Event
5 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA Summer Picnic
9 <sup>th</sup> July	2.30pm Rock Steady Concert (please note change of date)
10 <sup>th</sup> July	9am Y2 service Y1 trip to Weston-Super-Mare (re-scheduled date)
9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Residential trip

15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 performance 2pm & 5.30pm – book tickets via shop in Arbor
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of school – finish normal time – Summer Holiday Y6 leavers’ service 2pm in the hall
21 <sup>st</sup> July	INSET day – no school for children

### **Coding Club**

As a school we have completed the national I Belong: encouraging girls into computer science programme, demonstrating a commitment to encouraging girls into computer science and improving the gender balance within the subject. The I Belong certificate is awarded by the NCCE, a leading body for computing education in England. We have run a lunchtime coding club for Year 5 girls who then helped run a similar club for the Year 3 girls. We are looking to expand on our club and offer an after-school club in September. Thanks to Mrs Walker for this initiative.

### **Car Parking**

We have recently been advised that our zigzag markings are now subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which now makes it an enforceable offence to park on them at any time of the day. They are looking at turning the double yellow lines opposite school into an enforceable ‘Red Route’ area.

Following on from this, the local Highways department have contacted the school and asked us to communicate how this will be enforced:

“We are introducing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera cars to enforce “School Keep Clear” markings. This will allow for improved and consistent enforcement against vehicles parking in restricted areas during peak times

“To strengthen enforcement and reduce ambiguity, we are actively progressing proposals to implement ‘Red Routes’ near school areas. These routes will prohibit stopping entirely and, once in place, will be enforceable by camera car, providing a clearer and stricter system around schools”

We are very appreciative of the parents who park in designated areas away from the school and would continue to ask parents to do so.

### **Reception Service**

On Tuesday, it was Reception's turn to do their class service. First, they acted out the story 'A Squash and Squeeze'. They then all had a turn at saying what they have been thankful for this year. They all spoke loudly and clearly. They also sang two songs with great enthusiasm. We ended with some memories of the year. Thank you to all the parents who were able to come. We were very proud of the children and hope you were too. We can't believe how quickly the year has gone!



### **Book Fair**

Huge thanks to you all for supporting the Book fair once again this year. We took over £600 in sales which meant we were able to take over £250 worth of books for the classroom. Each teacher enjoyed the opportunity to choose some new titles for their classrooms- all made possible with your support. Thank you too to the staff and PTA who supported this event after school.

### **Attendance**

Our attendance data continues to improve but don't just take our word for it...

Below is an extract from a department for education report for our school which compares us to similar schools.

## Headline figures compared to similar schools

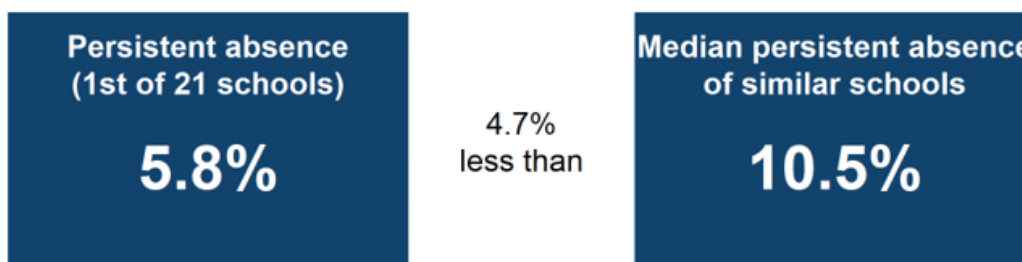
Overall attendance and persistent absence figures for your pupils in years 1 to 6 compared to 20 similar schools. Results are calculated based on data from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Friday 30 May 2025.

### Overall attendance



*Your overall attendance is 96.5% which is 1.3% greater than the median attendance of similar schools. You are ranked 1st of 21 schools for attendance - meaning 20 similar schools have a lower overall attendance than your school.*

### Persistent Absence



*Your persistent absence is 5.8% which is 4.7% less than the median attendance of similar schools. You are ranked 1st of 21 schools for persistent absence - meaning 20 similar schools have a higher rate of persistent absence than your school.*

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Reminder: persistent absence are any children whose attendance falls below 90%.

### Lunchtime

On Fridays, when there is any pudding left over, Caterlink offer these as a second helping which helps reduce food waste. We understand that some parents may not want their child to have an extra cookie. Please inform the office by email if you do not give permission.

Internet Safety

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalonline.com](#).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

### DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps shared at least some personal data. Over 48% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at on-device users.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even restricted content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

iOS – Apple's mobile ecosystem – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of excess might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

### REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block specific content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App limits can reduce device exposure. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App limits can daily limit usage on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Enabling Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This step surcharges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and The Verge. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.

[#WakeUpWednesday](#)

The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.07.2025

Community Notices

41st Cheltenham Beaver Scouts has vacancies for boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years old.

Our weekly term time meetings are held at Scout HQ, Brooklyn Road, GL51 8DS. We meet on Mondays from 5pm to 6.30pm. The cost is £3 per week.

For further details contact Brock at [41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com](mailto:41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com).

**JAMES HOPKINS TRUST**  
Respite Care for Children in Gloucestershire

**CHOSEN HILL F.P.**  
R.F.C.

# SUMMER FETE

Fun for **ALL the Family!**

**SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST**  
**1:00PM - 5:00PM**

**Adult £3**  
**Children FREE**

**CHOSEN HILL RUGBY CLUB**  
**GL3 2PJ**

**Five Valleys Mini Club**

**Whippy Tee**

**Gloucestershire Troopers**

**Enchanted Princess Parties**

**SUPERSON'S**  
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

**Cheltenham & Gloucester F.C.**

**CYCLE STARS PRESENT**

CYCLESTARS.CO.UK

**BSCA  
GRASS TRACK  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 6.30 - 8PM**  
ST-MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Grass Track racing is at St Marks Junior School in Cheltenham starting at 6.30pm. Riders can enter as individuals or as a team and as usual they are racing for the team perennial shield currently being defended by Leckhampton Primary School. Please contact Stephen Preston at: [cyclestars001@gmail.com](mailto:cyclestars001@gmail.com) for an entry form.

28th July - 1st August 2025

**DRAMA CAMP**

Join our industry professionals for a summer drama production across the seas!  
Designed for Years 4-9 to take acting skills to the next level  
Open to all children and all levels

Bacon Theatre, Dean Close School | 8:30am - 5:00pm | £240  
enquiries@deanclosevenues.co.uk

DEAN CLOSE COVENTRY

**LAST CHANCE**

**Clay Days: Summer workshops**  
**ONE DAY AVAILABLE!**

**Coral Reef Desk Tidy**

Thursday 31 July  
10am - 3pm  
£60 per day  
Limited spaces available



For more information visit [www.deanclosefoundation.org.uk](http://www.deanclosefoundation.org.uk)

**SUMMER SWIMMING CRASH COURSE**

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August & 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August  
9:30am - 11am  
Half hour lessons  
Stages 1 - 4

**£60**



**Bookings NOW open**  
Contact: [swim@deanclosefoundation.org.uk](mailto:swim@deanclosefoundation.org.uk)

DEAN CLOSE SPORTS CAMPS

**SUMMER HOCKEY CAMP**  
18 - 21 AUGUST 2025

Led by Director of Hockey at Dean Close School and coached by current National League Hockey players

**£38**

Per Session  
10% off when you book all four days

All abilities welcome

9am - 12pm - Juniors Years 3 - 6  
1pm - 4pm - Seniors Years 7 - 13  
Contact: [srjtaylor@deanclose.org.uk](mailto:srjtaylor@deanclose.org.uk) for booking details



**EVERYMAN**  
THEATRE · CHELTENHAM

**ACTING UP!**  
PERFORMING ARTS PROJECT FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE



**Join the professionals from the Everyman Theatre for 'Acting Up!' - everything you ever wanted to know & learn about acting for the stage across four days.**

**Who?** Ages 10-13  
**When?** Tues 26<sup>th</sup> - Fri 29<sup>th</sup> August 11am-3pm  
**Where?** The Rock Youth Club, St Peter's Church, Tewkesbury Rd, GL51 9AH  
**What?** Working with industry leading professionals you will learn:  
• How to create characters  
• Intro to stage combat  
• How to improvise  
• How to use scripts - and even how to write one  
Cost - £10 per child (for all 4 days)

Go "behind the scenes" and find out how actors work, through fun practical exercises, games and techniques! *Supported by:*

To book & more info  
email: [drama@therock.uk.com](mailto:drama@therock.uk.com)  
01242 700700

Or Scan QR to sign  
up & book



All team are subject to DBS checks