

The Christ Church News



25th September 2026

Telephone: (01242) 523392

Our value this term is: **RESPECT**

Email: admin@christchurch.dgat.org.uk

Web: www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk

RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE COURAGE FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Information Evenings. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with their child's learning journey and taking the opportunity to meet class teachers. Strong partnerships between home and school play such an important role in helping children thrive, and we greatly value your ongoing support. I would also like to extend my thanks to our teaching staff, who invested time and effort in preparing and delivering these sessions. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring parents feel informed and involved are greatly appreciated.

As we move further into the term, it has been a pleasure to see the children settling so positively into their routines, embracing new challenges and demonstrating our school values in so many ways. We look forward to another exciting and successful term working together as a school community.

Have a nice weekend.

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates

Date	Event
29 th September	YR Maths meeting 3.25-3.45pm Y5 Evacuation Trip – Pay on Arbor
1 st October	Census day – special menu
7 th October	9.15am R2027 tour – contact the office to book your place
9 th October	Y4 – Literature Festival visit – Pay on Arbor PTA adult quiz night – information to follow
12 th October	Photo day - Individual children
14 th October	Y1, Y2 & Y3 Literature Festival visit –Pay on Arbor

	(Y2 have enough helpers now thanks, Y1/Y3 helpers still needed)
15 th October	&5 & Y6 Literature Festival visit – Pay on Arbor
16 th October	PTA Disco – details to follow
20 th October	10am Y3 Harvest service at Church – all welcome – Food Bank donations
20 th & 22 nd October	Parents’ Evening – booking information to follow
21 st October	Y2 RE Trip – pay in Arbor (We have enough helpers now thanks) 9.15am R2027 Tour - contact the office to book your place
22 nd October	Flu immunisations – see below for link to give/deny consent PTA Go Green – non uniform event – information to follow Last day - finish normal time
23 rd October	INSET day – school closed for children
2 nd November	Term 2 begins - first day back for children
3 rd November	Y3 Stone Age Workshop at The Wilson Museum – information to follow 9.15am R2027 tour – contact the office to book your place
4 th November	9.15am R2027 tour - contact the office to book your place
11 th November	9am Y5 Remembrance Service at school - Y5 parents are welcome
13 th November	Children in Need
16 th -20 th November	Road Safety Week
17 th November	Y2 Cinema Trip – details to follow (we have enough helpers now thanks)
18 th November	9.15am R2027 tour - contact the office to book your place Y5/6 Cinema Trip – details to follow
19 th November	Y3 Cinema Trip – details to follow (parent helpers needed)
23 rd November	8.50am Stay and read – Join your child in their classroom and see how we teach reading
25 th November	9am Y6 Friendship Service – Y6 parents are welcome
27 th November	Y4 Cinema Trip – details to follow YR Everyman theatre trip – information to follow
2 nd December	PTA Wreath making event - information to follow (adults only)
4 th December	PTA non-uniform day – bottle & present donations

8 th December	YR & Y1 Nativity 2.15pm – information to follow YR & Y6 Height, weight & vision checks - letters emailed 24/9/26
9 th December	YR & Y1 Nativity 9.30am – information to follow
10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - donations for Save the Children charity
11 th December	PTA Christmas event
14 th December	10am Y4 Christmas Service at church – parents arrive from 9.50am
16 th December	2.30pm Rock Steady concert
18 th December	Last day – finish normal time
4 th January	INSET Day – School closed for children
5 th January	Term 3 begins – first day back for children
27 th January	Y2 Polar Visit at the Wilson – information to follow
9 th February	PTA sponsored pancake flip – information to follow Safer Internet Day
22 nd February	INSET day – School closed for children
23 rd February	Term 4 begins - first day back for children
4 th March	World Book Day
19 th June	PTA Summer Party
6 th -9 th July	Year 6 Residential

OPAL Service



Miss Hillier and Miss Greenwood led an OPAL Service to recap our play rules for lunchtimes. Be Ready, Respectful and Safe. We celebrated what we do well but also thought of how we can improve our playtimes and tidying up.

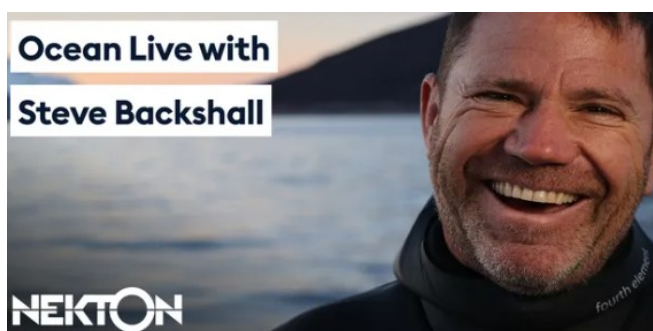
- Play is not just fun - it's powerful! When we play, we learn, we grow, and we make friends.
- Play keeps our bodies strong and our hearts happy.

- Every child has the right to play, and everyone should have a safe, welcoming place to join in.
- Playtime belongs to everyone!



Year 2 – Live Science lesson with Steve Backshall

On Tuesday, Year 2 enjoyed a live lesson with Steve Backshall all about submersibles used in the ocean. Steve taught the children how with latest technology, an underwater home is being created for scientific divers to use down in the deep ocean. It is still a prototype for now and the plastic windows must be 6 inches thick to withstand the pressure. The pupils were fascinated by the submersibles, and Steve went inside one in "The Deep" research station in a quarry to feel what it might be like.



Year 6 Swimming Lessons

This week, our Year 6 children began their swimming lessons and have made a fantastic start. The pupils were excited to get into the pool and have already demonstrated excellent enthusiasm, confidence and behaviour. As part of our PE curriculum, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 each take part in a block of 10 swimming lessons during the academic year. Swimming is an important life skill and forms part of the National Curriculum for Physical Education. By the end of primary school, children are expected to be able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively, and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

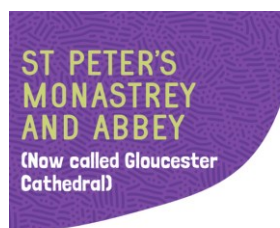
While school lessons provide valuable instruction and practice, any additional swimming opportunities outside of school are highly beneficial. Regular swimming helps children build confidence, improve their technique and stamina, and further develop this essential life skill.

We look forward to seeing the progress Year 6 make over the coming weeks.

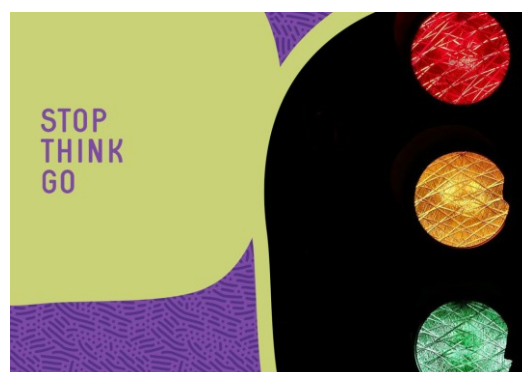


Y6 Worship Team Service

Thank you to our first Worship Team group of six Year 6 pupils who led a service on "Wise Ways of Living." This year we are exploring a series of services showing how we can learn to live our lives like Jesus. This term, we found out about St Benedict a monk who wanted to show people how little changes in your life can be like Jesus wanted us to live. We explored what it means to be a monk, we looked at Gloucester Cathedral and how it was St Peter's Monastery.



Worship Team used the story of Zacchaeus to show how Jesus stopped, paused and then acted. We discussed how we could use this simple traffic light system to help us make good decisions, just like Jesus.



Attendance

Reading Corner



Our newly relocated library has been busy welcoming back visitors this week, offering a bright and inviting space for readers of all ages. Libraries, whether big or small, are places where great adventures begin, opening the door to imagination, discovery and lifelong learning.

A reminder that Cheltenham Library membership is completely free, giving access to books, eBooks, audiobooks, children's activities and a range of digital services. New members can sign up online and receive instant access to digital resources, then visit a local library branch to collect their library card and start borrowing.

For further details please follow: [Join us - Become a Library Member | Gloucestershire Libraries](#)

Flu Immunisations

Please click on the link to complete yes or no to consent:

<https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk//Forms/Flu?schoolcode=GC138940>

See our email from 11th September for more information. Should you have any further questions or concerns then please contact the team on 0300 421 8140. Immunisations take place on 22nd October.

Move More

A huge well done to all the children who took part in the **Move More Mile at Run Cheltenham** on Sunday. We are incredibly proud of every one of them for showing such fantastic determination, perseverance and enthusiasm throughout the event. The children gave their very best effort and were absolutely over the moon to receive their medals at the finish line. It was a wonderful achievement and a memorable experience for all involved. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Reluctant to Ready: Supporting Children to Feel Safe, Ready and Able to Attend School

**WEBINAR****FREE
WEBINAR**

When: Wednesday 30th September at 1pm

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

Many children experience periods where attending school feels difficult, particularly during times of change, transition or uncertainty. As parents and carers, it can be hard to know what sits behind these struggles or how best to respond. Attendance conversations can often leave us feeling worried, pressured or judged, when what is needed most is understanding and support.

This webinar will explore some of the emotional, social and sensory factors that can affect children's feelings about school, helping us to look beyond behaviour and better understand what our children may be communicating. Together, we will consider practical and positive ways to support children to feel more confident, settled and ready for the school day.

This session will focus on:

- Exploring what lies beyond the behaviour that we experience
- Understanding common reasons school feels hard
- Practical strategies to reduce stress, support emotional wellbeing and make mornings easier
- Working positively with school to identify barriers and develop supportive solutions

[How do you sign up for the online session?](#)

To register for this online session, please click the icon below:



It will take you to our website where you will be asked to answer a few simple questions. We would encourage you to register even though you might not be able to attend the session live, as all registered participants will receive a recording of the session to watch in their own time within a week of the webinar taking place.

[I've signed up: what happens next?](#)

Once you complete our short registration form, you will be registered for the online session. You will automatically receive an invitation for the online session. If you don't hear from us by the 28th of September, don't hesitate to contact Jen on jen@move-more.org. Please make sure you check your junk/spam folders.

[MM Family Hub](#)www.move-more.org[@MoveMoreCIO](#)

Charity Number 1175899

To access both the live session and the recording follow this link:

<https://www.move-more.org/events/reluctant-to-ready/>

PTA events - date for your diary

Friday 11th September - second hand uniform sale

Friday 9th October - Adult Quiz Night

Friday 16th October - School Disco

Thursday 22nd October - Go-Green non school uniform event

Wednesday 2nd December - wreath making adult event

Friday 4th December - non uniform day - bottle and present donations

Friday 11th December - Santa's Unlikely Helpers Show - Meet the animals behind all the Christmas magic + Christmas event

Tuesday 9th February - Sponsored Pancake Flip

Saturday 19th June - Summer party



Community Notices

where
LITTLE MINDS
grow,
BIG FUTURES
NURTURING TODAY, INSPIRING TOMORROW

A loving place to learn, play and grow! ♥

PLAY-BASED LEARNING
Hands-on activities that spark curiosity and creativity.

CARING & EXPERIENCED EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS
Caring & experienced early years practitioners who know every child is unique.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Building confidence, kindness and good habits for life.

SAFE & NURTURING ENVIRONMENT
A secure, happy space where children feel at home.

ENROLLING NOW!

GROW. LEARN. PLAY. EVERY DAY!

Christ Church Pre-School
FOR CHILDREN 2 TO 5 YEARS

GET IN TOUCH!
01242 243021
christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk
christchurchcheltenham.com
Malvern Road,
Cheltenham, GL50 2JH

CHRIST CHURCH PRE-SCHOOL ♥ BIG CARE FOR LITTLE HEARTS



Pate's Grammar School

Open Evening for Year 7 Entry

Tuesday 29 September 2026

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

Princess Elizabeth Way
Cheltenham GL51 0HG

Book your place at www.ticketsource.com/patesgs/t-vxvenkg.



Respect + Optimism + Community + Kindness



Respect + Optimism + Community + Kindness

Open Week for Prospective Students Y7 Admission 2027

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th September 2026
10:30am-11:25am

Wednesday 30th September 2026
10:45am-11:40am



Guided tour of the school by our students



See our teachers and classrooms in action



Talk in the Hall from the Headteacher

Faith & Learning in Pursuit of Excellence

To book a session, visit our website.



Respect + Optimism + Community + Kindness

Open Evening Thursday 1 October 2026 5:00pm - 7:00pm



For Prospective Students

**Year 7 Admission
September 2027**

Faith & Learning in Pursuit of Excellence

Talk from the Headteacher at 6pm in the main hall.



Open Events Thursday 15th October 2026

Please join us for one of our Open Events this October:

Open Morning: 9am to 11:30am

Open Evening: 4:30pm to 7pm

Open Evening: 5:30pm to 8pm

Our open events are the perfect opportunity to find out more about our school and the changes to the Grammar Schools Test for 2027.

We will also be offering student-guided tours, and our Senior Leadership and Admissions teams will be available to answer any questions you may have.

To find out more and book your place please visit:

www.ribstonhall.gloucs.sch.uk/join-us



Cheltenham Bournside School

Open Evening



Wednesday 30 September 2026, 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Headteacher's welcome at 5.40pm, 6.30pm and 7.15pm

Parents and families are warmly invited to our upcoming open evening. Hear from our senior leadership team, teachers and students and find out about life at our school. You will be invited to explore our extensive facilities and departments, take part in interactive activities and discover our inspiring enrichment programme on a student-led tour. We look forward to welcoming you to Bournside.

Open morning tours run daily at 9.00am, from Monday 21st September.

Please contact us to book (open mornings only):

- admin@bournside.com
- 01242 235555



“Inspiring lives through learning”



Denmark Road
High School

Be part of the Denmark
Road experience.

Join us for our Open Events

5th October

8.45-10.30am

7th October

5.00-8.00pm

All welcome.

No booking required.

www.denmarkroad.org



DENMARK ROAD
HIGH SCHOOL

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS ABOUT THE FSCE ENTRANCE TEST FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY

The Gloucestershire Grammar Schools Entrance Test for entry into Year 7 in September 2028 will take place on Saturday 3rd July 2027. If your child is currently in Year 5 and wishes to apply for a place at a Gloucestershire Grammar School, they must take this test.

Registration will open on Monday 8th February 2027 (12 noon) and close on Friday 19th March 2027 (12 noon).

Following the [Gloucestershire Grammar Schools announcement earlier this year](#) the test provider will be Future Stories Community Enterprise (FSCE). The admissions test will consist of three FSCE papers:

- Adventure Paper: English and Maths, with Multiple Choice Answer options;
- Beacon Paper: English and Maths, where you respond with Short Written Answers;
- Compass Paper: any of the following subjects you learn at school: Art & Design, Computing, Design & Technology, English, Geography, History, Languages, Maths, Music, Physical Education, Science, with Multiple Choice Answer options.



Contact

Ms Sarah Graves, G7 Admissions Manager

Email: enquiries@gloucegrammars.com

Denmark Road High School Admissions

Email: admissions@denmarkroad.org

About Denmark Road High School

Denmark Road High School is a girls' grammar school for students aged 11-18, located on Denmark Road, Gloucester.

Hesters Way Children & Family Centre Timetable September – December 2026



Monday Midwives Clinic (Appt Only) 8.30am—2.00pm Targeted Family Time (Invite Only) 10:00am—11.30am Development Checks (Appt Only) 12:30pm-3.30pm Aspire Workshops Managing Emotions Workshop Friday 13 th November 09:30-11:30am Gardners Lane Children and Family Centre Booking required 	Tuesday Midwives Clinic (Appt Only) 8.30am—1.00pm Development Checks (App Only) 9.30am—12.30pm BAPS—Breastfeeding Support Group 10.00am—12.00pm Speech & Language Therapy Stay and Play (Invite Only) 12.30-5:00pm Perinatal Pelvic Team (Invite only) 2nd Tues of the Month 1.15pm—3.15pm	Wednesday Midwives Clinic (Appt Only) 8.30am—2.00pm Development Checks (Appt Only) 9.30am—4:00pm NEW! Stay and Play (0-5yrs) 10:00-11:30am (Term Time only) Starting on 9th Sept NEW! School Nurse Parent Workshops (Invite only) 25/11 & 2/12 9.30-11.30 & 12:30-2:30 Baby Hub Stay and Weigh 1:00pm—2.30pm	Thursday Midwives Clinic (Appt Only) 8:30am—4:00pm Speech & Language Group Therapy Sessions (Invite Only) 9:00am—5:00pm NEW! Parent/Carer Book Group (For parents of children 3-6yrs) 09:30-11:00am Monthly 24/9, 22/10, 26/11, 17/12 Togetherness Parenting Course 10 wk Course to support understanding your child's behaviour and parent child relationships Course running at Gardners Lane 30th September - 9 th December Please book a space via Eventbrite	Friday Midwives Clinic (Appt Only) 8:30am—2:00pm Development Checks (Appt Only) 9:30am-3.30pm Oscars Reading Corner Family Story Time 0-5yrs 18 th September 10.00am-11.00am Booking Required NEW! Coffee, Chat & Connect Parent Drop-In Session 8:45am-10:15am Children under 5 welcome Starting 25th September
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Hester's Way Children and Family Centre, Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51 0ES
Company Registration Number: 08485124

01242 222490
 hestersway@aspirefoundation.org.uk

Visit our website for more information on what's on:
www.aspirefoundation.org.uk



Are you part of our online community?
 Aspire Foundation  Hesters Way Children and Family Centre

41st 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



Scouts

41st 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, (41st Beavers Leader) by email:

41st.cheltenham.beavers@gmail.com



You Are Not Alone Drop-in

Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned so much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)

'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent)

You can request the **Zoom link** on our website

<https://youarenotalone.community> or you can send an email to

team@youarenotalone.community



Dean Close Scholarship Information; please click on the link below:

[Open Morning Saturday 3rd October at 8.45am](#)



THURSDAYS IN TERM TIME
JUNIORS (Years 3-6) 5-6pm
SENIORS (Years 7-13) 6-7pm

Cheltenham Youth Choir

bringing confidence to young people through a love of singing

OPEN REHEARSAL
THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER or
COME FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION

SIGN UP HERE



REHEARSAL VENUE
CHRIST CHURCH
CHELTENHAM, GL50 2JH



LIVING WELL SUPPORT

Family Group

Thursdays School Holidays
Oct 29 / Dec 22 / Feb 18
10:00am - 12:00pm
Longfield Living Well Service
Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton
Gloucestershire GL5 2PQ

Supporting families to connect
Is someone in your family living with a life-limiting condition or bereaved?
Bring along your family to our school holiday Family Group.
A welcoming space for all the family.
Enjoy craft activities, games, and nature.
Connect with others in a similar situation.

For more Information:
livingwell@longfield.org.uk
01453 733706

longfield.org.uk/family-group
Registered Charity Number 298627

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR



Let's GET MAGICAL

CIRQUE DANCE

Online Booking

Harry Potter

Circus and Dance Camp 2026

Full Day £70 (Inc lunch) Half Day £35

Calling all witches, wizards and circus stars aged 5-12years!

join us for a magical day of Harry Potter themed Circus and Dance Fun

The Reddings and District Community Centre

Tuesday 27th October 2026

BOOK NOW!

www.cirquedudance.co.uk 07583802102