

The Christ Church News



2nd October 2026

Our value this term is: **RESPECT**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE COURAGE FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has felt a little different. News of my resignation has now become public and, if I'm honest, it has been quite an emotional few days. When people ask why I am leaving, the simplest answer is that an opportunity has come along that I simply could not ignore. From January, I will take up the role of Trust Inclusion Lead, working across all 25 schools in our Trust to help ensure that every child, regardless of their needs or circumstances, feels that they belong, can flourish and has every opportunity to succeed. However, that answer doesn't really reflect how difficult the decision has been.

Christ Church has been such a huge part of my life and I feel incredibly privileged to have been Headteacher of this wonderful school. Every day, I have the opportunity to work alongside an amazing team of staff whose dedication to our children never ceases to impress me. I have also had the privilege of getting to know so many fantastic families and, of course, spending time with the children who make this school such a joyful, caring and vibrant place to be.

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates

Date	Event
7 th October	9.15am R2027 tour – fully booked
9 th October	Y4 – Literature Festival visit – Pay on Arbor PTA adult quiz night
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

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 after school
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 - 21 st May	Y6 Residential trip –please note change of date
15 th June	Sports Day – information to follow
19 th June	PTA Summer Party
22 nd June	Reserve Sports Day

Year 5

Year 5 experienced an outstanding history day, during which they were evacuated with staff from their hometown to the “countryside”. This incredible event was led by GWR staff and volunteers who helped bring ‘Operation Pied Piper’ to life for our children.

The day included experiencing an air raid and taking refuge in the shelter until the “all clear” was given, travelling on a steam train and even witnessing a war time spy bring successfully apprehended by Mrs Moores and Mr Lindsay! Huge thanks to Mrs Dimmick and Mr Lindsay for accompanying us on our successful evacuation from Christ Church A Day the children will remember forever. Further photos can be found on the Year 5 class page - Evacuation Day.



BBC 500 Words Competition



The UK's biggest children's story-writing competition for 5-11 year-olds opens for entries from Tuesday 29th September and closes 9pm, Friday 6 November 2026. Every year, we have a few pupils that enter and they have won prizes too! We recommend encouraging your child to take part. There is more information here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Key Details

- **Dates:** Entries open at 8am on September 29 and close at 9pm on November 6, 2026.
- **Word Limit:** Stories must be 500 words or fewer.
- **Age Categories:** 5–7 years and 8–11 years.
- **Marking:** Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are not marked, focusing purely on creativity and imagination.

Submission and Rules

- Children can write about any topic, theme, or genre they love.
- Only **one story** is allowed per child, and it must be entirely their own work.
- Submissions require consent and contact details from a parent or guardian.
- Entries can be submitted via the official BBC 500 Words portal.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/login>

House & Vice Captains

We have now appointed our House and Vice Captains for 2026-7.

Well done to all of the children who wrote a letter of application and undertook an interview with Mrs Pope and Mrs Pendlebury.



OPAL

Lots of fun and learning happens each lunchtime during our OPAL sessions. This week, the children have enjoyed making dens, big art and exploring balance.



Year 2 Personal Doll



Year 2 had a visit from a personal doll called Fatima who is Muslim. We learned about her life and family and how her faith impacts her life.

Teams4U Shoebox Appeal

This week we had a visit from Mary Jones who told us all about the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal we are supporting this year. We are hoping to collect 21 shoeboxes with your help! Mary has delivered shoeboxes to children in eastern Europe and told us about the joy and kindness they bring. A letter has been sent this week with more details.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance 98.2%. Thank you so much for your support with this!

Lateness: Frequent lateness can have a significant impact on your child's wellbeing, learning and social development. Children who regularly arrive late often miss important learning opportunities at the start of the day and can find it harder to settle, concentrate and build positive relationships with their classmates. Arriving on time each day helps children feel calm, prepared and ready to learn, giving them the best possible start and enabling them to make the most of every school day.

Lateness facts	
If you are this many minutes late every day:	You will lose approximately this number of days' learning each year :
5 minutes	4 days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	11 days
20 minutes	14 days
25 minutes	21 days

Reading Corner

"Can you recommend a good book?" is one of the questions we're often asked!

To help, please see the link below for some tried-and-tested favourites and exciting new discoveries. With Christmas on the horizon, they're also a great place to find ideas for stocking fillers and festive gifts.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/ages/>

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.

PTA

Events – dates for your diary

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 Helper's Show

Tuesday 9th February - sponsored Pancake flip

Saturday 9th June – Summer party



Community Notices



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



**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@etogegrammars.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.

FAMILY FOOTBALL AT KAYTE LANE

£15 Family Ticket (2 Adults + up to 4 Under 18s)



Cheltenham Town Women FC are offering a **Family Ticket for just £15** for our upcoming October home fixtures at **Kayte Lane, Bishops Cleeve FC (GL52 3PD)**.

UPCOMING HOME FIXTURES

Sunday 4 October, 2pm | Hashtag United

Sunday 11 October, 2pm | Plymouth Argyle

Thursday 29 October, 7:45pm | Swindon Town (*Local derby under the floodlights*)

Tickets: <https://app.fanbaseclub.com/club/cheltenham-town-women-fc>

Hashtag United & Plymouth Argyle tickets available now, Swindon Town tickets to go on sale soon.

Youth Spotlight Concert

St Mary's Church, Painswick
Saturday 17th October 3pm



Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year 2026
Showcasing finalists



Herbie Urquhart-Dixon
(Violin)



Isla Fujioka (Piano)

Tickets £12.50 - under 18s free



Scan the QR code
Or buy tickets at the door or at
www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk
Email enquiries:
tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk
Phone: 07496 858788



Robin Nishimura (Flute)



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

