

The Christ Church News



16th October 2026

Our value this term is: **RESPECT**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE COURAGE FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting time in school, with many of our classes enjoying visits to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an event right on our doorstep and to be able to walk there together as part of our learning. These experiences help bring books and stories to life, inspire a love of reading, and create lasting memories for our children.

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising last week's quiz night. It was a great event and a good opportunity for parents and friends of the school to come together. We are also looking forward to tonight's disco, which I'm sure will be another enjoyable event for our children. Please can adults take coats home on drop off so that they do not get lost.

I would like to remind families that children should not play on the playground equipment before or after school. We also ask that children do not run around the trim trail at these times. These measures are in place to help keep everyone safe and ensure that all children can arrive and leave school calmly.

A further reminder to all families about the importance of parking considerately and safely around the school site. Please be mindful of our neighbours, avoid blocking driveways, and take extra care when dropping off or collecting children. A few extra moments spent parking safely helps to protect all members of our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates

Date	Event
16 th October	PTA Disco – Infants 4.45pm-5.45pm Juniors 6pm-7pm
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
12 th November	PTA meeting 7pm – at "The Swamp" (next to Deya Brewery)
12 th November	Teams4U Shoebox Appeal drop off deadline
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

RE Art Competition

Reminder that any RE Art Competition entries need to be emailed to the school office by next Monday 19th October.



Team4U Shoebox Reminder

Please remember, each shoebox needs a £3.50 donation to cover the costs of transport. We are happy to start collecting any filled shoeboxes with donations made online. The school office have spare leaflets/cards to stick on the front of the shoebox if needed. When wrapping, remember to wrap the lid and box separately as they will be opened to check contents before sending abroad. Last collection date: 12th November morning. Many thanks.



Cheltenham Literature Visits

Year 1 and Year 2

We enjoyed a session with Joseph Coelho and Shirley Hottier who have released a new poetry book called "Rapunzel is a Lettuce." The children listen to his poems and were able to draw-a-long with Shirley. We also visited the Storytelling Tent and explored the other free activities like the "Little People, Big Dreams" trail.



Year 3

Year 3 entered the magical "Land of Roar" - fantasy adventures with Jenny McLachlan who creates a world of dragons, imaginary schools and a mini-play.



Year 4

Year 4 loved their visit last Friday to see Nadia Shireen – author of the "Grimwood" series and enjoyed a draw-a-long as she shared some of her strange characters from the books.



Year 5 and Year 6

✦ Y5/6 had an amazing time meeting author Katherine Rundell at the Cheltenham Literature Festival on Thursday!

📖 She was truly inspirational as she spoke about her *Impossible Creatures* series and shared her passion for storytelling. She reminded us that writers are readers too, encouraging us all to keep reading, exploring and letting our imaginations run wild! ✨ 🌀 A fantastic experience that we hope will inspire our young writers and readers!



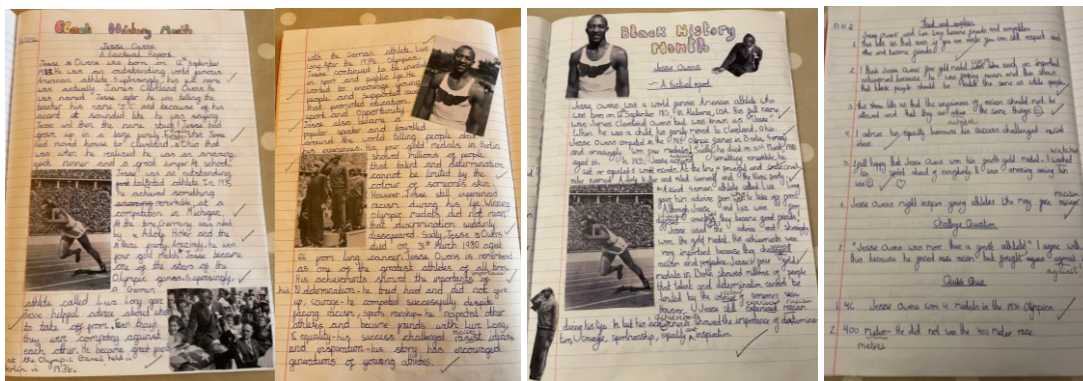
Black History Month

Next week, Year 2 will be learning about Rosa Parks and how she is still remembered today for her bravery and courage standing up for her beliefs on equality.

Year 3 spent time learning about Ruby Bridges and why her life is such an important part of history. We discussed how Ruby may have felt when she started at her new school, showing great courage despite facing many challenges. The children explored her thoughts and feelings and learned about the impact her bravery had in helping to break down racial segregation and create change for future generations.



Year 5 have been linking their focus on the start of World War 2 to Black History Month. We have discovered that a black American athlete stunned the world by winning 4 gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games, in front of the Nazi Fuhrer - Adolf Hitler. We were astonished to research that this was just the start of Jesse Owens' campaign to ensure every black child of individual knew their worth and their opportunity to succeed!

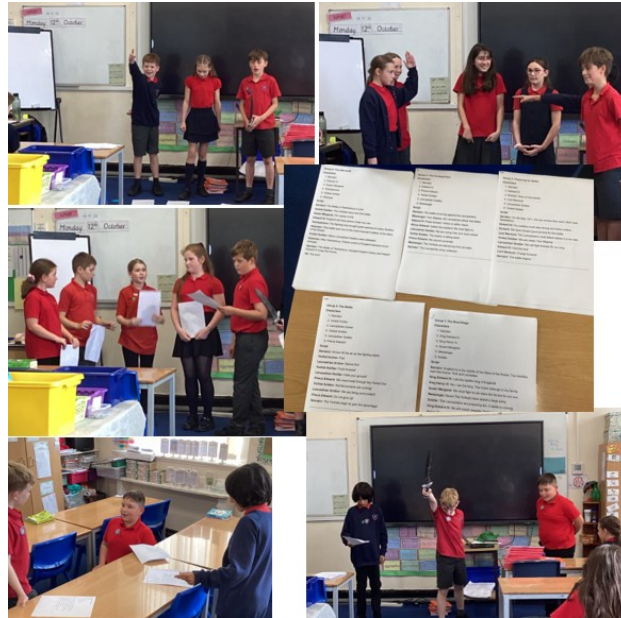


Year 6 have been learning about the importance of Black History Month and celebrating the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black people throughout history. They explored the impact of significant Black individuals who have helped shape our world and discussed why it is important to recognise their stories. The children reflected on the values of equality, diversity and respect, understanding how learning about the past can help us create a fairer and more inclusive future for everyone.



Year 6

Enacting the Battle of Tewkesbury through drama to help us answer the question – *Why was the Battle of Tewkesbury one of the most decisive turning points in the War of the Roses?*



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 "Colours, Colours Everywhere" Art Workshop



A big thank you to Lucy from "Can't Sit Still" who delivered a creative workshop based on a beautiful book called "Colours, Colours, Everywhere" by Julia Donaldson. The children used their imaginations to create some fantastic ideas then made beautiful birds to take home using different papers, colours and textures.



A mess everywhere is always a good sign of a creative session! Don't worry – it was all tidied up by the children!

Attendance

As we approach half term, we would like to remind families that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised except in truly exceptional circumstances. While we appreciate that travelling immediately before or after school holidays can sometimes be more convenient, absences linked to family holidays, including those tagged onto half-term breaks, are not permitted. Regular attendance is vital to children's learning, progress and sense of belonging, and we greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that children attend school whenever possible

Reading Corner

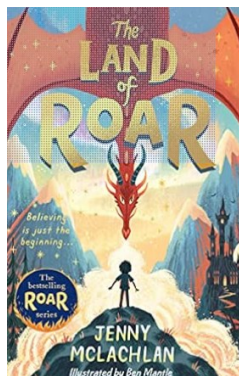
We now have reading ambassadors in each class who will promote their love of reading and suggest recommendations to their classmates.

What an amazing week with Years 1-6 visiting Cheltenham Literature Festival too! Don't forget to visit the free events with your families this weekend too.

Here are the books the classes had their sessions with on their trips:



Years 1/2



Year 3



Year 4



Years 5/6

Move More - Newsletter 1

First Newsletter of the Year for term 1.

This one is named Growing Friendship Skills-Helping children build positive relationships.

<https://canva.link/7fjczval68rfsh3>

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.

School Uniform Update:

Gooch Group Ltd has advised us that they will be ending their school uniform provision from **30th November 2026**. Orders can still be placed with them up to this date. We would like to thank Gooch Group Ltd for their support of our school community over the years and wish them well for the future. Our uniform is still available from Monkhouse and of course pre-loved from the PTA.

PTA

Events – dates for your diary

Friday 16th October – School Disco (Infants 4.45pm-5.45pm, Juniors 6pm-7pm)

Thursday 22nd October – Go-green non-school uniform event

Thursday 12th November – PTA meeting 7pm (at the Swamp - next to Deya Brewery)

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 (Christmas fair)

Tuesday 9th February - Sponsored Pancake flip

Saturday 19th June – Summer party



Community Notices



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: sarah.graves@denmarkroad.org
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.

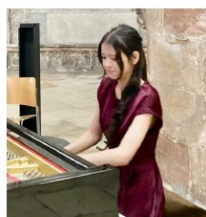
Youth Spotlight Concert

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)



Robin Nishimura (Flute)

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

Corinium Museum Children's Half Term Workshops 2026

New Family
Gallery Trail:
Henry Tudor:
The Incredible
Diaries of Me
Based on the
new novel by
Danny Wallace
and illustrations
by Tor Freeman.
Sat October 23,
2026 - Fri February
12, 2027



Meet Henry Tudor (the future Henry VIII)
when he was just eight and a half years old
and convinced that he is the best at absolutely
everything!

Gruesome Gargoyles

Thu 29 October,
10.30am-12pm

Join us for a gruesome,
glorious, gargoyle
gala. We will meet
at the Parish Church
to investigate the
gargoyles and
grotesques that grace
the building. Once we have our inspiration, we
will head back to the museum to create our
own gruesome gargoyles!



Creepy Corinium Cupcakes

Wed 28 October 10.30am-12pm

Back by popular demand, our Creepy Corinium
Cupcakes workshop allows you to make art
that you can eat! Create a monster cupcake
and hear about some of the monsters in our
collections.

Make Your Own Curse Tablet

Fri 30 October, 10.30am-12pm

Did you know that the Romans wrote secret
curses on lead tablets and threw them in
springs to hex their enemies? From stolen
cloaks to chariot race rivals, no grudge was too
small! Come & learn how to inscribe your own
spooky curse tablet just in time for Halloween.



For full details and to book

visit:

<https://coriniummuseum.org>

or scan the QR code



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coriniummuseum.org