

# The Christ Church News



7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Our value this term is: **CREATIVITY**

Telephone: (01242) 523392

Email: [admin@christchurch.dgat.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurch.dgat.org.uk)

Web: [www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk](http://www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk)

Twitter: @ChristChurchCo3

**RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen so much enrichment going on! There have been class trips to the library, forest school and a trip to Dean Close for sports, as well as cross country races.

We also enjoyed World Book Day. The children and staff looked fantastic – thank you for your efforts supporting this. We love reading all year at Christ Church! Well done to Mrs Pendlebury for organising this.

A big thank you to the PTA for organising the pancake flip event. This team of volunteers do so much to help raise money for your children. Please help them out when you can.

Last week children went to Young Voices in Birmingham. A big thank you to those staff who organised and attended. They were so generous of their time to provide such an amazing experience.

Mrs Pope

## Diary Dates Spring 2025

Date	Event
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 trip
28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Wine tasting event (adults only!)
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents' Evening – information to follow
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parent Prayer Group 8.45 Healy Hall – sign in at office
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Parents' Evening – information to follow
4 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Disco
8 <sup>th</sup> April	10am Y4 led Easter Service (at church)
9 <sup>th</sup> April	2.30pm Rock Steady concert
10 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA bake sale – info to follow

11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of school – finish normal time – Easter Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Children back to school
28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 Residential
30 <sup>th</sup> April	2.30pm Cyber safety talk for parents – info to follow
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Prayer Group 8.45 Healy Hall – sign in at office
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Photos
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Last day of school – finish normal time – May half term
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children back to school

### Parking

May we remind you that parents are **not** permitted to park on the school site without a blue badge and prior agreement with school.

We have also had communication from CLC 'In recent times we've had an increase in the number of people parking irresponsibly (on double yellows, hashed out zones or in accessible parking without 'blue badge'. We've also had a couple of 'near miss' incidents reported by staff involving primary age children walking down the side of the building/through the gates. Obviously these could be anyone but the timings of incidents and staff observing where people go does point to them being parents/other for Christ Church.

The areas being used for parking and then to walk through do not have segregated walkways/paths, meaning those on foot are walking through traffic – often lots of traffic coming and going. This is particularly challenging when walking out through the gated entrances to the car park.

Please park considerately with our neighbours. We are increasingly having to apologise on parents' behalf. It may only be a few minutes but residents have the right to access on and off their drives when they wish. We are also aware that someone is parking on a resident's driveway which is not acceptable for any reason.

### World Book Day

What a fantastic WBD 2025 yesterday. We had some great costumes and characters around school and there was a lovely buzz about "Read your Way" this year's theme. Many children enjoyed the annual Book Swap event. Paired reading was also well received by Years 1 to 6 with some children wanting this to be a regular slot! We also enjoyed the whole school quiz during service, where we were able to challenge the teachers on the book knowledge- they all passed with flying colours!

Thank you, as always to parents for your support in getting the children ready to celebrate the day in style and those who accompanied our class visits to the library! Keep an eye out on your class pages for more photographs of the day.



PTA



A big thank you to the PTA for their continued monthly contributions to our themed book wall to promote reading for pleasure.

### **Young Voices 2025**

Last Friday, we took 33 pupils from Y3-6 to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices 2025 concert. It's a long day for the pupils with 3 hour rehearsals before the concert at 7.00pm but it is worth it after months of practising the songs and dance moves. There were guest performances from Tommy Blaize (band singer from Strictly Come Dancing), Urban Strides dance group, Souparnika Nair (Britain's Got Talent star) and MC Grammar. With over 4000 children all singing at once, it is an incredible opportunity for our children to experience being part of something so special. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their Friday night to experience this concert and to parents who made the effort to come along to watch! We are very proud of how well behaved our pupils were – they really enjoyed it too!



Photographs have been uploaded to the Gallery page on our school website.

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

### Yoga with Steve

Year 6 had a fantastic first yoga session learning about stretches to support strong, healthy muscles 🧘





### Year 3

Year 3 had an action-packed week filled with stories, creativity and fun! Our visit to the library was a fantastic adventure, where we took part in a thrilling treasure hunt, crafted our own imaginative stories and designed beautiful bookmarks. The excitement continued with World Book Day, where lovely costumes were worn and we celebrated our love for reading. We enjoyed a fantastic book swap and shared class reading making it a special day. In English we are writing a non-chronological report about Skara Brae. If you'd like to do some research at home to find out more that would be amazing

### Art Gallery

Year 4 are proud to present their Work in the Style of .....Cezanne. We are so proud of our detailed sketches and finished compositions.



### Library Visits

Classes visited Cheltenham Library this week – we hope it will encourage many children to continue to enjoy this amazing resource. It is free to join!





Move More: Family Support

**mighty me!**  
Move More **Self-Esteem** Programme for Families

MEMBER SCHOOL **MOVE MORE**  
EVERY CHILD THRIVES

**WEEK ONE**

Self-esteem can be described as liking yourself, feeling worthwhile, believing in yourself and knowing what you do well. Children who have low self-esteem often engage in negative self-talk ("I am stupid", "I will never be able to do it"). Often, they think that they are not smart enough, able enough, they struggle to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Some children become very sad while some try to mask their feelings by turning into "jokers" and "class clowns".

I am very excited to share with you the first instalment of our latest family programme: Mighty Me! The programme focuses on helping parents/carers support their children's self-esteem.

This first instalment is all about explaining the foundations of self-esteem and unpacking the first self-esteem "building block" - relationships. Parents/carers can access the programme either by opening the attached document or by clicking on this video link: <https://youtu.be/EUoZNYivghg>

The next instalment will reach. The focus will be on the second self-esteem building block - resilience. Full details were sent from the office yesterday so please do check your emails!

## Can you help? A message from the community

'Dear friends and litter pickers, this year we are once again holding a litter pick in Cheltenham on the Honeybourne Line in memory of our son Ben, and as a service to the community. You are warmly invited to join us. If you would like to support the event on Saturday 22 March, we will meet at 11.00am at 'Ben's Bench' (near Malvern Road bridge GL50 2NX). Please do join us after the event for a soup lunch at St Mark's Methodist Hall, Gloucester Road. Do feel free to forward this invitation to anyone you know who would be interested in supporting this event. We look forward to seeing you there! Warmest wishes, Jenny and Martin Lockwood, 07789 818361'

## Support



# Join us at your School Nurse Hub for parents

We provide confidential, professional support with any concerns you may have for your child including healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise, self-esteem and resilience, sleep, dental health and hygiene, anxiety and behaviour

Drop in for an informal chat or take the opportunity to meet other parents with similar worries

Your local hub: St Thomas More, GL51 0HZ

- 19/03/2025 from 9:30-10:30
- [www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing](http://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing)



Helping Children Transition to Secondary School

Thursday April 3, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm



## Helping Children Transition to Secondary School

It's a familiar story: you have wonderful connections with your local primary school, but when the children move to "big" school, they seem to vanish. It doesn't have to be this way! By nurturing relationships with children through Year 6, you can support them as they take this significant step in their lives. This effort can also pave the way for a new church youth group, building on the strong foundation established in primary school.

Join us and the team from The Rock as we share experiences, resources, and strategies to ensure that moving up to secondary school doesn't mean losing touch. Let's work together to make this transition smooth and supportive for the children in our care.

Join us for one of our sessions on 3 April 2025 at The Rock:  
10am-12pm  
7pm-9pm

Please [click here](#) to sign up.

These meeting will be organised by the Youth Connect Team, including Jo Wetherall (Senior Children and Families Connector) and Barrie Joyce (Senior Youth Connector).

Attendance



# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

**Fun Science**

**EASTER SCIENCE FUN!**



**HOLIDAY CLUB FOR AGES 4-11**

**CHELTENHAM: 14-15 APRIL**

**STROUD: 24-25 APRIL**

**CHELTENHAM**

**Science  
Festival**

**AS SEEN AT...**

**[TINYURL.COM/EGGSCI25](https://tinyurl.com/eggsci25)**

**FOR INFO AND TO BOOK NOW!**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log into your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that a child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

### CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chat' folder, stored behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

### VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's live location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have the safety of heart. If you spot a locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: The National College guide on guide page at <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2023>



# All Together Service

Sunday 9th March

*Coffee and pastries from 10am,  
service begins at 10:30!*



 CHRIST CHURCH  
CHELTENHAM

