

The Christ Church News



14th February 2025

Our value this term is: **PERSEVERANCE**

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RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Valentine's Day! We come to the end of term 3 and it has been a busy one as ever. I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication in bringing the school vision of 'Being the best you can be' to life.

I will be really pleased to be back full-time at Christ Church after half term.

We hope that you have a good half term. School returns on Tuesday 25th February. Teaching staff have a DGAT Trust inset at Hardwicke School on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes,

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates 2024-2025

Date	Event
24 th February	INSET DAY – No school for children
25 th February	Children back to school
26 th February	Look who's talking school winners event at CLC
28 th February	Young Voices Concert - Birmingham
3 rd March	Library visits for Y4 and Y6
4 th March	Library visits for EYFS and Y3 Y4 Into the net trip to St Gregorys' – info to follow Y5 to Dean Close School Community Service and Field Day
5 th March	Library visits for Y1 and Y2 Parent Prayer Group 8.45 Healy Hall – sign in at office
6 th March	World Book Day
7 th March	Library visits for Y5

27 th March	Y5 trip – details to follow
1 st April	Parent's Evening – details to follow
2 nd April	Parent Prayer Group 8.45 Healy Hall – sign in at office
3 rd April	Parent's Evening – details to follow
4 th April	PTA Disco (Please note the change of date from previous newsletter)
8 th April	10am Y4 led Easter Service (at church)
9 th April	2.30pm Rock Steady concert
10 th April	PTA bake sale – info to follow
11 th April	Last day of school – finish normal time – Easter Holiday
28 th April	Children back to school
28 th – 30 th April	Y4 Residential
30 th April	2.30pm Cyber safety talk for parents – info to follow
5 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
7 th May	Parent Prayer Group 8.45 Healy Hall – sign in at office
19 th May	Class Photos
23 rd May	Last day of school – finish normal time – May half term
2 nd June	Children back to school

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is held every February all around the world. Last year, over 170 different countries celebrated the day! Safer Internet Day is a chance to think about any worries we might have about using technology and the internet, but it's also about celebrating all the fantastic things technology can help us with. Last year, over half of the children in the UK heard about or joined in with Safer Internet Day.

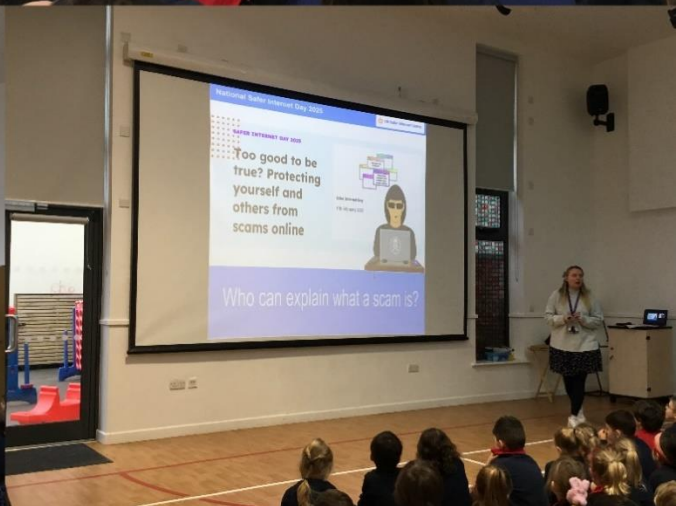
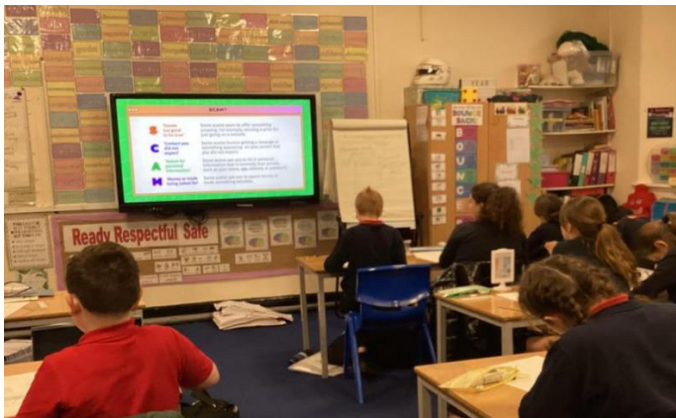
We came together as a school and Mrs Walker delivered a whole school service on this year's theme.

This year's theme is 'Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online.' Every day, people use the internet for fun, learning, and staying connected, but sometimes, we might come across things online that aren't what they seem. Each year, millions of children and teenagers fall victim to online scams.

We looked at the types of scams children might come across while online. We talked about what to do if you think you have come across a scam.

1. Stop and Think
2. Ask a Grown-Up for Help
3. Don't Share Personal Information
4. Click Carefully

The children carried on thinking about safer internet day in classes and completed various activities. Years 2, 4 and year 5 watched a live lesson on this year's theme. Reception discussed the things they enjoyed doing online. They talked about being safe and never clicking on something they weren't sure of without asking an adult. Year 1 designed an online safety Superhero. Year 6 discussed phishing and scams.



Oracy Voice 21 in Year 2 this week

Year 2 discussed and debated the reasons why Amundsen beat Scott in the race to the South Pole in 1912 then we used microphones to interview each other as if we were television presenters at the time (even though TVs weren't invented then).



In RE, we enjoyed telling their visitor Fatima, a persona doll, all about their learning in Islam using sentence starters....I know that....To build on that...As well as..



Year 3

Year 3 has been working hard this term! In science, they've been exploring friction, push and pull forces through exciting experiments. Art lessons have focused on *Sgraffito* (scratch art), and they will be completing their seascapes before half term. In math, it's been all about fractions, which will continue after the break.

In English, they've been writing diary entries as Agent Walter from *Pigeon: Impossible*. This animated short film has sparked creativity and deep thinking in their writing. If you'd like to watch it, you can find *Pigeon: Impossible* on YouTube.

Great work, Year 3!

Year 4

Year 4 visited the Wilson Museum on Wednesday, where they got to handle Anglo Saxon and Viking artefacts, convert their names into Runes and make their own broaches!



Football Team Match

The school football team played Greatfield Park - great teamwork and skill shown throughout the match. Excellent sportsmanship - the team made us proud.



Attendance

Missed days at school add up! Every day at school counts.

Absences lead to missed learning and create gaps in children's education that can seriously affect their academic progress and attainment.



How can you support good attendance in school?

- Take trips during school holidays rather than term time
- Don't allow your child to stay off school for a minor ailment
- Arrive at school on time so your child doesn't get a Late mark
- Ensure your child has a good understanding of why attendance is important
- If appointments are needed for health reasons, try to make them after school hours where possible

PTA

SPRING TERM DATES 2025 PTA

4 March
Annual Sponsored Pancake Flip

Non PTA Events
6 March World Book Day
21 March Red Nose Day

28 March
D'Arcy Wine Tasting Night
£20 per ticket Adults Only

4 April
Spring Disco

10 April
Bake Sale

Term Ends 11 April

All Events are run by volunteers. Please join our PTA Lite team to help out

SPONSORED PANCAKE FLIP CHALLENGE 2025

How many pancake flips can your child/ren flip in one minute?

4TH MARCH
This event is held at school during the day

We are asking you to sponsor your child/ren for this event.
Ask grandparents, neighbours and friends to see if we can smash last years amount

TOP TIP: Why not ask your workplace whether they can sponsor your child too.

Any sponsors under £5 need to be handed in as cash
OR
Click the link below to pay in sponsors above £5.

CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR OVER £5

All forms and sponsor money to be handed in by the 14th of March

Christ Church Primary School
Parent and Teacher Association
Charity Number: 1064279
Malvern Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2NR

Take a Bite

Save a life

I would like to raise £75 for animal cancer fund!



On Wednesday 6th February 2025



Outside the 76/25 door

Please take a bite you might be saving a life! So many pets get cancer (I know from experience) you would be making some people very happy!

A Cake Sale coming to YOU!

slice of classic victoria sponge: 50p
mini Donut: 20p
Butterfly cupcakes 80p and more

I hope you enjoy!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.02.2025

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?



**JOIN US
FOR OUR SCITT
SECONDARY TEACHER
TASTER DAY**



Thursday 3 April 2025 - 08:45am - 1:45pm
Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8QF



To reserve your place, please email
teachertraining@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk