

# The Christ Church News



13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Our value this term is: **FRIENDSHIP**

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**RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Huge congratulations to our EYFS and Year 1 team for the fantastic nativity performances this week. Our amazing team (staff and children) in EYFS and Year 1 displayed their commitment, time and dedication to ensuring 3 performances (2 for parents and one for the school children) were so wonderfully delivered. This week, we also enjoyed the “Wicked” Workshops in KS2 classes from My Stage School (details later in this edition for a free place on their January open day) and some very festive knitwear for Christmas Jumper Day, yesterday.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you later at our Christmas Crafternoon. Many thanks to our amazing PTA who work tirelessly to provide wonderful opportunities and raise much needed funds for your children and our school. Please do get involved if you can and lend a hand.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs Pendlebury

## Diary Dates 2024-2025

Date	Event
13th December	Reception trip to the Everyman PTA Crafternoon
17th December	10am Christmas service led by Y2 at Church
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch 2.30pm Rock Steady Concert
20th December	Last day of school – Christmas holiday Finish normal time
6th January	INSET DAY – No school for children
7th January	Children back to school
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of school – finish normal time – February Half term
24 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY – No school for children
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Children back to school
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices Concert - Birmingham

6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
8 <sup>th</sup> April	10am Y4 led Easter Service (at church)
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of school – finish normal time – Easter Holiday

## Home Reading

It really is the MOST important thing you can do!

# Why reading and sharing stories matters

- **It's the most important thing you can do to help your child succeed.**

Research evidence shows that your involvement in your child's reading and learning is more important than anything else in helping them to fulfil their potential.



Please remember your child's book should be read more than once. Each read moves through the stages of blending until fluency when the children can then add in expression and they can then understand what they have read. Prosody is the rhythmic and melodic aspects of speech and a key component of fluency. It is reading with good expression, intonation, including pitch, tone, volume, and emphasis on certain words. Fluent readers chunk words together in appropriate, meaningful phrases, and use their voice to convey and enhance the meaning of the text. They know how to pause appropriately at the end of sentences.

For tips on successful reading at home please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read> and <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

## Look who's talking

A reminder that we have once again signed up for the Gloucestershire Oracy Competition. Many pupils did themselves proud last year and we are hoping for further successes in 2025. As with the previous year, each child will be given the opportunity to talk for 2 minutes on a subject of their choice. What worked best last year was a subject that the children felt truly passionate about. All staff have introduced the competition. Please get practising at home. Good luck everyone- looking forward to the class heats in January.

## Nativity



Well done to Reception and Year 1 on their wonderful performances of the Nativity 'Born in a Barn' this week. They acted and sang extremely well and we are all very proud of their efforts.

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING! 2025

An Oracy Competition for Gloucestershire's Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

## What is oracy and why is it so important?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

## How will the competition work?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 04.04.25, which you can come to, if your child is a representative for our locality.

## what can your child talk about?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints slide shows please.

## How can you help them at home?

- \* First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!
- \* They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- \* Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

Thank you for your support!



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**CLASS &  
WHOLE-SCHOOL  
HEATS:  
COMPLETED BY 17.01.25**

Every pupil will have the opportunity to speak for two minutes in front of their class in the **Class Heats**, from which a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen.

The Star Speakers from every class will then take part in **Whole-School Heats**, from which one representative for your school will be chosen for KS1, one for lower KS2 and one for upper KS2.

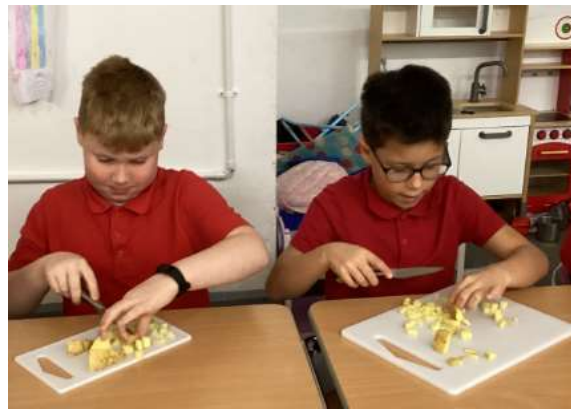
## Christmas Jumper Day

We raised £114.70 for Save the Children this week.



## Year 5

Year 5 had a great time making their war time Woolton Pies yesterday. They practiced safe cutting while chopping vegetables and then made pastry for the case and lid of the pies.



## Wicked

A wonderful musical theatre workshop based on 'Wicked.' Thank you to Miss Hillier for organising such a wonderful workshop!



Year 6

Amazing editing and redrafting work in English (whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers) for our 'Alma' narratives 📄



Attendance

From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. #AttendanceCounts”



**SCHOOL DAYS ARE  
PACKED WITH  
MOMENTS OF...**

**CURIOSITY, WONDER  
AND CONNECTION.**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE'  
ON THE EDUCATION HUB

My  
**STAGE  
SCHOOL**

# WICKED OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY

01242 222175  
info@mystageschool.co.uk  
www.mystageschool.co.uk  
www.facebook.com/mystageschool  
@mystageschool



**BOOK YOUR  
FREE PLACE HERE**

**TRY OUR CLASSES WHILE PARENTS OBSERVE**

My  
**STAGE  
SCHOOL**

**11 JANUARY  
FREE OPEN DAY**

**FREE OPEN DAY  
GLOUCESTER OR CHELTENHAM**

Barnwood Secondary School  
or  
The High School, Leckhampton

January 11th 2025  
10am to 11am

Parents observe whilst children take part in  
20 minute dance, drama, singing session.

If children enjoy, they are welcome to stay  
on until 1pm.

**BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE** by scanning  
the QR code overleaf.

**ONLY THE BEST IN PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING**



# Fun Science

**FESTIVE STEM CLUB 2024**

**10am-3pm, 23 December**

**Suits ages 4-11, £30/day (£5/hr stay and play)**

**Book now: [tinyurl.com/funscixmas24](https://tinyurl.com/funscixmas24)**

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Setting screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and take parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive feedback around digital habits encourage safe online behaviors.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of fires rises temporarily during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overload and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers accessible and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS



Many families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Roadway conditions, road closures and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Plan emergency kits and adhere to roadblock news. This helps to divert and allow extra travel time to avoid cutting and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES



Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross-contamination, unclear labeling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any dietary needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or Epipens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognize dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal social dog can increase the spread of viruses like the flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection rates. Emphasize hygiene, encourage vaccination, sanitize surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can compromise road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and tinsel can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if misused. Frayed wires, tipping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure only best devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decisions making. Incorporate rest, schedule regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Exchange activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and responsible behavior to kids in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full references list on guide page of <https://nationalcollege.com/wakeupweds/over-the-festive-season>

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Items of this guide do so at their own discretion, no liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 9.12.2024

# THE BEST WAY TO DONATE CLOTHES !!

Great news!!

You can donate clothes to help raise money for your school any time you like.

We have a permanent bin located at the front of school.

Just bring good quality clothes, paired shoes bags and belts on the school run to raise money.

Donate any time, any day of the year!!!



# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?



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



Thursday 23 January 2025 - 08:45am - 1:45pm  
Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings,  
Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8QF

To reserve your place, please email  
[ts-hub@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ts-hub@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)