

The Christ Church News



5th December 2025

Our value this term is: **FRIENDSHIP**

Telephone: (01242) 523392

Email: admin@christchurch.dgat.org.uk

Web: www.christchurchschool-chelt.co.uk

RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE COURAGE FRIENDSHIP

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week saw the arrival of our Christmas trees – they have been decorated beautifully by the house and vice house captains. Rehearsals for the Nativity and Christmas songs are being heard across the school.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Crafternoon after school today – please come along and support the wonderful PTA who have spent time arranging this event to raise money for your children.

Mrs Pope

Diary Dates 25-26

Date	Event
9 th December	Nativity performance 2.15pm – tickets for sale on Arbor
10 th December	Nativity performance 9.30am – tickets for sale on Arbor
11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December	Yr R Everyman Theatre – please pay on Arbor Christmas Lunch 2.30pm Rock steady concert
18 th December	Yr 4 lead Christmas Service – 9.15am At Church all welcome
19 th December	Last day – finish at usual time
5 th January	INSET day – school closed for children
6 th January	Children back to school
15 th January	PTA meeting 7pm at school

16 th -20 th February	Half term – School closed
23 rd February	INSET day – school closed for children
27 th February	PTA Wine Tasting (adults only!)
4 th July	PTA Summer Picnic

Christmas Service 2025

We would like to invite you all to our Christmas Service at Christ Church on Thursday 18th December 9.15am start. Year 4 will lead the service with pupils in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 performing a song. YR and Y1 will join us but as they have their own nativity, they will be in the audience for this service. We anticipate the service to last no longer than 1 hour but it is difficult to predict timings at this stage. Pupils will come to school as normal at 8.40am wearing their school uniform. We will register them then walk to the church with their class in the morning. We hope you can join us for this special celebration.

Max Wilkinson



Parliament week

The school council were very excited to meet with our Cheltenham MP, Max Wilkinson, last Friday and ask their questions. This was followed by a lively school service where Mrs Pendlebury, Miss Hillier and Mrs Proctor launched their own campaigns (suggested by Max!). The exercise served as a reminder as to how election work and the importance of democratic participation...of course it helps if you are the leader of the Harry Potter party! Thank you to Mrs Burton for organising this.

A message on Max's newsletter this week:

Marking UK Parliament Week

Last week I visited **Christ Church School** (above) during UK Parliament Week. It was great to talk to the children about issues they feel strongly about and to hear what they hope to learn during Parliament Week. I ended my visit answering questions from School Council representatives. **Thank you to Headteacher Kerry Pope for the invitation.**

That same afternoon I visited **The Richard Pate School** (below) and talked to the children about Parliament, how it operates and my role as an MP. **Thank you to Deputy Head Peter Lowe for inviting me.**

Both visits were a wonderful opportunity to discuss the importance of a strong and healthy democracy. I hope I was able to inspire the children to learn more about the importance of British democracy.

Worship Team Service on Friendship

Some of the Y6 Worship Team led a service last week to explore our current value of Friendship. We played games like the human ladder game with CC our monkey to show how friends work together as a team.



Year 4

Year 4 have been finding out about tooth decay and looking at ways in which we prevent it. We investigated how effective toothpaste is and that brushing well for two minutes twice a day helps keep our teeth healthy.



Year 6

Year 6 Service on Friendship



Y6 enjoyed their visit to CLC where they learnt about the workings of an organ - they even had the opportunity to play this musical instrument and learn about composition 🎵





A wonderful trip to the cinema 🎬



DGAT Advent Calendar

Each year, schools in our DGAT family make a video on a theme to watch each day in December. Here is the link to this year's videos if you would like to watch them at home too.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG1rdpHVPk/sdy0ARwyhkh8mqKQH7flFg/view?utm_content=DAG1rdpHVPk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_lid=hf98b936719



Attendance and absence

A gentle reminder to call or email the office if your child is going to be absent for any reason **and not the class teacher**. Teachers spend much of their mornings preparing the day's lessons. Our office staff will always forward any absence notices on receipt:

A reminder from our school policy:

Parents will be required to contact the school office via telephone or by email to admin@christchurch-chelt.gloucs.sch.uk before 9:00am on the first day of their child's absence – they will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimation of how long the absence will last, e.g. one school day.

- 6.2 Where a pupil is absent, and their parent has not contacted the school by the close of the morning register at 9.15am to report the absence, administrative staff will contact the parent by telephone call as soon as is practicable on the first day that they do not attend school.
- 6.3 The school will always follow up any absences in order to:
- Ascertain the reason for the absence.
 - Ensure the proper safeguarding action is being taken.
 - Identify whether the absence is authorised or not.
 - Identify the correct code to use to enter the data onto the school census system.

8.1 There are rare occasions when exceptional leave will be requested. Parents will be required to request certain types of absence in advance. All requests for absence will be handled by the headteacher – the decision to grant or refuse the request will be at the sole discretion of the headteacher, taking the best interests of the pupil and the impact on the pupil's education into account considering the pupils attendance record. Absence will be authorised for whichever circumstances the headteacher believes to be acceptable and will usually be a one-off or unavoidable situation. The headteacher's decision is not subject to

appeal; however, the school will be sympathetic to requests for absence by parents and will not deny any request without good reason.

8.2 Leave of absence:

- The school will only grant a pupil a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. To have requests for a leave of absence considered, the school will expect parents to contact the headteacher **in writing** at least **two weeks** prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence, providing the reason for the proposed absence and the dates during which the absence would be expected to occur.
- Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the pupil's previous attendance record will be considered. Where the absence is granted, the headteacher will determine the length of time that the pupil can be away from school. The school is not likely to grant a leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday and will request that the Local Authority issue a fixed penalty notice, should the duration be 5 days or 10 sessions.

SEND

Government launches national conversation on SEND

Government acts on commitment to put parents' experiences at the heart of SEND reform through new public engagement campaign. To have your say please follow the link below:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/digital-communication-team/send-reform-national-conversation/consultation/subpage.2025-11-30.1011451101/>

Community Notices

CHRISTMAS 2025

TECH & STEM CAMP

WITH TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!

Next Thing Education
Ofsted Registered

Children's Education
WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHEQUES

CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2025
What's on?
Different activity theme each day, please check website for your specific camps activities

Rocking Robots **Festive Filming** **Magical MINECRAFT** **3D Baubles** **Tech Fun**

Take Home NEW STEM Inventions & Science Creations!

29TH - 31ST DECEMBER £39.99 PER DAY

WHAT TO EXPECT:
This Christmas, leap into a world of wonder — build robots 🤖, bring Lego creations to life with animation 🎬, craft decorations with 3D pens 🖋️, film festive masterpieces 🎥, embark on epic Minecraft quests, and experiment with their own Christmas bath bombs and magical snow! ❄️

GET £5 OFF WITH CODE BELOW

SNOWS
Valid on single-day bookings only. Not applicable to 5-day offer.

Robots **DIY STEM** **Snow Science**

Gloucester Road Primary School, GL51 8PB
AGES 5-11, 9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

SCAN ME **www.nextthing.education**

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LIMITED SPACES! BOOK NOW
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★★★★★
"Would recommend this even if your child isn't into technology"
Sonal Amin - Starkey Park School

★★★★★
"The activities sounded amazing and he loved them all!"
Suze Mendes - Wasley Primary

★★★★★
"Our two children loved making the electronic contraptions"
Rachel Stone - King's College School

Christmas Treecycling



Recycle your real Christmas tree this January.

Our reliable and friendly team of volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree directly from your front door, front garden or driveway.

Search **Sue Ryder Christmas Treecycling** to reserve your collection today

Reservations close 6th January 2026.

We'll be collecting from 12th to 18th January 2026 from the following postcodes:
GL2 0, GL2 8, GL2 9, GL3 1, GL3 2, GL20 5, GL20 6, GL20 7, GL20 8, GL50, GL51, GL52, GL53, GL54 1, GL54 2, GL54 4, GL54 5, GL55 6, GL56 0
With an optional donation, your Christmas tree could become the gift of expert care and support for seriously ill people and their loved ones.

For more information:

email: leckhampton.fundraising@sue Ryder.org
call: 01242 246 270

Kindly supported by:

