

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the half term it has been great to see how well all the children have returned and adapted to their new classes, routines and systems in place. We have had lots of fantastic events taking place for our families and children across the half term with football tournaments, a variety of after school clubs, attendance and phonics parent assembly, and of course our wonderful Harvest Festival at the Elim Church! Please follow our school X account for the latest news, photographs and updates on what is happening at Christ Church using this link: [@CCPBurton](#) or click on the X at the bottom of our school website.

It is now a time of coughs and colds and keeping up the routines of hand-washing will help to minimise the spread of these viruses. Also, as we approach the Winter months it is important that the children are dressed appropriately with winter coats, hats and gloves.

Could I also remind you to park responsibly when dropping off or collecting your children. Please ensure you park in a space without double yellow lines or zig zags and do not block access to local businesses. Please can you also ensure our children's safety by keeping them on the paths and pavements outside on their way to and from school as we have a lot of cars, lorries and large vehicles on the roads around the school..

Could I also say a big thank you to all of our parents and families for your support over this past half term in attending our many events it really makes a big difference to our children and helps make our school feel like the special place it is for our community!

Kind regards,

Mr L Archer  
Headteacher

# Safeguarding

Top Tips- [Click here](#)

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

#### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

#### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

#### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

#### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

#### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy; blind trust is not.

#### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

#### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

#### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

#### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

#### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

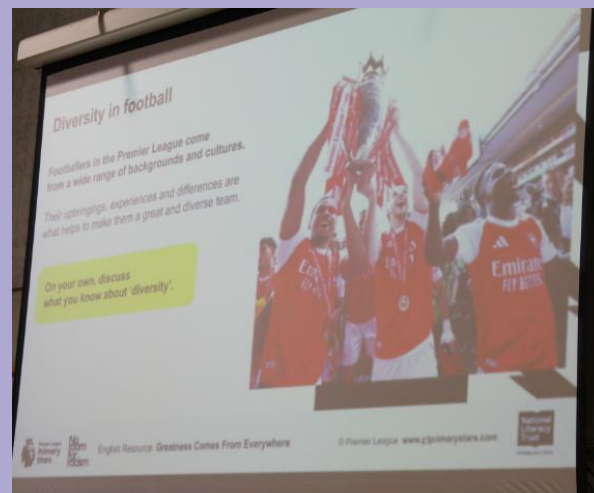


# Christ Church Values and Wellbeing



On Tuesday 20th October, Harry from Burton Albion delivered an assembly to pupils in KS2 on the theme of anti-racism. The assembly contained a very important message and was part of the Premier League Primary Stars No Room For Racism campaign.

"It was a very interesting assembly with a very important message." Dominikas H5.



# Christ Church Values and Wellbeing



## What does MHST do?

Support can be offered in the following ways:

- One to one interventions between young person and practitioner
- Groupwork (online)
- Online parent-led anxiety workshops (How to help my child with fears and worries)
- Supporting school staff to develop their whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing



We offer 6 to 8 sessions of guided self help, informed by Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) principles.

Our sessions are confidential but we hope to foster open communication. We follow confidentiality policies, therefore if we have any immediate concerns with your child these will be discussed with you.

## Where can I get further support?

We are a low intensity early intervention support team. If you feel your child needs more urgent support, please reach out to one of the services below:



   @SOUTHSTAFFSMHST  
Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

NHS  
Midlands Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Mental Health Support Team

Information for parents



Burton and Uttoxeter - 01283 504487  
Cannock and Seisdon - 01283 352113  
Stafford - 01283 352097  
Tamworth and Lichfield - 01785 301027

# Christ Church Values and Wellbeing

## Who are MHST?



We are a team of Mental Health Practitioners that work with children and young people.

We understand the difficulties young people can face and how this can affect their mental health.

We offer low intensity CBT based support to give children and young people the skills they need to manage these difficulties.



## Who MHST can support

We support young people aged 5 to 18 when there is a clear mental health need present, such as:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic
- Exam stress
- Phobia



Our interventions work best when a young person wants to access support and is willing to put the work in both in and outside of our sessions.



## Right service right time

There will be occasions when the team are unable to offer support; we always endeavour to explain our reasoning and to signpost to more appropriate services. The following list gives an indicator of some difficulties that are unsuitable for low intensity intervention:

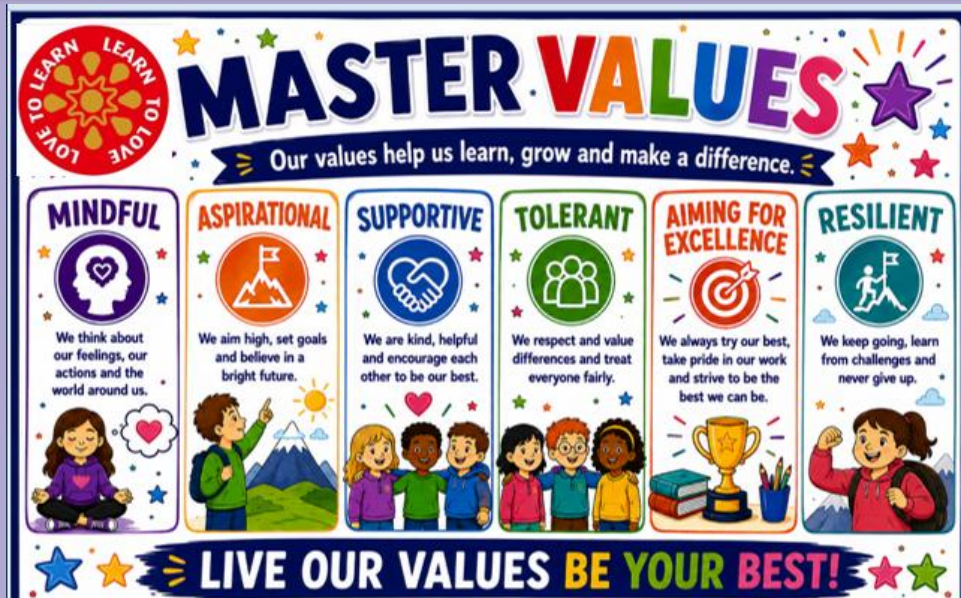
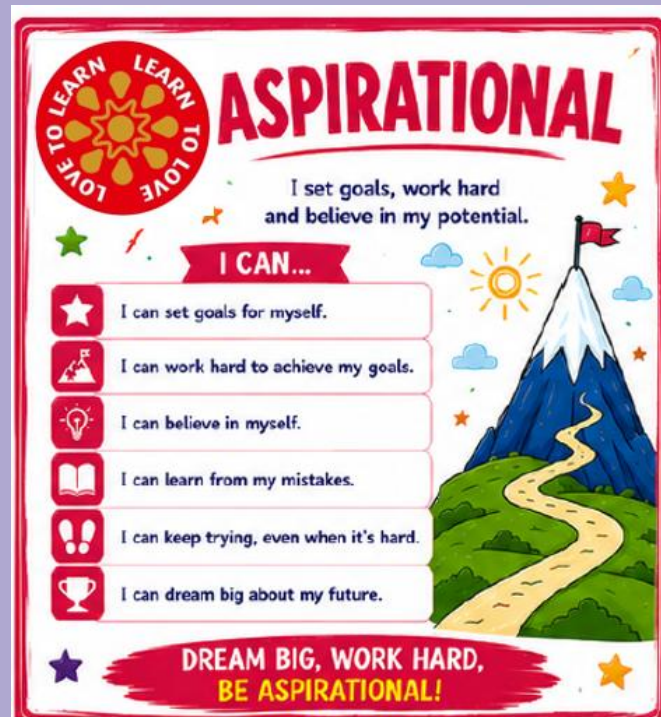
- Trauma
- Difficult family dynamics
- Bereavement
- Self-esteem / confidence issues
- Drug or alcohol addiction



## How can I refer into MHST?

If you believe your child could benefit from support from the Mental Health Support Team, you can reach out to the Mental Health Lead at their school. Alternatively, you can refer your child directly by contacting your local MHST.

# Christ Church Values and Wellbeing



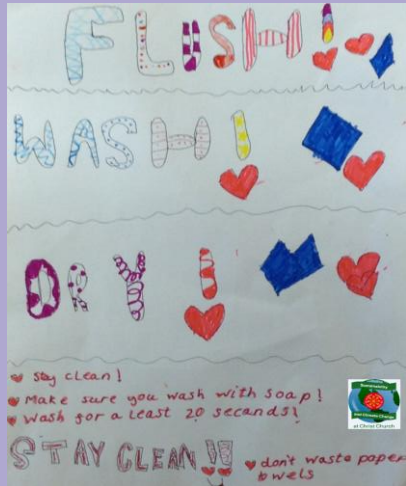
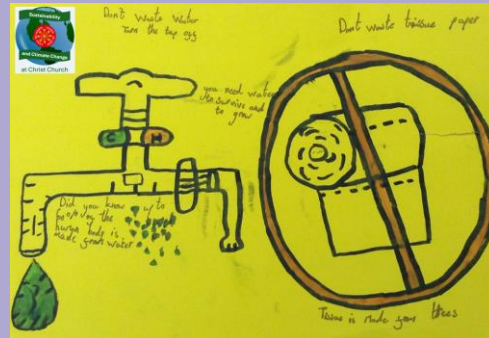
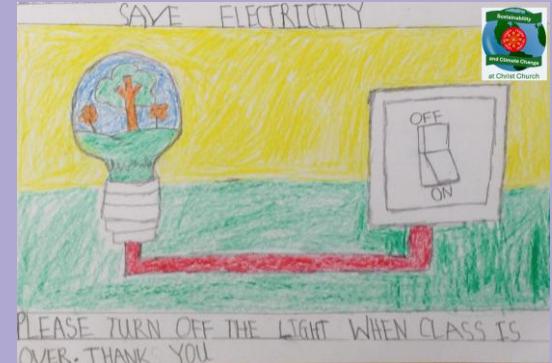
## School values

Next half term we are focusing on the value of being aspirational. Children being seen to be aspirational could receive a values leaf in our values assembly every Monday. Each week, will have a different focus.

# Sustainability and Climate Change



Our Eco Councillors have been busy designing new posters to help us embed sustainable habits, such as saving clean water, turning off lights and devices when they are not in use, and reducing our use of paper towels. We would love for you to support these important initiatives at home too. Could you have a go at transferring these eco-friendly habits into your daily routines? Small changes can make a big difference!



# Life at Christ Church

As part of our continued fundraising events for the school fund we will be holding a Cinema night for KS1 and KS2. There will be a charge for the snacks and drinks as part of the experience but hurry as we expect tickets to sell fast!



# Life at Christ Church



On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, a team of boys from Y3/4 took part in a football tournament at Robert Sutton. The boys played really well only losing one game and winning all the others. The boys were awarded silver medals for their efforts.

"I really enjoyed taking part in the tournament and it was great to get a silver medal." Jayden W34

It was the turn of the Y5/6 boys to take part in a football tournament at Robert Sutton on Thursday 1st October. The team didn't concede a goal and reached the bronze medal play off match where they lost in a penalty shoot out.

"It was a great tournament, it was sad to lose on penalties." Marcel N6

Finally, our Y5/6 girls took part in a football tournament at Robert Sutton on Tuesday 6th October. The girls played some really good football and just missed out on winning bronze medals by virtue of goal difference.

"I really enjoyed taking part in the tournament - it was great fun." Hanna H5



# Life at Christ Church



## Harvest Festival

Our KS1 children put on a fantastic harvest performance on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at the Elim Church with the help of 'Pastor Chris'. We celebrated with some harvest songs as well as some facts and information about Harvest around the World. There were some super confident speakers, fabulous singing and wonderful support from our families!



## Food bank donations

Thank you to all of our families who donated food and toiletries for our local food bank. Our school council helped them to load it ready for the van.



# Calendar Dates



**Inset Day (school closed to children): Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Half term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

**Term ends:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Holidays:** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> December- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January

**Inset Day (school closed to children): Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**Children back to school:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January



# THANKS

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