

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the Summer holidays, it is great to see all of our children looking so smart in their new uniforms and keen to start their learning journeys again this year.

I would also like to welcome any new parents to our school, I hope you have managed to get used to the school routines. All of our curriculum letters have been e-mailed out to explain what should be happening in each class/ year group this term but if there is anything you are unsure of regarding school systems, please ask so that we can try to make the transition as smooth as possible for you.

We have lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities planned throughout the year so I'm sure all of the children will have another wonderful year. We have our Harvest festival taking place at Elim Church for KS1 (to which parents are welcome to come along to on Tuesday 20th October) as well as some of our after school clubs.

Throughout the year we will also be planning to continue to create opportunities for parents to come in to school, after the success of last year with things like parent workshops, special theme days and assemblies. We would also appreciate your continued support with our fundraising events. The dates for our first parents evenings have now been set (please see the calendar dates) which will also give you a chance to come into school to meet your child's teacher and see how they have settled into the new year. We will let you know nearer the time when appointments are available to be booked via Parentmail.

Kind regards,

Mr L Archer

Pupils roles and responsibilities



School representatives!

The votes have been cast and the results are in for our new school councillors who will be helping to shape the school over the coming year. We have also got some new art ambassadors to promote the arts across the school and our local community, sports leaders to lead activities on the playground and reading champions to promote our love of books! Congratulations to all of our successful pupils, we look forward to lots of exciting contributions throughout the year!

Safeguarding

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The advice and resources in the links below offer support for you to enable you to support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively. They include practical tips and advice on all aspects of keeping your child safe online, including gaming, social media, age checks, AI and extremism.



[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



[Parents & carers | Childnet](#)



[Parents' Resources - Educate Against Hate](#)

Safeguarding

Top Tips- [Click here](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.



- 1 START SMALL AND EARLY**

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.
- 2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE**

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.
- 3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN**

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.
- 4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS**

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.
- 5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY**

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or checking the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.
- 6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION**

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.
- 7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY**

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school, whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.
- 8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING**

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.
- 9 PREP TOGETHER**

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.
- 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE**

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently, so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.



School values

This half term we are focusing on the value of being mindful. Children being seen to be mindful could receive a values leaf in our values assembly every Monday.

Why not try some of our kindness activities!

12 Ways to Show Kindness

© Pathway 2 Success
www.thopathway2success.com

- Just listen to a friend**
- Write someone a kind note**
- Invite someone to join you**
- Forgive someone for a mistake**
- Let someone else go first**
- Give someone a high-five**
- Work with someone new**
- Help clean up**
- Help someone having a tough day**
- Hold the door open for others**
- Do an extra chore**
- Spend time with a friend**

Clipart by Sarah Peckham, Kate Heathfield - Nebozali

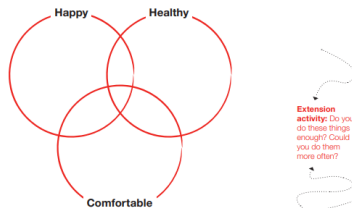
Being kind to yourself

It is important to be kind to yourself too, this means looking after your wellbeing. Use these activities to think about your own wellbeing and explore ways to cope and feel better when dealing with challenges.

What is wellbeing?

People use this word to mean 'being happy, healthy and comfortable.'

Think about the things in your life that make you happy, healthy and comfortable. Write them in the circles below. Some things will make you feel happy and comfortable, or healthy and happy, you can write these things in the spaces where the circles overlap. To make a mind-map. Connect them to the circle with a line.



Breathing with colour

Learning when to take time to breathe can you feel happier and more comfortable. Practice this easy technique.

1. Think about a colour that makes you feel happy - this is the colour of good feelings.
2. Think about a colour that doesn't make you happy - this is the colour of your not so good feelings.
3. Now close your eyes and take a deep breath in, imagine the breath is the good colour.
4. Now breathe out and imagine it is the not so good colour and blow it away, out of your body. Do this a few times until you feel relaxed.

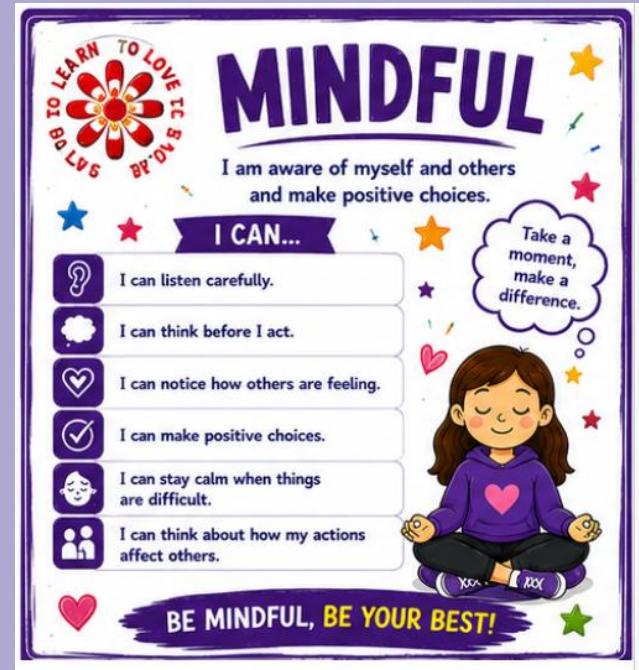
Christ Church Primary School Values

M	A	S	T	E	R
Mindful	Aspirational	Supportive	Tolerant	Aim for Excellence	Resilient
I am kind to others I am considerate of other people's feelings I take good care of everyone's belongings I help to keep my environment clean and tidy I take pride in my appearance	I have high expectations of what I can achieve I am ambitious I believe in myself I am proud of myself when I achieve my goals I learn new skills	I can help others I can listen to others when they are sharing their thoughts and feelings I share with others I encourage others I am happy when someone else is successful I can empathise	I am able to respect and learn from others I value people's differences I accept people for who they are. I understand that people have differences of opinion I stand up for others if they are being treated unfairly	I will always try my best I take pride in my work I work hard and take ownership of my learning I accept challenges to help push myself further	I will keep trying when I don't achieve something the first time. I find ways to help me solve a problem I believe that I can get better/improve I learn from my mistakes I try to look at things positively. I have a can do attitude

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School values



Want to find out more about mental health?



**Welcome To
The Sandbox**

Award winning **digital mental health** support for Children and Young People

What Is The Sandbox?

The Sandbox is an innovative **digital mental healthcare** service for **Children and Young People**.

Mental health struggle is something most of us will experience at some point in our lives – it's simply part of being human. We're here for you when that happens.

We work together with the **NHS, local government, and other organisations** to help Children and Young People with their mental health.

Not sure where to start? Head over to the **Service Zone**.



The Toolbox – Autism & ADHD Resources



The Toolbox is a brand new website for Young People who have been diagnosed with or suspect they have **Autism** or **ADHD**.

Find out about **local workshops** (Hertfordshire only), national organisations, and go through our **resources** to help you better understand and live with those conditions.

<https://thesandbox.mindler.co.uk/>

School values

It is important here at Christ Church Primary School, that we help keep your children safe and that they understand who they can talk to if they have any worries.



We are here to keep you safe

Christ Church Primary School

You have the right to be safe, happy, healthy and heard!

What is this policy?

This is a special policy for children. It helps you know what might be a problem and where to get help and support.



Who keeps you safe at school?

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) helps keep you safe. All adults at school are trained to look after you.

If you are worried, talk to any grown up you trust.



You can talk to...



Teacher



Deputy Headteacher (DSL)



Headteacher (DSL)



Teaching Assistant



Family Liaison Worker (Mrs Dunn)



Lunchtime Supervisor

Or any other grown up you trust!

When might you need to talk?



If you feel sad, worried or upset.



If someone is being unkind or bullying you.



If someone touches you and you don't like it.



If someone offers you something you shouldn't have (like a tablet, cigarette, vape or drink).

Remember...



It is not your fault.



It is never okay for someone to hurt you.



You can say "NO".



Walk away if you feel unsafe.



Tell a grown up – we will listen and help you.

The 4 main types of harm are:



Physical
hitting, smacking, shaking etc.



Emotional
being upset or made to feel bad.



Sexual
this doesn't always mean touching. It could be being shown things or asked to do things that are not right.



Neglect
not having your basic needs met, like food, warm clothes or seeing a doctor when you need to.

We are all different!



We are kind, respectful and look after each other.



A safer, happier school for everyone!

Learn to love Love to learn

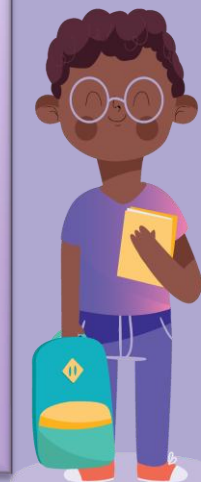


At Christ Church Primary School, we are here to listen, to help and to keep you safe!

PE Timetable



 Christ Church Primary School WEEKLY PE DAYS Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on the days below. 		
MONDAY ★	• Mr Johnson's Class • Mrs Timmins' Class	• Miss Robinson's Class • Mrs Sharpe / Mrs Barke's Class 
TUESDAY ★	• Miss Ranson's Class • Miss Foster's Class	• Mrs Timmins' Class • Miss Hill's Class 
WEDNESDAY ★	• Miss Hill's Class • Mrs Sharpe / Mrs Barke's Class	• Miss Cooper / Mrs Ward's Class • Mr Jeffery's Class 
THURSDAY ★	• Miss Cooper's Class • Miss Wheatley's Class • Miss Robinson's Class	• Mr Naylor's Class • Miss Foster's Class 
FRIDAY ★	• Mr Jeffery's Class • Mr Naylor's Class • Mr Johnson's Class	• Mrs Wheatley's Class • Miss Ranson's Class • Mrs Ward's Class 
  THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! If you have any questions, please contact the school office. 		



Assessments



I just wanted to share with you our end of year results and ask you to join us in celebrating the fabulous success of all of our children, a big thank you for your support and once again, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the dedication of my staff, to ensure your children reach their full potential.

EYFS

Children achieving GLDs (Good Levels of Development): 2026 = 62%

Phonics screening

2026: 23/33 = 79% gained the pass rate Year 1 & Year 2 60% gained the pass rate

KS2 2026 results

	Reading	Writing	SPaG	Maths	Reading, Writing, Maths combined
ARE	69%	76%	78%	69%	58%
Higher Standard	27%	2%	27%	24%	2%

ARE = Age Related Expectations

Year 6 results refer to children having either met or not met the expected standards for reading, SPaG and maths which were tested.

I am also able to share National Data with you, below for KS2 so that you can compare how school has achieved against all other schools. Our end results are above or almost inline in most areas. It is a real joy to see how much these children's results have improved since last year and how high they are against National averages ☺ This continues to confirm Ofsted's views from October 2024 when they inspected every aspect of school, including: teaching, learning and assessment to be GOOD.

KS2 National Data:

Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 2 meeting the expected standard by subjects, 2016 to 2026, (England, all schools)

	Percentage meeting the expected standard in reading	Percentage meeting the expected standard in writing TA	Percentage meeting the expected standard in maths	Percentage meeting the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling
2015/16	66%	74%	70%	73%
2016/17	72%	76%	75%	77%
2017/18	75%	78%	76%	78%
2018/19	73%	78%	79%	78%
2019/20	x	x	x	x
2020/21	x	x	x	x
2021/22	75%	69%	72%	73%
2022/23	73%	71%	73%	72%
2023/24	74%	72%	73%	72%
2024/25	75%	72%	74%	73%
2025/26	75%	73%	75%	74%

Data is not available for 2020 and 2021 as assessments were cancelled in these years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As always these results and tests don't show the exceptional, unique and interesting children we get to spend every day with in this building. They don't show the fabulous sense of humour, the kindness, the determination, the tenacity, the inquisitive and curious nature, the range of interests and talents we have in the building from music to sports – they don't show our fabulous children off to their full rounded and whole potential! But my goodness, they do show that they have worked their socks off the last few years with us and should be very proud of their achievements as they leave us to fly high in all the do from here on in ☺

We know that our Year 6 are all 'secondary ready', and we know that they will all shine brightly in Year 7 and beyond. We wish them every success in all that they do ☺

Well done Year 6 – you are all super stars! I, like the rest of the staff, am immensely proud of your achievements and it has been a privilege for me to watch you grow into the people you all are during your time at Christ Church. It will feel very strange to not have you here in the building. I am going to miss you all being around!

I hope as parents you are extremely proud of their achievements too.



Wraparound care

In our wraparound care provision, it has been great to see how much fun the children attending have been having now this service has been provided by Progressive Sports! There are still places available so if this is a service you would like to use please sign up (this can be on a day to day basis or as a regular weekly service). Also, keep looking out on parentmail for any updates as they will be providing clubs for all children to enjoy throughout the year, but hurry as we expect places to go fast!

We understand that there can be the odd occasion when traffic or unmitigated circumstances mean that you may be late collecting your child. If this is the case, please contact the school prior to 3.30pm, so we are aware that someone is on the way to collect within a few minutes or you want to use the after school club as an alternative that day. If we have not had contact then we will take this as consent to place them into after school club.

If you need help with childcare costs please refer to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check eligibility for Tax Free Childcare, Universal Credit and Childcare Grant Scheme.

**Christ Church
Primary School**

**Before & After
School Club**



WHAT TO EXPECT

1 **Active Kids Zone**
Play dodgeball, archery, multi-skills and more. See our Sports Club timetable if you're looking for more sports activities for your child.

2 **Wellness Kids Zone**
Relax with your friends in a comfortable space.

3 **Discovery Kids Zone**
Play board games, lego, construction and much more.

4 **Creative Kids Zone**
Enjoy arts and crafts, role play, music and much more.

BOOK NOW

TIMES & PRICES

BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:45am
includes breakfast. £5

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Short Session: 3:15 - 4:15pm
includes a small snack. £5



Scan Here!

At Progressive Sports, we know that every child is unique. That's why our before and after school club is designed to spark joy, nurture growth, and inspire a lifelong love of learning and activity.



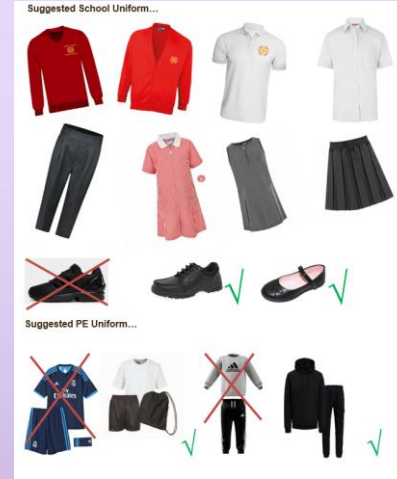
Uniform



Just a reminder that school uniform requires black shoes (not black trainers) on non-PE days. On PE days, children should come to school in their PE kits which should be plain-black trainers, black joggers or shorts, a plain white t shirt and black hoodie or sweatshirt. On no account should any pupils wear football team shirts, shorts or tracksuits.

We also have our previously owned clothes rail in the school reception area, please feel free to come and have a look. We ask for a small donation of 50p per item.

If you would like to donate any previously owned uniform you no longer require it would be greatly appreciated. Please can we ask that it is washed and handed in to the office.



Attendance



Little Heroes Assemble

HERE
EVERY DAY
READY
ON TIME

As always, good school attendance is vital to ensure all of our children experience a full education and have the opportunities to reach their full potential as they grow into adults. I am pleased to say that our attendance initiatives are having a really positive impact with Christ Church Primary school achieving 94.7% overall attendance increasing from 92.9% in 2024 with a reduced persistent attendance rate of 12.1% down from 20.9% in 2024. I would like to thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child's attendance remains of high importance.

This year in school, we are continuing with the 'Little Heroes' initiative across the whole school. This initiative has been rolled out in schools across Staffordshire to help encourage good school attendance.

Each day children will receive a tick on their class chart if they are in school and on time. At the end of the week, they will get a sticker if they have completed the week. The children, who are in school and on time everyday, will receive a certificate at the end of the month.

These are the slides that have been shared with the children.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGDIAhoJjA/CprujFrhYMKAtT0HXR06Gw/view?utm_content=DAGDIAhoJjA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor

Click the link below to find out more.

[Helpful heroes - parents guide \(canva.com\)](#)

We will also be entering every child with 100% attendance each half term with the chance to win a '**£50 Amazon voucher**' in our 100% attendance prize draw!



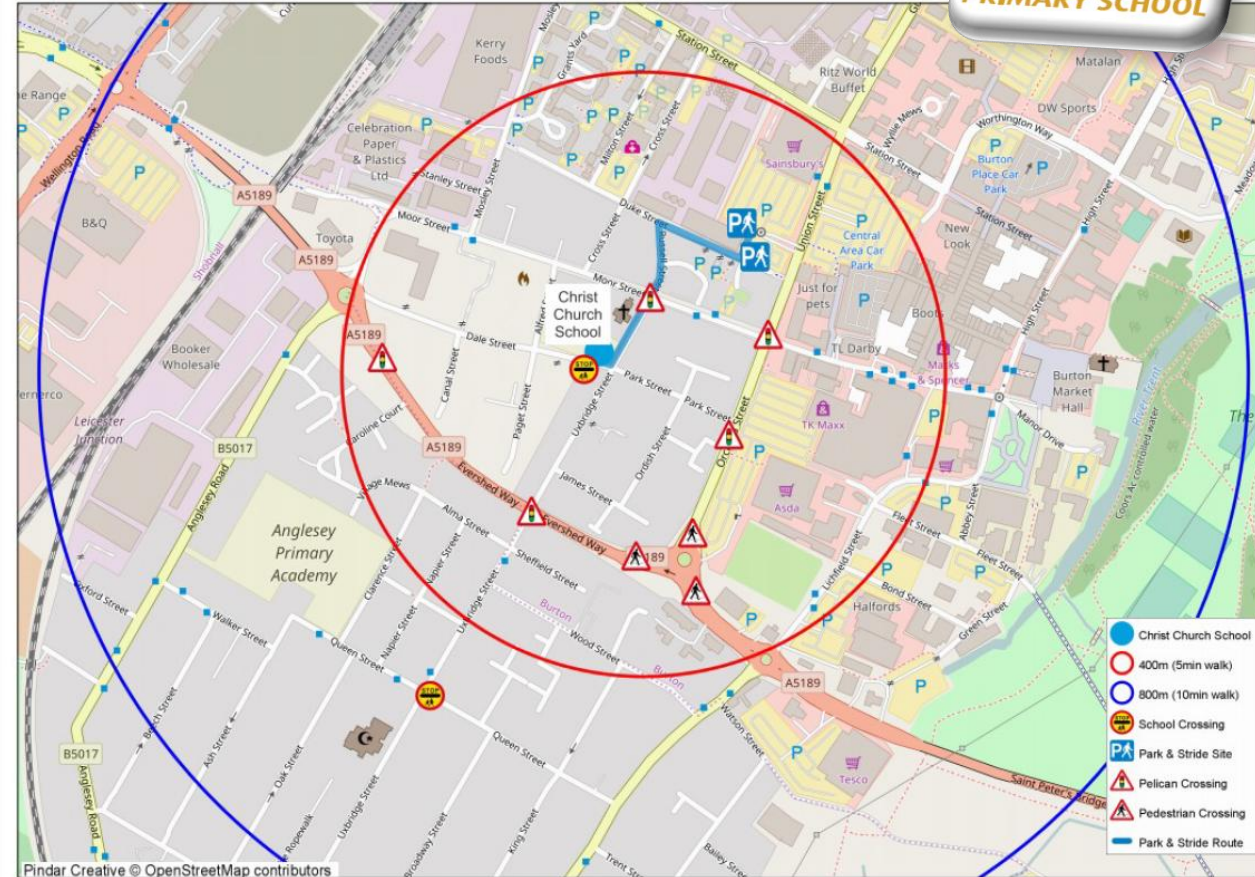
Christ Church Travel Plan



As an air aware school, our air ambassadors are always trying to encourage cleaner ways to travel. We know that most people have very busy lives but please can we ask that whenever possible you try walking/ scooting or cycling to school with your children. If you have to come by car then please use one of our 'park and stride' areas (see our travel map). This will not only improve the air quality around the school but also decreases the traffic around and helps our children stay safe.

We also ask that for those adults who are arriving in cars are polite, considerate and respectful to our local residents and businesses and do not block access ways or park on double-yellow line/zigzag-line areas. This will allow our children to cross the roads safely.

Copy of parent/pupil travel map.



Calendar Dates



Parents Evenings:

Monday 12th October - KS2- 3.30-6pm

Tuesday 13th October -KS2- 3.30-7pm

Wednesday 14th October- EYFS/KS1- 3.30-7pm

Thursday 15th October –EYFS/KS1- 3.30-6pm

Tuesday 20th October- children's photographs

INSET Day: Friday 23rd October(school closed to children)

Half term: Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October

Term ends: Friday 18th December