

# Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge CE (VA) Primary School



## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM

Friday 5th June 2026



### OUR SCHOOL VISION



*Growing in faith, learning and love*



*I alone know the plans I have for you; plans for the future you hope for.  
Jeremiah 29:11*



### Headteacher Message Board:

What a busy week it has been this week. Everyone has been working so hard.

I start with an update for Maples class. Mr Dow is off work with illness at the moment, so the children were ably taught by Miss Firth for the first part of the week. We have then welcomed Mrs Helen Stead to the class for the remainder of this week and next week. The children have made her feel so welcome and they have had a lovely week. We send Mr Dow our best wishes and I will update further if necessary.

Next week is an important week for Year 1 and Year 4 children, taking their statutory assessments in Phonics and Multiplication Times Tables. The children and staff have all worked very hard to be prepared for these checks. Please help us by making sure the children are in school and on time next week, when they will be completing this work.

Next week sees the start of an exciting few weeks at the Christ Church site, as we begin the redecoration and recarpeting of classrooms, ready for welcoming younger children in September! We have planned carefully to keep the disruption to a minimum, but there will be a time when the children may be housed temporarily in a different classroom to enable us to complete the work. The decorating will take place over the next 2 weeks and then the recarpeting a little after that. We can't wait to see what the classrooms look like when finished!

And finally...a huge thank you to Miss Firth, who stepped in yesterday to lead Dave's Skip2bFit sessions after he broke down on the motorway. What a wonderful job she did!

With every blessing for a hopefully not too rainy weekend, Miss Embleton.

### Attendance

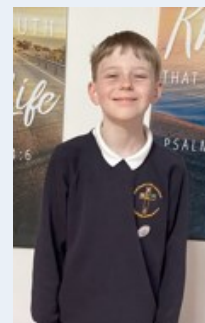


National Attendance Target = 96%

Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after register closes)
Rabbits	89.8%	4
Badgers	92.6%	6
Foxes	87.4%	3
Maples	94.0%	2
Chestnuts	89.8%	2
Sycamores	90.0%	2
Whole School	90.7%	

### HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Well done this week to our Headteacher's Award winner this week!



Owen



Thank you for everything you have done to earn the HT Award this week!

### Safeguarding Update:

We keep children safe by...

Teaching children how to stay safe around water. The Canal and Rivers Trust have delivered an assembly to KS1 this week and will be doing the same for KS2 in the coming weeks.



## Forest School Update from Mrs Piggott:

The children were excited to try out our new shelter, it doesn't take very long to put up especially when we worked together and we got to sit under it just before the hail and rain started. Once the rain stopped we went back to the flower beds to plant the strawberries, cabbages and tomatoes. We can't wait to try what we have planted once they are grown! We found a millipede, which was fascinating to watch all of its legs working together as it crawled over the trowel, the children were very careful and knew that it needed to go back where they found it. I am so proud of how hard the children are working and how careful and interested they are when we find living creatures.



## THE SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FOREST SCHOOLS

Forest School Association

- 1** Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
- 2** Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- 3** Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners
- 4** Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- 5** Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
- 6** Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning

# CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Photo Wall



## Christian Values Certificates

Our Christian Values are:

**Trust, Friendship, Endurance, Koinonia and Wisdom**

Each week, we choose one person from each Key Stage Two class who has exemplified one of our Christian Values throughout the week.

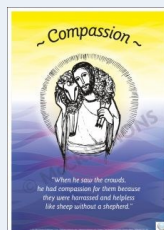
**The winners this week are:**

*George and Oskah*

*Lilly*

*Cohan*

*All of Sycamores*



## Certificates

**CERTIFICATE WINNERS:**

Rabbits: Arlo and Brodie M

Badgers: Ahmed and Elorah

Foxes: Bobby and Jacob

Year 3: Owen and Daisy

Year 4: Lyla and Charlie C

Year 5: Paton and Logan

Year 6: Morgan and Millicent

## Rabbits:

Over the last two weeks, the Reception children have been re-telling the story of 'Elmer' in their own words, we have been discussing whether we feel like it is okay to be different or if we think that everyone should be the same. This resulted in the children having some great opinions on what the world would be like if everyone was the same. In maths, both reception and nursery have been looking at repeating patterns. We have thought about whether patterns can only be made with numbers or if we can create other patterns. We were able to make patterns on bead strings, patterns in the sand, patterns with our movements and patterns with musical instruments. The nursery children have been re-telling the story Rainbow Fish. They have been answering questions about the story trying to learn new vocabulary such as 'glide' and they enjoyed talking how Rainbow Fish would feel at different points in the story. They also made some 3D fish, which were excellent. In PSED, we have been thinking about the seasons and how our environment changes throughout the year. In our role play area, we have set up a safari garage, where children have been creating stories in their play whilst trying to fix the safari vehicles. In RE, we have begun exploring why the word 'God' is important to Christians. To begin our learning, we revisited what Christians believe about God and creation. In Music, we have been looking over our previous units of work, practicing songs, movements and dances. We have also been learning how to play some of our wonderful, African instruments.



Have a lovely, restful weekend,

Miss Larkin, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Hughes

## Badgers:

Welcome back to the final term of Year 1! This week, we have been focusing on Capital letters and full stops in our sentences. The children have had great fun 'correcting the teacher' from all the mistakes that Mrs Stewart and Miss Botterill have made. We have also been doing a lot of practice with our phonics. The children are due to complete a statutory phonics screener next week. It would be fantastic for them to be exposed to as much reading as they can over the weekend. In Maths, we have begun a new topic of Place Value for numbers up to 100. We have completed practical learning this week, whereby we have gone into the playground with chalk to create number lines and used ourselves to represent where certain numbers should be. In Geography, we have begun a new topic – Let's explore London'. The children picked clues out of the mystery bag to work out which city we would be exploring. We then used atlas' and a globe to describe where London is. In Science, we have also begun a new topic of Planting. This week the children will be planting spring onions! We hope you all have a lovely weekend. Mrs Stewart, Miss Botterill, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Piggott



## Foxes:

Welcome back to our final half term of the year! Wow! it has flown by. As always, the foxes have been working their socks off over the last week beginning our new topics and preparing for our SATS assessments in a few weeks. In English we have been using a video called Dangle as our stimulus and the children have been learning about the features of a persuasive letter. The children have had debates exploring arguments for and against the man in the video pulling the rope he has found dangling down from the sky. In maths we have started our statistics topic and the children have been learning how to create and interpret tally charts. We are focusing on weather and climate in Geography this half term and the children have learnt about the differences between hot, temperate and cold climates. In science we are continuing to look at life cycles and this week welcomed a pot of caterpillars to our classroom which will observe over the coming weeks to see the life cycle of a butterfly. Our RE focuses on caring for others, and this week we have talked about the people that we care for and ways in which we show we care. Next week we will begin our new DT topic where the children will be designing and making their own puppets. - Mrs Chapman, Ms Cromack and Mrs Stimpson



## Maples:

Welcome back after the half term holiday. It's been a bit of a different week in Maples but everyone has been fantastic and produced lots of excellent work. In Maths we have done some consolidation of skills, with a focus on addition. We have developed our understanding and ability to undertake formal calculations with exchanges in increasingly bigger numbers. We have also worked on our times table knowledge, especially as the Year 4 children are about to undertake their Multiplication Tables Check. I know how hard they have worked to make sure they know all of their times table off by heart so I am sure they will all do brilliantly. In Literacy, we have been exploring one of my favourite books—The Three Little Wolves and The Big Bad Pig. This is a twist on the traditional tale with a very destructive pig, but fortunately everyone lives happily ever after. We have taken part in hot seating sessions, written about how different characters are feeling and planned an alternative chapter. The children had some amazing ideas for what the 3 wolves could make their next house out of, how they could defend it and, more importantly, how the pig would destroy it! With our discussion of trebuchets and battering rams, it was like a lesson on mediaeval warfare! On Tuesday, everyone in Maples took part in the Learning Journey about the Holy Trinity where they were able to explore this concept through activities and reflection. They all enjoyed this experience, thank you to the volunteers from Hand to Mouth who facilitated the journey. We also continued the subject of the Holy Trinity in our RE sessions, thinking about 3 parts as one and creating our own symbols to represent this. In PSHE we thought about kindness and looked at anti-bullying through the Pixar short film For the Birds. As well as this, the children all worked very hard in our PE and Skip 2b Fit sessions—it was great to see their strength and determination not to give up! Have a lovely weekend. Miss Firth and Mrs Mudd



## Chestnuts:

Welcome to the final half term! I cannot quite believe the academic year is drawing to a close, we truly have had so much fun! As always Chestnuts have made an exceptional start to the half term, they've been resilient with a couple of changes, but we have never given up!



We have had lots of times tables practice this week to help our Year 4 friends ahead of their Multiplication Tables Check next week—I know they are all going to do wonderfully and I am incredibly proud of everyone!

In History, we have begun our learning of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings by beginning to make links with the end of the Roman Empire and the start of early invasion. We have used our class timeline to help us create connections. In Art with Mrs Smart, we have created our final weaving outcome and they look incredible, the children have showed fabulous endurance throughout the whole unit!

- Miss Crawshaw , Miss Taylor and Miss Smith.



## Sycamores:

We have had another fabulous week in Sycamores. In literacy we have been working in writing techniques to write a balanced argument; presenting the reader with the arguments for and the arguments against so they can make a well-informed decision. In History, we have been looking at medicine and disease during the Roman and Greek periods and we compared the medical practices of those two eras to those at present. In Art this week, we have been using clay to make our dragon eyes, making sure they were shaping the clay to create texture. In the afternoons, we have been busy with computing, where we have used 3D modelling software to design packaging for our chosen made-up product with logos, colours and images to make it look realistic and catch the buyer's attention. We have also started reading the script for our end of year play, 'Mary Poppins'. Children will be bringing their scripts home to learn their lines; any support you can give them with this will be greatly appreciated. We will also send some information regarding dates for the Y6 performance, Y6 BBQ and Leaver's assembly very soon.



Have a lovely weekend. Miss Mor, Miss Woodhead and Mrs Smart

Our Online Safety Information this week:

With grateful thanks to the National Online Safety team



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, the For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

### 1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.

### 2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.

### 3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.

### 4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.

### 5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.

### 6 SUPERVISION IS KEY

For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

### 7 DON'T GO TOO FAR

When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

### 8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

### 9 FLOAT AND CALL 999

If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

### 10 TEACH WATER SAFETY

Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, "Water Smart Schools", which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

## Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



# CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Upcoming dates for the diary:

Week Commencing: 8.6.2026

Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks

Year 4 Multiplication Screening Check

Monday

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Tuesday

- Year 4 Ukulele
- Emma Watson from Trinity Grammar to Y6 (transition)

Wednesday

- Year 5/6 Swimming

Thursday

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Friday

- Year 5/6 Flat Stan First Aid Workshop

Week Commencing: 15.6.2026

Monday

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Tuesday

- Year 4 Ukulele
- KS2 Class Photographs

Wednesday

- Year 5/6 Swimming—**Water Safety**
- EYFS and KS1 Sports Day—Morning

Thursday

- KS2 Sports Day— Afternoon

Friday

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