

Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge CE (VA) Primary School

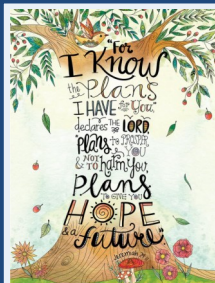


NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN TERM

Friday 2nd October 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 wonderful couple of weeks we have had since our last newsletter! This morning, we have presented children with certificates for leadership roles throughout school: Junior Leadership Team, School Council, Eco Council, Worship Team. The children have shown super skills when putting themselves forward as suitable candidates for each role. Well done to everyone who has been successful, and also to everyone who themselves forward. It takes courage and stepping out of your comfort zone for jobs like this, so we are very proud of everyone! We have also crowned our biggest accolade—Head Boy and Head Girl. These roles are voted for by staff, considering all the qualities needed for the role. A huge well done to Joey and Charlotte—your joy and pride is very much deserved. We know you will be amazing ambassadors for school and will give dedication and commitment throughout the year!

It has been lovely to see everyone interacting with John, our new School Crossing Patrol. It is so reassuring that we now have a safer crossing routine. Following the council's decision to remove our crossing patrol, we have committed to paying for our own as we feel that the traffic is so dangerous on Park Road. Please make sure you give a lovely smile and a 'Morning John!' when you are crossing with him. Thanks John!

Our last Phonics Drop-In session will be on Monday 5th October. Parents in Willows and Junipers, please do call in and see how we teach phonics so that you can support your child when using the same strategies reading at home.

Mrs Hibbert has asked for all GDPR Consent forms to be returned. There are quite a few outstanding and so we are not able to include photos on the newsletter until we have the forms returned. Many thanks.

Finally...a HUGE thank you to everybody for such a wonderful MacMillan Coffee Morning. It was fabulous to see so many people attending and raising funds for such a vital charity, doing amazing things for families throughout the country. Your fundraising will make such a difference. Mrs Hibbert has counted up an amazing £250 so far, with more buns to sell at playtime bun sales. Thank you again.

With every blessing for a fabulous and sunny weekend, Miss Embleton.

Attendance



National Attendance Target = 96%

Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after register closes)
Willows	95.0	0
Junipers	99.3	0
Chestnuts	99.2	0
Maples	88.2	0
Sycamores	95.2	0
Whole School	95.4	0

Safeguarding Update:

We keep children safe by...

Paying for our own School Crossing Patrol so that you can all cross Park Road safely on your way into school. Welcome to John! Give him a wave and a 'Hello John!' when you see him.



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Matilda

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



CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Photo Wall:



Forest School Update from Mrs Piggott:

What a great first session back at Outdoor Learning. We harvested some of what had grown over the summer including tomatoes, blackberries, apples and pears. We have left the pumpkins to hopefully grow a little bigger. The children each got some tomatoes to take home if they wanted and we harvested some of the seeds. The sunflower had finished flowering so we cut it down and have brought it inside to dry and harvest the seeds, hopefully we can plant tomatoes and sunflowers from our own harvested seeds next year.



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

Introducing Pupil Leadership Roles for the new school year...

Well done to everyone who put themselves forward for the roles. We look forward to working with these children in the year ahead.

Junior Leadership Team



Head Boy and Head Girl



Eco Council



School Council



Worship Team



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:

Finlay

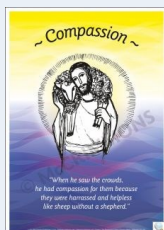
Raeya

Jacob

Lyra

Ferne

George. W



Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS:

Willows: Maggie and Aurora

Junipers:: Jake and Louie

Chestnuts: Emily and Eldon

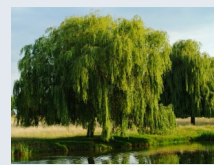
Year 4: Daisy-May and Pixie-Lou

Year 5: Teddie and Charlie. C

Sycamores: Dougie and Thomas

Willows:

Willows Class have settled brilliantly into school life and are now really getting into the swing of things, becoming increasingly confident with our routines and expectations. In Phonics, we have learned the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, m and d, and the children are developing their oral blending skills well. In Maths, we have enjoyed singing counting rhymes to support our counting to 5 and have been exploring one-to-one correspondence. In RE, we listened to the parable of Jesus Feeds the 5,000 and used a story bucket to help bring the story to life. We were also delighted to welcome our Year 6 buddies, who came to visit and share a story with us. We have been really lucky with the weather this week so we have had lots of opportunities for outdoor learning—Miss Crawshaw, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Stimpson.



Junipers:

We have had another great fortnight in the Junipers classroom, we have moved onto the story 'Peace at Last' in English and the children have been writing dictated sentences about what they would hear if they were Mr Bear. They are working hard to use finger spaces, full stops and capital letters. We are working on using our phonics to help sound out unfamiliar words. In maths we have continued working with numbers to 10 and have used the language of greater than, less than and equal to and also introduced the symbols for comparing two sets of object or numbers $<$, $>$, $=$. In science we continue our work on the human body and we have been performing simple tests to explore the senses of sight and sound. The children practiced throwing bean bags into a bucket first with one eye covered and then both to explore how important sight is. We then completed a listening walk around school and identified both loud and quiet noises. In RE we have talked about how the Bible is an important book for Christians and how it should be treated with respect, we have listened to the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and talked about the moral of this story. In art we have continued our sunflowers topic and explored wax resist in our painting. In Geography the children have compared the capital cities of the UK and Ecuador. In PSHE we continue to explore different feelings and how we can be a good friend. What a busy couple of weeks
Mrs Chapman & Ms Cromack



Chestnuts:

It has been another fantastic week in the Chestnuts classroom! The children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum and have shown excellent perseverance, even when things have been challenging. We are so proud of the positive attitudes they have shown towards their learning.

In Literacy, Year 3 have been busy developing their descriptive writing skills. Inspired by *Hansel and Gretel* by Michael Morpurgo, they have been writing setting descriptions using similes and exciting adjectives to bring their settings to life. The children worked hard to choose vocabulary that helps the reader imagine what the setting looks, feels and sounds like. Year 2 have been exploring persuasive writing through *The Day The Crayons Quit*. They have written persuasive letters back to the crayons, thinking carefully about how to convince them to return. We have been focusing on making our writing interesting, giving clear reasons and arguments. In Year 3 Maths, we have started our work on addition and subtraction. The children have been developing their understanding of subtracting ones and tens and have been using their mathematical knowledge to support solving problems. Year 2 have been developing their understanding of counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. We have been looking for patterns and using our counting skills to solve problems. In Art, our sunflower work is continuing to grow! We have been exploring tints and shades, thinking about how we can change colours by adding white or making them darker. This led to the children creating their own backing paper using line and pattern. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home—it is really lovely to see all books back in each day. Have a lovely restful weekend, Miss Larkin, Miss Taylor and Mrs Murphy.



Year 5 :Mr Dow & Miss Woodhead:

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy couple of weeks of learning. In English, we have been exploring explanation texts and learning about how rivers are formed. In Maths, we finished our Place Value unit, with the children achieving excellent results in their End of Unit Quiz. We have now moved on to Addition and Subtraction, focusing on mental strategies and adding four-digit numbers.

In RE, we have considered the parable of The Wise and Foolish Builder, discussing the importance of strong foundations for living. In PSHE, we created Friendship Cakes, developing our own recipes for healthy friendships by identifying key ingredients such as Love, Kindness, Respect, Humour, Caring and Love



Maples: Mr Dow & Mrs Mudd

Maples have also enjoyed another fantastic Wednesday, taking part in swimming and Forest School activities. In Thursday PE lessons, we continued to develop our football skills, while in Art we explored Andy Warhol's work as part of our Pop Art topic, creating mixed-media collages inspired by his famous style. In Geography, we have made an excellent start to our Grand Canyon topic, locating the Grand Canyon and identifying the continent, country and state in which it is found.

Year 4 Mornings:

Year 4 have been exploring the wordless book "Float" which tells the story of a boy and the adventure he has with his paper boat. We have then written what we thought would be the next chapter – his adventure with a paper aeroplane. It was great to see all the different ideas about what could happen and how everything might work out. Everyone has tried their best to include detailed descriptions about the setting and the character of the boy himself. We have used noun phrases and similes to help us with this. We have used paragraphs and aimed to develop our writing stamina with a longer piece of writing this week. In Maths, we have completed our unit of work on place value. This week we have had a focus on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000, using up to 4 digit numbers. This unit has also included an exploration of Roman numerals and how that number system works. In Science we have been exploring our grounds for different types of plants, looking especially at the types, shapes and styles of leaves. Who knew we had a pear tree in our grounds? We have been studying our finds to see how we could use branching diagrams (no pun intended!) to classify them. In RE we have been looking at kennings as part of our exploration of the Trinity. Each part had a set of kennings which we discussed and thought about what they meant. We then used art to represent some of these. Have a lovely weekend – Miss Firth and Mrs Mudd

Miss Firth and Mrs Mudd

Sycamores:



We have had another great week in Sycamores

Y6

In literacy, we have finished our unit based on the book 'Unspoken' Children have been working on editing and improving a paragraph, thinking about spellings, punctuation and grammar. This week we have written our final version and next week we are moving onto our new unit. In Maths we have been focusing on finding factors and multiples of numbers. Children also have learnt some divisibility rules, to help them work out if a number is prime or not. In RE we have continued working on the question: 'Is Jesus the Messiah?' Children have been exploring different passages from the Bible to help them answer the question above, this week they have been reading about the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem. In Science we have been working on classification keys to help us sort organisms into different groups.

Y5/6

In Geography this week we have been looking at different landmarks in North America, and in art we did some observational drawings linked to the work of Andy Warhol.

Have a lovely weekend. Miss Mor and Miss Woodhead

Our Online Safety Information this week:

With grateful thanks to the National Online Safety team (www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered through the online safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com. #WakeUpWednesday This guide contains examples of content, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 10% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Previous data has shown that apps on social media platforms like Snapchat and WhatsApp are popular with children aged 10 to 15. This means they're also being used by predators, leading to grooming and exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2020, UK police recorded nearly 24,000 online grooming offences – an 85% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter disturbing or explicit content while using social media and gaming apps. A recent survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 10 to 15 had seen content online that made them uncomfortable, shocked or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 45% of 10 to 15 year olds in the UK have met up in person with someone they've only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online "friend" in real life can be dangerous. From abduction to sexual abuse, the consequences can be life threatening. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online trolls – and bullies – are always lurking, grooming or exposing children to distressing content. It's not just cyberbullying and sexting, it's also the constant pressure to be perfect and the fear of missing out (FOMO). Children's groups, who monitor online safety, are becoming increasingly aware of the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online content may develop anxiety, leading to social isolation, self-harm, or even suicide. In a recent survey, 10% of 10 to 15 year olds said they were worried about their online safety. This is a worrying trend, as children's online safety is a long-term issue that can have lasting effects on their mental health and well-being.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning. Use parental controls to monitor their online activity and ensure they know when to stop using devices.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities. In the real world, it's hard to pretend someone is a friend. Encourage children to be honest and to seek help from trusted adults if they're feeling unsafe or worried.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoiding talking with your judgement, as they may feel more comfortable speaking up to you. A child who feels listened to is more likely to discuss problems before they become serious.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage what children see, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide an additional layer of protection for children's online safety.

Meet Our Expert

Marlene Basso is a safeguarding consultant with over 10 years' experience in supporting children, families, and schools across education, local authority, and community settings – both in the UK (including in Portsmouth) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Views of this guide do not reflect our own view. It is for information only. Correct as of the date of release: 23.04.2025

Curriculum Spotlight

We will be posting overviews of different curriculum subjects on our newsletters so that you all have an understanding of how we have built our curriculum across all subjects. .



Reading




CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

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

At our school, reading opens minds, builds empathy and inspires imagination.
We are a community of readers.
We read for pleasure every day.

Our Reading Journey

We are passionate about books and believe every child is a reader.

Our classrooms have engaging book corners and a wide range of texts that reflect the world around us.

We celebrate authors, illustrators and stories from all cultures and traditions.

- ✓ A love of reading
- ✓ Confidence and fluency
- ✓ Understanding and enjoyment
- ✓ Empathy and imagination
- ✓ Curiosity and critical thinking



How We Read and Learn

- We read for pleasure every day in school and at home.
- A teacher reads to us every day, sharing high-quality texts and diverse stories.
- We listen to stories in Collective Worship that inspire, teach and help us reflect.
- We tell stories to each other, building confidence and a love of storytelling.
- We explore a wide range of texts – fiction, non-fiction, poetry and information texts.



We Celebrate Reading

We love to celebrate books throughout the year.

- We celebrate World Book Day with costumes, special stories and exciting activities.
- We share book recommendations and celebrate our favourite reads.
- We take part in author events, reading challenges and more!

WORLD BOOK DAY



Strong Foundations in Phonics

We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Phonics Programme from Reception to Year 2 to build strong decoding skills.

For KS2 children who need additional support, we follow the Little Wandle Rapid Catch Up Programme to help every child become a confident reader.




At Home You Can...

- Share stories and enjoy books together every day
- Visit the library and explore new books
- Talk about stories and characters
- Encourage your child to read for fun



Key Skills We Develop

- ★ Phonics and decoding
- ★ Fluency and expression
- ★ Vocabulary and understanding
- ★ Inference and prediction
- ★ Summarising and sequencing
- ★ Empathy and discussion
- ★ A lifelong love of reading



Ask Me About...

- The book I'm reading
- My favourite character
- What I think will happen next
- The part I enjoyed most
- A new word I've learned



♥ We read with joy. We read to learn. We read to grow. ♥

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Upcoming dates for the diary:

Week Commencing:

Monday	- Phonics drop in sessions 9-9.30 - Full Governing Board Meeting
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	Reception Open Morning 9.45am

Week Commencing:

Monday	Termly Attendance Review for all children with Education Welfare Officer
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Reception/Year 6 weekly Buddy Reading commencing
Thursday	Harvest Festival in Church, 9.30am
Friday	Mrs Smart is teaching in Chestnuts for the day...Miss Larkin has a very special day!!