

Christ Church CE (VA) Junior School

NEWSLETTER



SPRING TERM

Monday 9th March 2026

Headteacher Message Board

What a superb couple of weeks we have had, with so much to celebrate and be proud of. We have had a wonderful day for World Book Day. It was fabulous to see so many children and adults dressed up and showing their love of reading. Well done everyone! Please see some of the photos later in this newsletter.

Last week, Year 5 had the most wonderful visit to a local mosque, as part of their community cohesion work with the Streetwardens. The children were nothing short of spectacular and such great ambassadors of our school. They showed respect, curiosity, empathy and genuine kindness in their interactions with others. We are so proud of them all! Thank you to Jonny for facilitating this super experience yet again. We really appreciate it!

It has been so lovely to welcome an influx of new children and families to our lovely school. This is so lovely to see and we are really happy to have you all with us. We send a warm welcome to: Edie, Frankie, Ellie and Maisy! I know all the children and staff have done a super job making you all feel welcome.

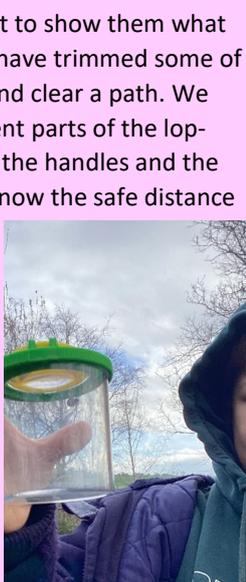
As you may be aware, I have been overseeing the Headship of Norland and St Mary's Schools this year, in an interim capacity. I am pleased to announce I will be back at Christ Church full time after Easter and I can't wait to see everyone more regularly again! There are many exciting things that will be happening over the next few months....!

- A polite reminder that we are a nut free school. We do have children in school with epipens, so it is really important that everyone supports us to help us keep our community safe.
- Year 5 and 6 children not attending the Robinwood Residential trips - Please note that attendance at school is still compulsory, even if your child does not attend the trip. Many thanks.

Forest School Blog with Mrs Piggott

We found insects who had come out in the lovely warm, spring weather. There were ladybirds and bees. We spoke about how to be careful around the bees and that they were looking for food and pollinating other flowers. The beautiful crocuses were in full bloom and there were several bees all having a big feed.

The children were very sensible when I brought the loppers out to show them what they can be used for, I have trimmed some of the willow tree to try and clear a path. We spoke about the different parts of the loppers such as the blade, the handles and the blunt edge. They also know the safe distance they need to be away from someone when they are using a tool. The willow that has been removed can be used for crafts and I have tasked the children with researching what they might like to make!



Upcoming Dates:

- WC 9th March—Science Week
- 13th March—PCSOs to assembly for Science Week
- 18th Y6 Science session with RVHS (at CC)
- 18th March Year 5 easter Egg Hunt @ Crow Wood Park with Streetwardens
- 20th March, 2.30pm, Chestnuts Easter Production of 'The Three Trees'
- WC 23.3.2026 Residential Trips to Robinwood
- Friday 27th March School Breaks up for Easter Holidays
- Monday 13th April—School Reopens for the summer term
- Friday 1st May—School closed for INSET day
- WC Monday 11th May—Year 6 SATs Week

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Mason

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

Attendance

National Attendance Target = 96%

Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after 9.00am)
Maples	★ 96.6%	1
Chestnuts	★ 96.1%	7
Sycamores	90.5%	4
Whole School	94.7%	12

World Book Day 2026!



Year 5 Mosque Visit—



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 by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING

Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS

Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS

Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE

Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES

Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS

Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES

Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS

Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'

Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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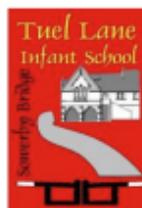
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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Term Dates: 2025-6

Please note that these dates are for both Christ Church and Tuel Lane.



Tuel Lane Infant School
and
Christ Church CE (VA) Junior School



Term Dates 2025-26

Autumn Term	Re-open	Wednesday 3 rd September
	Half-term	Friday 24 th October
	Re-open	Monday 3 rd November
	Christmas holiday	Friday 19 th December
Spring Term	Re-open	Tuesday 6 th January
	Half-term	Friday 13 th February
	Re-open	Monday 23 rd February
	Easter holiday	Friday 27 th March
Summer Term	Re-open	Monday 13 th April
	May bank holiday	Monday 4 th May
	Half-term	Friday 22 nd May
	Re-open	Monday 1 st June
	Summer holiday	Friday 17 th July
	INSET Days	Monday 1 st September Tuesday 2 nd September Monday 5 th January Friday 1 st May Monday 20 th July

CHRIST CHURCH CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Year 3 Mornings:

We have had a wonderful return to school. All of the children have come back with an excellent attitude for learning, working hard and challenging themselves. In Literacy, we have been reading 'Stone Age Boy.' We have been thinking about key parts of the story and have done a slow write over the two weeks to focus on the vocabulary and sentence structures that we use. In Maths, we have returned to fractions. We have found parts of this tricky but have shown excellent perseverance when looking at finding non-unit fractions of a number. In R. E., we have been thinking about what following God can look like for some Christians and how stories from the Bible, such as the story of Abraham and Sarah can help and support some Christians today. In Science, we have continued to look at light and have carried out an experiment to answer the question 'How does the distance between the light source and the object affect the size of the shadow?' It was brilliant to see the children use scientific vocabulary and discuss their findings. Seeing the children in their World Book Day Costumes was wonderful and we have discovered some books we hadn't heard of but will read going forward. As always, thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely, restful weekend. Miss Larkin and Mrs Mudd.

Year 4 Mornings:

This week the children have shown excellent effort in maths as they tackled tricky fraction problems, including adding and subtracting improper fractions, converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, and subtracting fractions from whole numbers. Our new English text, Leo and the Gorgon's Curse, has gone down a storm, and the class have really enjoyed exploring the characters and the ancient Greek setting, investigating how tension and suspense are built before having a go at re-writing parts of the narrative. In RE we have been incredibly busy creating colourful window displays to take to church for Holy Week, as well as designing detailed triptychs to represent the three key days of Easter. In science, the children have been investigating pitch and how it changes, exploring how different materials and conditions can produce higher or lower sound.

Maples

We have begun our new history focus on Ancient Greece, exploring how archaeology helps us piece together what life was like in past civilisations by studying the objects, buildings and clues they left behind. The children have really enjoyed investigating how these discoveries can tell us about daily life, beliefs and culture. In PE, we have continued our ballet work and the class have been diving deeper into the characters from Alice in Wonderland, using expressive movement to bring them to life. They have been developing imaginative motifs, working collaboratively to create striking tableaux, and thinking carefully about how body shape, timing and space can communicate character and mood.



Sycamores:



In Sycamores this week, we have been very busy working on our biographies of Anne Frank. This has carried on from the presentations we created last week and links in with the work we are doing in History. We have studied the rise of Hitler and how things changed for Jews when he became Chancellor of Germany. In Maths we have continued our work on area and perimeter, with a focus on finding the area of triangles and parallelograms. This has included a refresher of our algebra skills as we have needed to use substitution in formulae for areas of different shapes. On Thursday, for World Book Day, we visited Tuel Lane to share some of our favourite books with children there. It was a lovely opportunity to be with the younger children and buddy-up to share stories. We have continued with our swimming sessions and it has been lovely to hear how proud the children are with the progress they have made with their swimming skills. Well done! In Design Technology, we have explored how to create textile based shelters and which of the materials we used are waterproof (or not!) to see how this might impact on our final shelter designs. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Mor and Miss Firth.

CHRIST CHURCH CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Chestnuts:

Wow what a busy couple of weeks we have had since returning from half term! I can only give a snippet of what we have done and experienced but I am more than certain children will have been coming home to tell you all about it.

Year 5 had a wonderful experience visiting Halifax Mosque to learn about Ramadan and Eid, as well as, take part in a tour around the spectacularly decorated rooms. They also received an invaluable opportunity to help serve those in need of food or toiletries from Halifax Community Fridge. This was a lovely opportunity to give back to the community and help out those in need.

Year 4 have been learning a new piece of music in Ukulele sessions and it sounds INCREDIBLE. I will make sure to share a video of it with you next week.

World Book Day... what can I say! WOW—extraordinary costumes and wonderful thought going in to them. We had a great day joining in with BBC's Live Lesson and completing book related activities throughout the afternoon.

Miss Crawshaw, Miss Taylor and Miss Smith.



Celebrations Photo Wall



Safeguarding:

There has been lots of information in the news this week regarding new Statutory Guidance for September 2026, regarding the management of allergies in school. We are pleased to say we already implement ALL of the recommendations.



We keep children safe by...

- Keeping an up-to-date Medical Register and communicating to all staff
- Implementing individual Health Care Plans where required.
- Staff receive regular training on allergy awareness and responding to an emergency.
- Having an Allergy Policy which clearly outlines procedures and emergency responses..

Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Y3: Leo and India

Y4: Rudi and Charlie C

Y5: Edison and Isla

Y6: Edie and Ruby

Christian Values Certificates

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

The winners this week are:

William W

Loki

Dougie

Morgan

