



SPRING TERM

Friday 30th January 2026

Headteacher Update

We have galloped through another super quick week, with lots of things to celebrate.

At the end of last week, we were so pleased to receive a direct email from the Education Secretary, highlighting the results for our vulnerable pupils last year. Please do take a moment to read the letter on page 2 of this newsletter. It celebrates our results as being some of the highest nationally. Whilst I know personally how hard everyone works so that our children reach their potential, it is always lovely to have successes recognised at national level. There were only 3 schools in Calderdale that received this recognition and I am so proud that Christ Church was one of them! We have worked so hard over the last few years to create a bespoke curriculum which meets the needs of our children, alongside the implementation of focused intervention to close children's gaps in learning. Huge thanks goes to the staff in particular for everything that they do to enable the children to be successful, as well as parents and governors for supporting the school as a whole. Proud moment for us all!

Last week, our new Phunk Food Ambassadors launched their healthy school snacks project with a great assembly, teaching everyone in school about the importance of a healthy and nutritious school snack. Please support our Phunk Food Ambassadors by sending healthy snacks in for your child.

And finally...a polite note about girls wearing make-up. Make-up must not be worn by children. This is an unnecessary distraction to the school day—we want the children to be children as long as possible. Please support us in this expectation going forward. We will be asking children to remove any make-up when they arrive at school if it continues to be worn. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Upcoming Dates:

- WC 9.2.2026 Children's Mental Health Week
- 10.2.2026 Safer Internet Day
- 13.2.2026 Wear your SCARF to School Day
- 13.2.2026 School closes for half-term
- 23.2.2026 School re-opens Spring 2 term

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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

Eddie Hulme



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

National Year of Reading 2026

The **National Year of Reading (NYOR) 2026** is a major UK-wide campaign, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, aiming to boost reading for pleasure by connecting books to people's existing passions (e.g., sports, gaming, cooking) and making reading a relevant, enjoyable habit for all ages, addressing a decline in reading enjoyment with initiatives like booklists, local events, and literacy support. The rallying cry is "Go All In", encouraging people to explore diverse formats like audiobooks, comics, and blogs, and build a lasting reading culture.

You will hear us talking more about this important project this year and we have lots of exciting plans in store! We will be sharing book reviews, recommending books for children and adults alike, encouraging the children to make their own recommendations, as well as exploring the **HUGE** range of books out there—uncovering new and exciting reads along the way.

We can't wait to share this with you!

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National Attendance Target = 96%

Attendance

Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after 9.00am)
Maples	90.0	0
Chestnuts	98.7	1
Sycamores	93.7	0
Whole School	94.1	1

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Christ Church CofE VA Junior School, Sowerby Bridge achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Yours sincerely,

Bridget

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

Photo Wall...some of our amazing experiences this week!



Forest School Blog:



We found worms! This week the learners carefully searched habitats where they thought they might find any creatures and with the weather on our side, they discovered plenty of worms. When it rains worms move to the surface of the earth so that they do not drown – they breath through their skin so when the soil becomes too wet they emerge looking for more oxygen! The learners took extra care when handling the worms and made sure they were returned to where they were found.



Using loose parts the learners worked as a team and created a flow system, hoping that they would catch the rain and direct it. The rain was not heavy enough unfortunately so they found stones and rolled up leaves to watch those slide instead. What great imaginations and initiative!

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-identifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games often use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to review spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age-appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including *Wired*, *Technobird*, *The Telegraph*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*.

See full reference list on our website.

#WakeUpWednesday

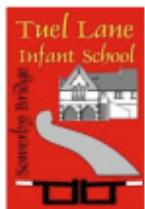
The National College



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is assumed into. Current as of the date of release: 21.01.2020

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 great week in Year 3. In Literacy, the children have been creating imaginative adventure stories with a twist inspired by *The Sea of Dreams*. We have been using a slow-write approach, carefully including exciting features such as alliteration, expanded noun phrases and a range of sentence lengths, and we can't wait to read their finished work. In Maths, we have been working on fractions, with the children showing a good understanding of the denominator and numerator and working confidently to order fractions. In RE, we considered how we could make the world a better place by thinking about the things we can and cannot change, as well as how we remind ourselves to keep promises. In Science, we explored artificial and natural light sources, with the children showing great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout. It has been a really positive week and we are very proud of the children's efforts. Please continue to support us with reading and spellings at home, we cannot express enough how much this helps children with their learning. Have a lovely restful weekend, Miss Larkin and Mrs Mudd.

Year 4 Mornings:

Over the past fortnight, we have thoroughly enjoyed completing our study of an alternative version of Goldilocks – The Ghanaian Goldilocks. The children then applied their understanding brilliantly by creating their own versions set in a familiar location, Hebden Bridge, thoughtfully weaving in local speech, food, and hobbies; their writing was fantastic, especially the dialogue! In maths, we have moved on to length and perimeter, confidently working with kilometres, centimetres, and millimetres as we explored how these measurements link together. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Reverend Tommy into class, where the children asked thoughtful questions about Easter and Holy Week, leading to a fascinating and insightful discussion as always. It's been a wonderful two weeks filled with curiosity, creativity, and great learning.

Maples

In PE we have continued our Gymnastics study looking at key shapes—tuck, star and pencil and incorporating these alongside point and path balances into a routine. Then we looked at jumping and landing techniques. In computing we have planned our animations using a story board thinking about sound effects and 'onion skinning'.



Sycamores:

It has been another superb week in Sycamores. This week in Literacy children have been working together in groups to write play scripts based on a scene of *Macbeth*. Children then acted out their play scripts allowed them to see what changes where needed and whether features like stage directions where needed to make their play script more effective. Finally children acted out their play scripts in front of their peers. In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 as well as multiplying and dividing decimals by whole numbers using formal written methods. In Geography we have been thinking about how we use water at home and school, how we get water to our taps and how we can make sure we do not waste water when we are at home and at school. In Science we have planned, conducted and evaluated an investigation into shadows. We have been considering how near the light source is to a shadow and the impact this will have on the size of that shadow. Have a lovely and restful weekend everyone.

Mss Mor and Miss Firth

Our official thank you from Macmillan Cancer Support for the money we raised at our Coffee Morning...thank you!

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

This certificate is presented to
Christ Church CE VA Junior School
and friends.

This year you fundraised £144.68

Congratulations on your fundraising.
Your kind support is helping to change
the lives of people affected by cancer.

Thank you.

Hannah

Hannah & the Coffee Morning Team

CHRIST CHURCH CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Chestnuts:

Over the past two weeks, we have been so busy in our learning. In Literacy, Year 5 have explored the picture book *Tuesday*, producing both a narrative retell and a newspaper report inspired by the text. In Maths, Year 5 have begun learning about decimals and will be moving on to percentages next week. It has been tricky at times, but everyone has persevered and succeeded!

During afternoon lessons, Year 4/5 have completed their learning about our European neighbours and will now be focusing in more depth on Italy for the remainder of the half term. In Computing, pupils have explored how to safely and effectively search for information online and how to fact-check sources. In Art, they have been working hard to develop their watercolour techniques in preparation for painting their own landscape artwork. In Swimming, Year 5 have all been amazing, growing in confidence and practising their skills each week. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and progress. I have also been told Year 4 have been brilliant in their PE sessions exploring gymnastic shapes and balance.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who is supporting with reading at home, we have seen a great increase in the number of children reading at home. Have a lovely weekend from Team Chestnuts.—Miss Crawshaw, Miss Taylor and Miss Smith.



Celebrations Photo Wall



Safeguarding:

We keep children safe by...

Having trained Designated Safeguarding Leads. You can always talk to us!

Quick Question

Are you worried about anything at school or at home? Are you worried about one of your friends?

Speak to one of these people:



We can help!

Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Y3: Harper and William B

Y4: Manissa and Charlie C

Y5: Paton and Joey

Y6: Dante and Elijah

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:

Lottie

Ellie

Logan

Ruby

