

Christ Church Sowerby Bridge CE (VA) Primary School



NEWSLETTER



SUMMER TERM

Monday 18th May 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:

My update this week starts with pride and celebration for our superb Year 6 children and their amazing staff. They showed such incredible commitment, dedication, perseverance and sheer determination to do their best in their SATs tests last week. They approached everything with a smile on their face and we are so proud of everything they have achieved as they journey towards the end of their primary school years. Thank you to the parents also for your support for the children last week. Well done Year 6! The next key milestone for National assessments will be the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Check—these will both be after the holiday for the children involved. We know the children will again make us very proud.

As we reach the halfway point of the Summer 1 term, it has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and fantastic learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. It continues to be a pleasure to see our children so engaged in their learning and embracing all of the opportunities available to them. Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it makes such a difference to the children and our school community

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



Attendance



National Attendance Target = 96%

Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after register closes)
Rabbits	92.5	0
Badgers	92.1	0
Foxes	92.3	1
Maples	93.9	2
Chestnuts	93.5	2
Sycamores	94.4	2
Whole School	93.1	7

Safeguarding Update:

We keep children safe by...

Promoting positive mental-health and well-being. This week it is Mental health Awareness Week. We work closely with the Mental Health Support Team to develop general whole school strategies for positive mental health and well-being, as well as implementing more specific approaches for groups or individuals. We also encourage fitness and physical exercise as a boost for our physical and mental well-being.



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Brooke



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

Forest School Update from Mrs Piggott:

What an exciting week for Outdoor Learning - Stuart from Just Grow Forest School has been to build us a shelter, this will be such a great addition to our outdoor learning sessions.

We have also managed to plant some broad beans, pumpkins and broccoli. The children gently removed the plants from their pots where we looked at the roots and discussed how they were outgrowing their pots as the roots were all squished in. We gently teased the roots apart and placed them into the soil. We added support sticks for the broad beans and gave everything a good water. Next week we are hoping to plant strawberries, tomatoes and cabbage!



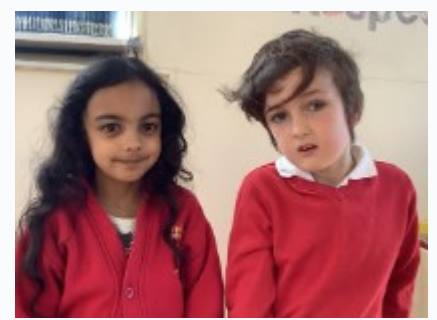
THE SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FOREST SCHOOLS

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.

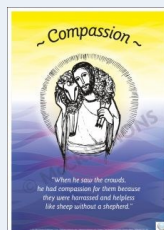
The winners this week are:

Year 3

Charlie D

Samuel

Casper



Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS:

Rabbits: Esme and Inara

Badgers: Olivia and Erin

Foxes: Javier and Dilpreet

Year 3: Olivia and Mila

Year 4: Frankie and Chloe

Year 5: Stanley and Edison

Year 6: Megan and Mason

Rabbits:

Over the last two weeks, the Reception children have been re-telling the story of 'Rainbow Fish' in their own words, we have been focusing on new vocabulary such as 'glide' and 'sparkling' and we have tried to use these new words in the water area (where we have had lots of glitter). In Maths they have been looking at how we can manipulate, compose and decompose shapes. The children challenged themselves to find 2D shapes within 3D shapes both in the classroom and outside. The nursery children have been re-telling the story Franklin Frog. They have been answering questions about the story trying to learn new vocabulary such as 'furious' and they enjoyed talking about the lifecycle of frogs and butterflies. In phonics, they have been enjoying the rhyme '5 Little Speckled Frogs.' In PSED, we have been thinking about how we can keep our bodies and our minds healthy. In our role play area, we have set up a doctors surgery, where children have been creating stories in their play. In RE we have been thinking about the story of creation in Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. We made our own Shabbat candles when learning about Judaism and our planting made use think about how many Muslims care for the world and see themselves as Khalifa. We were then able to think about how some religions have similar stories for creation and we have tried to spot the differences. In Music, we have been developing our understanding of funk music. We have listened to Earth, Wind and Fire, created our own dance moves for 'Big Bear Funk' and even tested our rapping skills! Have a lovely weekend, Miss Larkin, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Hughes



Badgers:

We have had another wonderful week in Badgers Class!

In English, we have been reading *Jim and the Beanstalk*, a fantastic twisted tale that the children have thoroughly enjoyed. They have shown great creativity by using a range of fantastic adjectives to describe the giant and the beanstalk.

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions, focusing on halves and quarters. The children have worked hard to understand how shapes and quantities can be divided into equal parts. This has involved working practically – the children found it particularly interesting when we have used food to demonstrate equal parts!

In History, we explored the life of the famous explorer Edmund Hillary and discussed what made him significant. The children were interested in his achievement of climbing Mount Everest.

In RE, we have been learning about how some Christians feel a sense of belonging through attending church. The children especially enjoyed learning and singing hymns together.

In Art and Design, the children have been focusing on animals in the rainforest, and using their new artistic skills to 'dab' the spots onto the parrots. Well done to everyone for their hard work this week! Have a lovely weekend.



Foxes:

The Foxes have been working hard over the last few weeks and have enjoyed welcoming some different visitors. Firstly, we have taken part in the Hand to Mouth Journey where the children went on a Christian Journey of discovery learning about different aspects of being a Christian including learning the Lord's Prayer, later in the day they loved creating sun catchers including signs from Christianity. This week we welcomed Jane from the NSPCC to talk to us about Buddy, who tells children to speak out and stay safe; they discussed which safe adults they could talk to if they are feeling unsafe or worried.



In other lessons, the children have been writing some fantastic, detailed descriptions of a green-backed dragon including adjectives, adverbs, similes, and metaphors. In maths we have begun our time topic, and the children are growing in confidence to tell the time, including quarter to, quarter past and within 5 minutes to and past the hour. In science we are starting to learn about life cycles and so far, this has included humans, mammals, and amphibians. In history we have continued to learn about the lives of past monarchs including Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth I and King William I. In RE we continue to listen to Hindu stories and explore their meanings and in PE we are still enjoying learning about the different aspects of yoga. What another busy half term!



Mrs Chapman

Maples:

In Geography, we have continued exploring tropical rainforests, considering how these environments are different from those we are more familiar with as well as looking at the impact of de-forestation and reasons we should look after our rainforests. In Computing, we have been developing our understanding of effective searching, learning how to use search engines more efficiently to find accurate and relevant information. In PE, the children have been building their skills for rounders, practising throwing, catching and batting before applying these skills in game situations.



Year 3 Mornings:

Year 3 have worked incredibly hard over the past two weeks and have shown great enthusiasm across the curriculum. In English, we have been exploring *The Magic Paintbrush*, learning the text in chunks and rewriting our own versions while carefully developing our vocabulary choices to make writing more engaging.

In maths, we have started our Time unit, learning about am and pm, days, weeks and months, and developing our ability to tell the time to 5 minutes and 1 minute with increasing accuracy.

In Science, we have continued our Plants unit, planning and setting up an experiment to answer the question: "Does the number of seeds within one plant pot affect the growth of the plants?" The children showed excellent teamwork and thoughtful scientific thinking throughout.

In RE, we explored how our local area compares to the wider world in terms of beliefs, using data from a census to understand similarities and differences between communities.

Year 4 Mornings:

In Year 4 mornings, we have been reading an exciting adventure story about a boy on a dangerous journey to save his little brother. We have written setting and character descriptions and taken part in hot seating sessions as Ivan. This is leading up to an alternative re-telling where we will write the first part of the story from Ivan's perspective. In Maths, we have been working with money, estimating amounts, rounding them and calculating with amounts, including using real life problems. We have also been working very hard on our times tables, ready for the check after half term. It has been great to see how proud the children are of their recent scores in the "soundcheck" on TT Rockstars. Children are welcome practise on TT Rockstars at home; they all know their log in details. In RE we have looked at how Islam uses patterns and calligraphy to express spirituality and in Science we have been using Google Lens to help us identify different plants around our school grounds.

Miss Firth.

Chestnuts:

We're nearly at half term, hasn't it flown again? We have had a busy two weeks continuing our learning in literacy about the short film 'The Eye of the Storm', the children have been captivated and it really shows in their writing outcomes. In RE, we have been learning about Judaism and how believers of the Jewish faith might have a code for living following a set of values. In Maths, we have been learning to add and subtract decimals, next week we will move on to multiplying and dividing by them. In Science, we have started our investigation to see if we can successfully clone a geranium—we will let you know how we get on.



Throughout our afternoons, we are still thoroughly enjoying our visits and visitors. In Ukulele, the children have learnt to sing and play a new song, which sounded fabulous on Tuesday. Year 5 are continuing to improve and impress us with their swimming. As a whole class, we are helping our Year 4 friends to learn their times tables ahead of their multiplication check after half term, keep going Year 4!



- Miss Crawshaw, Miss Taylor and Miss Smith.



Sycamores:

Well, that's a wrap! This week we have finally completed the dreadful SATs and we're all so pleased they're now over!



It was lovely to see so many of our Y6 children attending SATs breakfast club, enjoying a heartfelt breakfast and some down time together before they tackled their tests. We have been really impressed at the positivity they all brought every day, their willingness to do their best and their endurance—What an amazing mindset to have during a week like this! As always, we are extremely proud of every single one of them; they've worked their socks off every day and have not complained about having to work hard (well, maybe once or twice!) **Sycamores you're all superstars!!**

After having such a busy week, children had some down time on Thursday afternoon and on Friday; we enjoyed some time together just doing some nice, relaxing activities, laughing and playing, which was very well deserved by all.

Have a lovely restful weekend Sycamores, you deserve it! Miss Mor, Miss Woodhead and Mrs Smart.



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 IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.04.2026

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Upcoming dates for the diary:

Week Commencing: 18th May 2026

Monday

•

Tuesday

- Chestnuts Litter Picking with Street Wardens

Wednesday

- Year 5/6 Swimming

Thursday

•

Friday

- School closes for Half Term

Week Commencing: 1st June 2026

Monday

•

Tuesday

•

Wednesday

- Year 5/6 Swimming

Thursday

•

Friday

•