

Christ Church CE (VA) Junior School



NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN TERM

Friday 19th December 2025

Headteacher Update

We've made it the end of the Autumn Term, what a lot we've done since coming back in September! As always, the children have been amazing and we are very proud of them. They have worked so hard and the progress they are all making can be clearly seen. The Christmas break is well deserved!

A huge well done to Maples for their fabulous production of Straw and Order, all their hard work certainly paid off. Also, well done to Y5 for their excellent carol singing in Crow Wood Park with the Street Wardens.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to support our Christmas Fair last week; all money raised will go towards things for the children. Just to confirm - all raffle prizes have been claimed and collected.

As ever, thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely, relaxing and peaceful Christmas and we shall see you all in the new year when school re-opens on **Tuesday January 6th 2026**.

Upcoming Dates:

- 19.12.25 School closes for Christmas
- 5.1.26 INSET Day
- 6.1.26 School reopens

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Casper

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

Photo Wall



Attendance

National Attendance Target = 96%



Class	Attendance %	Number of lates (after 9.00am)
Maples	93.8%	2
Chestnuts	85.2%	1
Sycamores	95.8%	0
Whole School	91.5%	3



Tuel Lane Infant School

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

We would love you to be part of our school family! We are a thriving, happy and nurturing school—one where all children flourish! We pride ourselves on our inclusive, family-focused approach and would therefore like to extend an invitation to come and look round our school if you are thinking about a Reception place for September 2026.

"Children get a positive start to their education in the early years. Staff build warm, nurturing relationships with the children. The school provides a well-structured, ambitious curriculum. Staff promote early language development successfully." Ofsted, June 2025

Did you know....we also have limited space for either 15 or 30 hours of funding for Nursery age children? Please contact the office for more information.



Some of the things we offer:

- Friendly and supportive staff team
- Ambitious and aspirational curriculum
- Creativity at the heart of everything we do
- Recognition of the uniqueness of every child
- Wraparound Childcare at our Mighty Oaks provision

Please contact the school office if you would like to come and look round to see if we are the school for you!

CONTACT US

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Please follow the QR code
to book a place on one of
our Open Days.



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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 AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice sounds (humorous, engaging, or authoritative) can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines "understand" people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Most connected toys like any smart device: they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, testing terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Hawking is Executive Director of Kampsis Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and grant organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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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:

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting Christmas term, we would like to round up with some of our learning for this week. In Literacy, the children have worked incredibly hard researching the life of Walt Disney. They developed their research skills by finding key information from a range of sources and then used this to create an engaging video all about his life and achievements. The finished video was fantastic and showed creativity, teamwork and clear communication skills. In Maths, the children have been consolidating their learning with a strong focus on part-whole models. This has helped them deepen their understanding of number relationships and supported their problem-solving skills. The children used these to deepen their understanding of number relationships, helping them with addition, subtraction and problem-solving. In DT, the children completed their exciting project of designing and making torches. They worked carefully to assemble their designs and test their circuits, showing excellent perseverance and teamwork. The finished torches were a great success! As we come to the end of the term, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break filled with rest, fun and celebration. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, ready for another exciting term of learning. Miss Larkin and Mrs Mudd.

Year 4 Mornings:

We've had an incredible couple of weeks packed with creativity and achievement! In literacy, the children have been diving into *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, crafting amazing vocabulary and descriptive sentences inspired by songs, books, and films—and even tasting sweets to spark their imaginations! In maths, we've consolidated our learning so far and moved on to multiplication, exploring factors and practising multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1,000.

Maples

Our Nativity was a huge success—the children truly shone, and we couldn't be prouder! In PE, we wrapped up our fitness unit with a final beep test before the children voted for their favourite game—Dodgeball, of course! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Team Maples.

Mr Dow and Mrs Mudd.



Sycamores:



Well, and that's a wrap! We can't believe we have done a full term already, but as the saying goes 'Time flies when you're having fun'. It has been a fantastic term and we are so proud of all the hard work the children have put in and all the progress they have made. This week has been a bit of a mixture; we have carried on with our maths and literacy work in the mornings, but we have also had the chance to do some fun activities in the afternoons. In Maths we have finished our autumn units so we have been doing some consolidation. In Literacy we have finished writing each of the paragraphs for our persuasive letter to Mr Scrooge. Finally, we have managed to finish our slippers and it was lovely to see children so proud of all their hard work; they can't wait to wear them at home and to show you all. On Thursday morning we had our Christmas Church service and in the afternoon we had our Christmas party, children had lots of fun and enjoyed themselves playing in teams. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and a restful break. See you all in the new year. Miss Mor and Miss Firth

CHRIST CHURCH CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Chestnuts:

Wow, what a term! We are so proud of each and every child in Chestnuts for all of their hard work and amazing effort since September. We have seen children grow significantly in their learning and we cannot wait to see how this continues in the new year.

We've had a busy couple of week with festivities, from carol singing at Crow Wood Park, watching Maples fabulous nativity performance, our Christmas Carol Service in Church and Christmas parties. We've managed to fit in lots of fun times in between our fabulous learning. We have all finished our torches in DT and children should have brought them home to show you.

From all of us, children and staff alike, have a wonderful festive period with your families, we cannot wait to welcome you back in January.

- Miss Crawshaw, Miss Taylor and Mrs Clark.



Photo Wall...



Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Y3: Leo and Olivia

Y4: Scarlett and Loki

Y5: Isla

Y6: Owen and Heidi

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:

Charlie D

Chloe H

Joey

Grace

