

Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge CE (VA) Primary School



NEWSLETTER



SUMMER TERM

Monday 22nd June 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 busy few days since the last newsletter. I have a funny feeling that the last few weeks of term are going to fly!

I would like to thank everyone for the support at this time, as we are trying to facilitate the joining of 2 schools together. I know that the early closure is causing some concerns, and for this we do apologise. I would love to be able to say that we could plan far more in advance, but the timescales have been implemented with very short notice from the local authority and so we have tried to do the best we can in a tricky situation. Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support.

I know some parents have asked about transition for the younger children, and SEND children in particular. Again, this has been difficult to plan for as we literally did not get the go ahead until 7pm a week past Friday. We are trying to do what we can to facilitate further transition opportunities over the next 2 weeks. All the children have been to the school site for Sports Day and Year 2 have already visited earlier in the year. We will be doing transition information for you to share with the children during the summer holidays so that they can discuss the changes that will be happening in September. We are also looking forward to welcoming the KS1 children up to the Christ Church site for transition morning. Please drop the children off at Tuel Lane as normal and staff will walk them up as part of the transition morning. It will be lovely to welcome any parents who would like to look round the Christ Church site tomorrow evening at 5pm.

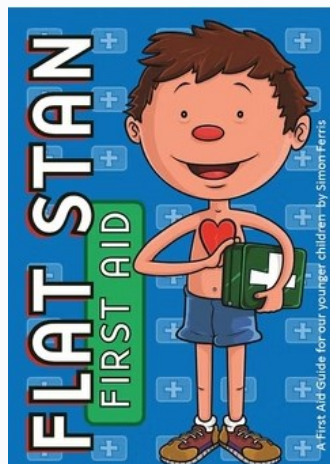
In the meantime, I would like to point out how fabulous the children have all been over the last 2 weeks as we have redecorated all the classrooms. They have been so flexible and responded to changes in routine brilliantly! The classrooms look fabulous and will look even better when the new carpets are fitted! Well done everyone.

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

Safeguarding Update:

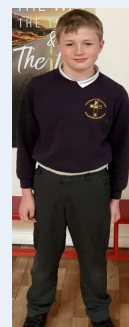
We keep children safe by...

Teaching the children lifesaving first aid skills, including the delivery of CPR. The Year 5 and 6 children have completed a workshop last week on key life-saving techniques. We hope they will never have to use them, but we think it is such an important life skill.



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Olly



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

Forest School Update from Mrs Piggott:

We planted some seeds this week. The children were all so surprised by how small they were and they all took great care not to spill any whilst worked collaboratively to spread them equally between the pots. We planted, leek, radish and carrot seeds – someone commented how the carrot seeds smelt like lavender which they did! The seeds were carried carefully round to the greenhouse and watered, hopefully it wont take too long before we see some shoots. Unfortunately we did not see the woodpecker again this week – if you see or hear it please let us know or try to get a photo!



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

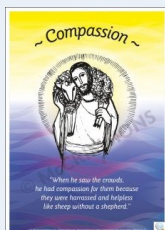
Each week, we choose one person from each Key Stage Two class who has exemplified one of our Christian Values throughout the week.

The winners this week are:

Ryan-Jane

Willow

Dante



Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS:

Rabbits: Olive and

Badgers: Huxley and Connor

Foxes: Theodore and Greyson

Year 3: Harper and William

Year 4: Ilsa and Jacob

Year 5: Joey

Year 6: Ruby and Caius

Rabbits:



What a wonderful couple of weeks in Rabbits. Over the last two weeks, the Reception children have been re-telling the story of 'Mog, the forgetful cat.' The children were able to use vocabulary from the story to help with their retelling. The story also had us laughing about the things that Mog forgets! Nursery have been reading 'Portside Pirates' and have made some excellent pirate flags. In maths, reception have been looking at how we can use positional language in the things that we do around the classroom. It was great to see children using this language to describe what they were doing in the construction area. In PSED, we have been thinking about how our bodies grow and change and who we might become in the future. In our role play area, we have been going on pirate adventures. It has been lovely to see the children really get into character, dressing up and exploring the area. In RE, we have continued exploring why the word 'God' is important to Christians. We looked at how Christians celebrate harvest and use this to give thanks to God for all that he provides. The children had some really good discussions about Messy Church and enjoyed telling us what they have done if they attended messy church. In Music, we have been focusing on singing, learning two songs in African. We have been absolutely amazing! All of the children displayed excellent behaviour and resilience in our Sports Day this week, working hard in the events, celebrating the success of themselves and their friends and representing the school amazingly. Please join us in giving them all a massive well done!

Have a lovely, restful weekend,

Miss Larkin, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Hughes

Badgers:



We have had a lovely and active Sports Week in Badgers!

During our Monday PE lesson, the children focused on athletics, particularly developing their jumping skills. It was fantastic to see everyone trying their best and improving their confidence.

One of the highlights of the week was our KS1 Sports Day at our other site. The children had a brilliant time taking part in a range of activities, and we were incredibly proud of them all. Every child put in 100% effort, especially during the races, where their enthusiasm and determination really shone through!

In English, we have started reading the wonderful story "The Queen's Hat." The children have been thoroughly enjoying the book, and it has linked beautifully with our Geography topic: "Let's Explore London."

In Geography, the children have been:

- Learning about famous London landmarks
- Beginning to use a compass
- Practising directional language to describe routes between landmarks

It has been fantastic to see them becoming more confident using words such as north, south, east, and west as they explore the city.

Well done, Badgers—you have all worked incredibly hard this week!

Mrs Stewart, Miss Botterill, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Piggott

Foxes:



What a lovely couple of weeks we have had in the Foxes class. The excitement surrounding our caterpillars has continued as they have all now formed their chrysalis and we have carefully moved them into our net ready for them to emerge as beautiful butterflies and we eagerly await their appearance. The children have enjoyed our PE lessons over the last couple of weeks preparing for the events of sports day including practising our techniques for the long jump, javelin throw and bean bag throw, it was fantastic to see all of these skill put into practise on sports day this week and it was lovely to see the support of so many parents for their children—the races were certainly competitive but everyone had a wonderful morning!

In maths the children have completed their unit on statistics which they have really enjoyed, they have learnt to draw and interpret a selection of data charts including tallys, block diagrams and pictograms. In English we have started a new focus text 'The mystery of the Golden Wonderflower' The children have been using adjectives and similes in extended noun phrases to help them to write a setting description which includes each of the five senses. In science we have been tying up our planting topics by considering the outcome of our bulb and seed experiment where one of each was left to grow in warm conditions and another pair left in cold conditions—the children made some fantastic observations and conclusions. In geography we are continuing to interpret weather maps, In RE we have used a Christian and Muslim story to find out about how people from different religions show they care. Finally in DT we have started to investigate puppets and made a finger puppet in preparation for designing our own hand puppet by the end of the year!

Mrs Chapman, Ms Cromack & Mrs Stimpson

Maples:



We have been practicing sprinting and relay in P.E. which has been perfect timing for our sports day yesterday. The children have shown resilience and determination in all the racing games we practiced.

In DT the children have been looking at moving part books. Looking at different mechanisms of the moving parts, they have followed instructions in making these different parts. We will be making our own moving part books over the next few weeks. Maple class finished the week with a class party in the afternoon, they had earned for all their hard work.

Year 3 Mornings:

This week Maple class have been super busy! In literacy we have been retelling a story based on the Pixar film, The Blue Umbrella - a story of kindness and friendship.

We have finished our unit on Time in maths. Using clocks and number lines the children have been solving maths problems to find durations of time and understand analogue and digital times.

Science has taught the children about contact forces- push, pull and friction. We conducted a practical enquiry to observe what affect friction has on an object across different surfaces.

In R.E. we were reminded about treating everyone with respect and kindness, through the story of 'Jesus Heals a Leper'.

Year 4 Mornings:

As always, we have been very busy in Year 4. We have been continuing our exploration of George's Marvellous Medicine and it has been lovely to see how much the children are enjoying the story. I am enjoying reading it to them! Our work on this story has included character descriptions of both George and his despicable Grandma and we are now working on instructions for our own "Marvellous Medicines". Definitely a moment for Do Not Try This At Home! In Maths we are working on shape, looking at the properties of a range of 2D shapes and their specific names. This has included looking at angles, parallel lines and lines of symmetry. Lots of facts for everyone to remember in this topic. In Science we have been classifying plants and looking at the different habitats they belong to. We have used branching diagrams to classify them. In RE we have been continuing our work on the impact of Pentecost. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Firth and Miss Taylor.

Chestnuts:

Another busy couple of weeks as we head ever closer to the end of the half term. Year 5 have completed a Flat Stan First Aid workshop where they practiced how to get help in an emergency, CPR and choking responses. They were all First Aid superstars. Year 5 have also practiced another lifesaving skill during swimming, they have completed the first session of this block's Water Safety sessions.

As a whole class, we have experienced Sports Day... who knew we had so many competitive children in one class? It was wonderful to see the children cheering each other on and being so supportive—excellent friendship and koinonia on display.

In lessons, History has taken us back to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking period and we have explored invasions and settlements, the children have really impressed me, remembering key facts from earlier in the year to complete our Chronology timeline. In DT with Mrs Smart, we have been getting creative with our fonts and levers ahead of creating our own storybooks. I am sure they will look incredible.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Crawshaw and Miss Smith.



Sycamores:

We have had another lovely week in Sycamores. In Literacy, we have been doing some work on the short film 'The Ocean Maker' - the film is set in the future and due to Global Warming, the seas have dried out and disappeared and the only source of water are the scarce clouds that bands of vicious sky pirates fight to control. After watching and discussing the clip, children worked together to describe the desolate landscape. Last week Y5 and Y6 took part in 'Flat Stan First Aid' programme. They learnt how to ask for help in an emergency, how to deal with minor injuries and how to help someone who might be choking or someone who may need CPR. They all listened carefully and they enjoyed using Flat Stan to practice the skills they had been learning. Well done Sycamores! Both KS1 and KS2 have had their Sports Day this week. On Wednesday, Sycamores had the chance to set up each of the stations and help KS1 with their activities. Thank you and well done, what fantastic role models! On Thursday we had sports day and it was lovely to see all children taking part, enjoying the races and cheering each other. Have a lovely weekend! 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)

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases. For example, if your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. She is the author of (and has edited) The Insider. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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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. Here is the first one.



CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

Science

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

WE ARE
CURIOUS.
WE EXPLORE.
WE DISCOVER.

At our school, science is all around us.
Through the White Rose Science scheme, we inspire children to be curious,
ask questions and make sense of the world.

**We learn best when we work practically, think collaboratively
and celebrate the work of diverse scientists.**



Our Science Journey

Using White Rose Science, our curriculum provides a clear, sequenced and engaging learning journey from Early Years to Year 6. Children build knowledge, develop skills and make connections across the disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.

- ✓ Discover
- ✓ Investigate
- ✓ Explain
- ✓ Apply
- ✓ Review



How We Learn

Science at our school is:

- Practical and hands-on
- Collaborative and inclusive
- Built on questioning and critical thinking
- Linked to real life
- Celebrating diversity and inspiring all learners





We Celebrate Curiosity

Each year, we take part in British Science Week – a time to explore big ideas, take on exciting challenges and celebrate the joy of discovery throughout our school community.





Diverse Scientists, Diverse Perspectives

Throughout our units of work, we learn about scientists from a range of backgrounds, cultures and communities. Their stories inspire our children to see themselves as scientists and understand the impact science has in our world.

Everyone can be a scientist!



At Home You Can...

- Ask your child what they are investigating in school
- Encourage questions and curiosity at home
- Explore nature and the world together
- Visit the library or local science events



Key Skills We Develop

- Observing closely
- Planning investigations
- Recording and presenting data
- Using scientific vocabulary
- Working collaboratively
- Thinking critically and solving problems



Ask Me About...

Encourage your child to share their learning by asking:

- What have you discovered?
- What experiment did you do?
- What was surprising?
- How did you work as a team?

♥ Inspiring curiosity. Nurturing wonder. Shaping futures. ♥

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

upcoming dates for the diary:

Week Commencing: 22.6.26

Monday

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Tuesday

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Wednesday

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- New Reception Intake 'Stay and Play' session
- 5.30pm Transition Meeting @ Christ Church for all Tuel Lane parents, Meet the staff and look round

Thursday

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- Year 6 Phunky Foods Workshop

Friday

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Week Commencing: 29.6.26

Monday

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Tuesday

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- Year 6 to RVHS—Science Workshop

Wednesday

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- New Reception Transition Morning and Parents Information Meeting (for children starting school in September)

Thursday

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- Hand to Mouth Spiritual Journey for Year 5 and Year 6

Friday

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- Transition Day—Year 6 to High School
- Whole School Transition Morning for children in Year 1-6 in September