

Christ Church CE (VA) Junior School



NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN TERM

Friday 21st November 2025

Headteacher Update

Thank you to everyone who supported our Odd Socks Day last week, we had some fantastic footwear that children were keen to show off! Thanks also to Luke from Premier League Primary Stars for the Anti-bullying and Discrimination workshops which were delivered to all classes.

Everyone looked so smart for their photographs on Thursday, we hope you liked the pictures of your child. Details on how to order were included on the proof sheets sent home.

Today we welcomed Luke Bradley from the Calderdale Music Trust who came in to give us an amazing guitar performance. Children learned about the history of the guitar then heard a range of genres of music played on it. Luke also took requests and played suggestions from the children. It was a fantastic opportunity to hear a live musical performance and the children really enjoyed it.

Look out for dates of Christmas events this half term. They are always on our newsletters; keep an eye out as more things could be added as we go along!

Have a lovely weekend.

Upcoming Dates:

- 10.12.25 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
- 11.12.25 Maples Nativity Performance 2pm
- 12.12.25 Christmas Fair at school
- 15.12.25 Christmas Film Night
- 18.12.25 Christmas Carol Service at church
- 19.12.25 School closes for Christmas

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

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



Dante

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	92.4 %	8
Chestnuts	97.4 % ★	8
Sycamores	97.9 % ★	3
Whole School	95.5 %	



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.



admin@tuelane.calderdale.sch.uk



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 MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters - although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying - it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and - if necessary - ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential - as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

#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:

Over the past two weeks, the children have been busy exploring new concepts, developing their skills and demonstrating excellent perseverance across all subjects. In Literacy, we've been having fun retelling a classic fairy tale with a twist! Using 'The True Story of The Three Little Pigs' by Jon Scieszka, we explored how the wolf tells his side of the story. The children learned how to use similes, onomatopoeia and repetition of 3 to effectively retell the story in their own words. They also practiced writing complex sentences, adding depth and detail to their retellings. The creativity and imagination shown by the children was wonderful and they did an excellent job of using descriptive language to bring their stories to life! In Maths, we've been focusing on the 3s, 4s and 8 times tables. The children have shown incredible focus as they worked through a variety of multiplication problems and challenges. In RE, our focus has been on the stories of Moses and Abraham, and we have been reflecting on the significance of their covenants with God. We have considered what these stories teach people today and how they can help to shape faith.

Please can we ask that you help us encourage children to read. We can't express just how much of a difference reading even a page a day makes. **All reading books need to come back in daily** so we have chance to read with children in class too. Thank you for your ongoing support. Miss Larkin and Mrs Mudd.

Year 4 Mornings:

Hello everyone, we've had a busy time in class recently! In English, we've been reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and looking at how writers use imagery, onomatopoeia, repetition and questions to grab the reader's attention. The children even wrote their own versions of the story's opening, which were full of creative ideas. In maths, we've been focusing on multiplication and division, practicing times tables and exploring how the two operations are linked. In RE, we learned about the Five Pillars of Islam and made posters to explain what each one means. Science has been hands-on too – we carried out an experiment to find out if the temperature of water affects how quickly ice melts. The children made predictions, tested them and recorded their results like real scientists. Thanks for supporting times tables practice at home – it really helps!

Maples

In the afternoons we have been busy studying all about the power struggle between Octavian, Mark Antony and Cleopatra as well as looking at the might of the Roman army and the tactics and equipment they used to make them so formidable. We have started rehearsing for our Nativity - which is going reasonably well and the children are sounding good singing the songs!

Mr Dow and Mrs Mudd.



Sycamores:



We have had another fabulous week in Sycamores. In Literacy we have been looking at different examples of diary entries in order to find the common features of this genre as this will be our writing focus for the next couple of weeks. Children also made up their Victorian child character and wrote a character profile applying everything they have learnt about Victorian children, the jobs they did and the life they had. In Maths, we have finished our fractions unit and we have started looking at units of measure for mass, length and capacity as well as converting from smaller to greater units. In the afternoons we have been busy learning about Dr Barnardo and Lord Shaftesbury, who worked really hard to improve the working conditions for children in the Victorian era, and we also learnt about the laws that were put in place to protect children. In D&T we continue our work designing and making our slippers, with a focus on practicing sewing skills this week. In RE we have been exploring the meaning of some important Sikh artefacts – The 5 Ks. We have been looking at these symbols and learning what they represent to Sikhs. Have a lovely weekend and keep warm! Miss Mor and Miss Firth.

CHRIST CHURCH CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Chestnuts:

In Chestnuts, we have been super busy with our learning and the children have produced fabulous work.

During our Year 5 mornings we have explored *The Highwayman*, create a vivid description of the character and setting, before moving on to our new stimulus *The Arrival* by *Shaun Tan*. We have thought carefully and considerably about how it might feel to be a refugee undertaking a long train journey. We have used emotive language techniques to write a journal entry in the role of a father. In Maths, we have continued our Fractions learning, exploring ways to add and subtract fractions.

In an afternoon, we collectively created our WOW Worship for this half term based on the theme 'Growing in Learning'. In History, we have learnt about Early Roman leaders and considered the timeline of Roman Britain, whilst in Computing, we have evaluated online quizzes in preparation of creating our own.

Have a lovely weekend! - Miss Crawshaw, Miss Taylor and Mrs Clark.



Photo Wall...



Certificates

CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Y3: Ava and Ava

Y4: Brody and Naveah

Y5: Samuel and Stanley

Y6: Millie and Mason

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

Lilly

Logan

Ol

