



Christchurch Infant School

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NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has seen the children settling in well to their routines and they have made a fantastic start to their learning this year. I hope you are looking forward to your half term holiday with lots of exciting activities planned.

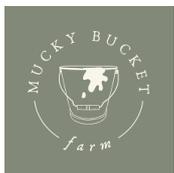
Parents Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in attendance and to be able to show off the school to many of you who had not yet had the chance to see the school properly. I do hope you found the experience positive and we look forward to meeting you all again after half term to discuss your child's academic progress.

Curriculum Updates

EYFS

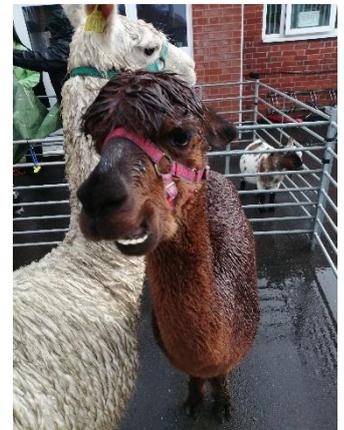
The children in Early Years have had a wonderful start to school! In September, we began by focusing on our topic 'All About Me', where the children got to know the adults, the routines, the school day and their friends in the classroom. They shared the items from within their All About Me bag with a few friends from their class and sang some popular and familiar nursery rhyme songs.



Recently, we have been working through our 'Down on the Farm' topic. This began by going to see some very friendly, furry visitors on our school playground! The children had the opportunity to feed the alpacas, brush the goats and stroke the chickens, ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs. Since our visit, we have been learning about different animals that live on the farm and have been practising to retell 'The Little Red Hen' story. A big thank you to our fantastic PTFA for funding the Mucky Bucket Farm visit for the children to kick off our brilliant topic.

This week we have been observing the seasonal changes and have been colour mixing with paints to make autumnal colours. We even went on an Autumn hunt throughout the school grounds to find all the different autumnal treasures such as leaves, sticks, acorns and conkers.

Friday 22nd October



Throughout this half term, the children have been learning their Set 1 phonics sounds and have made a fantastic start. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child to learn their sounds.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful and busy start to the year! They have been on a trip to Christchurch to find out more about our community and its history. They have learnt how to keep our bodies healthy and what food makes our bodies work best. They tried different fruits and vegetables and made cous cous salads. Year 1 have also learnt about our senses and hosted a Super Senses Session for parents and carers to come and find out about which body parts we use for our senses. They have also learnt all about numbers within 10, including writing, ordering and comparing numbers.



Year 2



The children have settled well into Year 2 and our first topic has been 'Explorers!' The topic began with an exciting trip to Avon Heath, where the children were challenged to build dens that were strong, wobble-proof and would keep them dry! In Science, the children have been investigating different materials and testing for strength, waterproofness, transparency and flexibility. They used this knowledge in Design &

Technology to build their own dens for a Lego man, ensuring he was safe, dry and comfortable.



In English, they retold a story about a great explorer, wrote a deep sea diver diary entry and read about the adventures of Miranda The Explorer in our whole class reading sessions. What a great first half term we've had!



Other news...

Road Safety

We are very proud of the new banners that were designed by children. We have worked collaboratively with CJS to promote road safety and each child will take home a road safety flyer today. If you would like to attend a road safety forum on Friday 12 Nov at 2:20 – 3pm, this will be held at CJS. Please drive safely and avoid parking on double yellow lines and the zig-zags. Thank you.



Volunteers in school

We have recently been asked about volunteering in school and we will be sending out a letter after half term explaining more about the application process for this.

Harvest

This week, in school assembly, we discussed Harvest. We talked about how we could donate food items to help those in the Christchurch community who are less fortunate than others. If you are able to send in any non-perishable food items on the week commencing **Monday 1st November to Thursday 4th November**, we will be able to donate these to the local Food Bank. The Food Bank scheme provides a vital support for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.



Items may include some of the following: tinned fruit, tinned soup, pasta, noodles, rice, packets of biscuits and items similar to these. We greatly appreciate your acts of kindness in helping others.

Coats

As the weather has started to change, please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a coat, thank you.

Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards

A polite reminder – whilst we actively encourage cycling and scooting to school, please can both **children and adults** not ride bikes, scooters or skateboards in the playground no matter how confident you are. This is to avoid any unnecessary accidents whilst on site. Thank you for your cooperation.



Christchurch Food Bank

The Christchurch Food Bank are offering walk in vouchers over this half term. If any family needs to use the service, you can just turn up and the Food Bank will issue the voucher there and then instead of it having to come from another agency which is the usual practice.

Netflix

We have been made aware that a number of students have been talking about a programme currently airing on Netflix called Squid Game. Despite its innocent sounding title, it is in fact rated as a 15 certificate programme, containing scenes of an adult nature and unsuitable for children.

under the certification age. For further guidance, please see the following and check your Netflix security settings:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know>

Online Safety and Roblox

In this letter we want to make you aware of a game called **Roblox** and potential risks. The following information is from the UK Safer Internet Centre:

Roblox is a popular gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. So, although the UK age rating is 7yrs this may not be a true reflection of the games available on the platform and we urge parents to be cautious when letting their children play. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One.

Every game on Roblox is created by users, and there are a wide variety to choose from. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with young people.

We have an **Online Safety** designated page on our school website with guidance for parents. Within the page you can find a range of helpful guides which include Roblox, Tik Tok and other social media platforms:

<https://www.christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk/online-safety>

For children who take part in online gaming, we recommend parents have a look at the 'Get Safe Online' website for more guidance.

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/protecting-your-computer/online-gaming/>



Dates for your diary (cut out and keep)

Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 15 th November	Individual Photographs
Wednesday 8 th December - Afternoon	Foxes Class and Squirrels Class Christmas productions (times and further details tbc)
Thursday 9 th December - Afternoon	Hedgehogs Class and Rabbits Class Christmas productions (times and further details tbc)
Monday 13 th December - Morning	Seahorses Class and Starfish Class Christmas productions (times and further details tbc)
Tuesday 14 th December - Morning	Dolphins Class and Turtles Class Christmas productions (times and further details tbc)
Wednesday 15 th December 5 – 6pm	Year 2 Christmas Carols in the playground with music from The Baptist Church Band
Friday 17 th December	Last Day of Autumn Term 3:05pm finish

Term Dates 2021 - 2022

Autumn term	2 September 2021 to 17 December 2021
Half term	25 October 2021 to 29 October 2021
Christmas holiday	20 December 2021 to 3 January 2022
Spring term	4 January 2022 to 8 April 2022
Half term	21 February 2022 to 25 February 2022
Easter holiday	11 April 2022 to 22 April 2022
Summer term	25 April 2022 to 22 July 2022
Half term	30 May 2022 to 3 June 2022
Summer holiday	From 25 July 2022

INSET Dates for 2021 – 2022

Friday 18th February 2022, Monday 6th June 2022, Friday 22nd July 2022

Finally, thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you after the half-term break.

Kindest regards, Mr D Baxter