



## Christchurch Infant School

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**Headteacher: Mr D Baxter**



Autumn NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope your children had a relaxing half term break. We are delighted at how well the children have settled in to their classes.

Since September, the teachers have had the time to monitor and assess every child's learning. Baseline assessments have now been completed in reading, writing and maths for all year groups. The teaching is therefore targeted to support the pupils from their starting points this term. Some pupils may have lost learning due to the lockdown period and it is important that we enable pupils to learn and consolidate key learning skills in order to make good progress in reading, writing and maths.



Alongside this we are also ensuring that the wellbeing of the pupils remains a top priority and are giving them opportunities to discuss their feelings and promoting a positive attitude in the school. Specific interventions are in place to support particular pupils to further support them with their learning.

### Curriculum News

#### EYFS 'Down on the Farm'



Early Years have had a great start to school life. They have settled well into school routines, getting to know their classrooms and each other. They have enjoyed learning about farm animals and especially enjoyed having a mobile farm come into school. The children got to brush some goats, feed an alpaca and stroke a rabbit! Huge thanks to the PTFA who raised the money for this valuable experience. As part of the topic, they have also learned to re-tell the story of 'The Little Red Hen' using story language and actions and have even made and tasted their own bread rolls.

We cannot wait for next half term where we will be celebrating bonfire night with our own indoor party including hot dogs!



## Year 1

Year 1 have been learning all about the human body. They have been finding out the names of our important body parts and what we use them for. They have also been learning about the 5 senses and took part in a super senses workshop putting all these to the test. Finally, in Design & Technology, they designed, made and evaluated their own healthy sandwiches. What a busy half term it has been! Have a look at our class blog posts to see some more!



## Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed testing materials to see which was the strongest, the most waterproof, flexible and transparent. They worked with a partner or in small groups to make predictions, structure an experiment ensuring that it was a 'fair test' and record their findings. What super scientists year 2 are!

Please see our class Blogs for more photos and details about the learning experiences in your child's class.

<https://www.christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk/class-pages>

## School Improvements

We would like to take the opportunity to share our school's planned development over the academic year. All schools work towards a yearly set of priorities that have been identified by the Senior Leadership Team in the Autumn Term based on the previous year's outcomes. This forms the School Development Plan that all staff work towards, reporting progress back to governors regularly. Our main priorities as a school are:

### **School Improvement Priority 1:**

To establish high quality first provision in order to raise attainment in reading, writing and maths in all year groups, for all children.

### **School Improvement Priority 2:**

To ensure a consistent approach to behaviour management by all staff that follows very clear guidelines and rewards those for exceptional hard work, perseverance and attitudes to learning.

To further improve attendance for persistent absentees, to ensure that all children have an equal diet of learning and children can gain the expected attainment and attendance does not impact negatively.

### **School Improvement Priority 3:**

To secure children's understanding of the school's learning values and British Values and how it relates to their world.

To enable all pupils to feel confident to challenge, question and think independently across all aspects of school life.

### **School Improvement Priority 4:**

To further improve subject leadership with a focus on monitoring and reviewing curriculum implementation.

### **School Improvement Priority 5:**

To secure high quality first teaching consistently across EYFS to ensure that all children have an equal access to a diet of learning, so they can make good or better progress from their individual starting points.

To ensure that all EYFS staff develop their understanding of the 2021 curriculum.

### **School Improvement Priority 6:**

Ensure that the reopening for all pupils, from September 2020, reflects the DFE guidance so that pupils and staff can be work together.

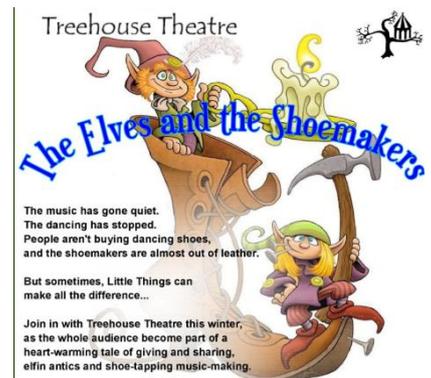
Provide a recovery programme of PSHE, addressing well-being of pupils, alongside a carefully introduced approach to the teaching and learning of essential reading, writing and maths learning.

Facilitate the intake of new pupils smoothly, ensuring all pupils and parents needs are clearly understood alongside school expectations.

We continue to keep you more informed of the actions we are taking to improve provision for all children and referencing the priorities.

### **Panto**

With the current climate many of our usual activities have had to be adapted. We are pleased to be able to share that we have managed to secure the 'Treehouse Theatre Company' to entertain the children with a pantomime. These will take place for each individual 'bubble over the course of two days in our hall and social distancing will be adhered to. For this to take place we ask for a voluntary contribution of £2.50 per pupil. Details will be sent out via Parent Mail of how this can be paid.



**Safeguarding:** In light of the recent update training for staff, all children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. Schools have strict guidelines about the procedures that should be followed, if they have any concerns regarding a child. If MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) are informed about a concern, they advise school of the next steps of action and these must be followed. Please be assured that this procedure is not undertaken lightly and that the child is always our main priority. Further information has been produced by The BCP Safeguarding Children's Board and this can be accessed through their website at [bcpcouncil.gov.uk](http://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Other News...**

We have said farewell to Mrs Turner who had worked at CIS since 2004 starting as a Teacher in our Speech and Language Base and then from 2015 as both a Cover Supervisor and Teacher across the school meeting and teaching over 2000 children over the years. She will be missed by all and we wish her well on her new adventure living in Spain. Adios Mrs Turner, we will miss you! We welcome Miss Snewin who is a qualified teacher and has successfully been appointed as our new Cover Supervisor.



## Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors

We are very pleased to announce that Chris Green and Amy Thomas will continue as our respective Chair of Governors and Vice-Chair. We look forward to another year of effective school governance.

## PTFA

The PTFA raise funds for our school and purchase a range of experiences, activities and infrastructure that would not be possible under these challenging times with limited budgets set by the government. Historically the PTFA has raised in the region of £20,000, each year but due to Covid-19, many fundraising events that draw in crowds will not be able to run. Therefore, the PTFA will be looking to find alternative means of raising much needed funds.



Recently, we held our PTFA AGM and we would like to say a HUGE thank you to Trudi and Ian Macdonald who have been our respective Chairperson and Treasurer for 5 years. They have been instrumental in getting support, running a large variety of events and raising money for school. Some of the key projects have included: Outdoor story hut, PCs and Espresso multi-media software, the outdoor agility trail and iPads to name but a few.

With the start of the new academic year, we welcome **Lynsey** and **Becca** who will be co-chairing the PTFA and already have a fantastic wealth of expertise and ideas to continue to raise much needed funds for our PTFA. A PTFA newsletter will be going out soon detailing our expenditure plans for the year ahead.



Do sign up for Amazon Smile if you haven't already as we get 0.5% on eligible purchases. There are more details on the Facebook page including details of pre-Christmas fundraising activities.

Need name labels? Need labels?  
Order from **mynametags.com**  
using the code **18980** every item  
ordered will help raise funds for the  
PTFA.



Please take a look and follow the **PTFA Facebook page** which contains a regular update on fundraising and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/CISPTFA>

## EYFS PE Days

For parents of EYFS classes please note the following days for the wearing of PE kits:

Dolphins- Wed and Friday  
Turtles -Thurs and Friday  
Starfish - Tuesday and Thursday  
Seahorses- Wed and Thursday

## NEW LIBRARY WISHLIST



As part of the new library project, we have been checking the quality of our books so that children will access to good quality and relevant texts. We would like to broaden the children's range of books with items that we will be posting on an Amazon Wishlist. Should you wish to purchase a book for school, we will add a special insert inside the front cover with the name of the family who donated



the book. We thank you in advance for donating to such a wonderful cause. When we have finished compiling the list we will notify you with a link via Parent Mail.

## Road Safety - Parking

Please could we remind parents not to park on the yellow lines or the zig-zags outside of the school. We have also been informed by Christchurch Junior School that CIS parents are **not allowed to use the car park at CJS**. We have received reports of some CIS parents blocking essential staff's car park spaces in the mornings. Thank you for your co-operation.



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**Dates for your diary (cut out and keep)**

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> / Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	The Elves and the Shoemakers Pantomime
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn Term (normal finish times)

## INSET Days remaining for 2019-2020:

**Christchurch Infant School INSET dates:**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021**

Kindest regards, Mr D Baxter