

Charlton Kings Infants' School

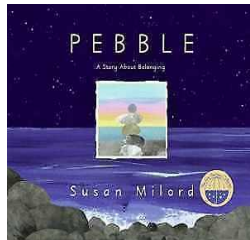
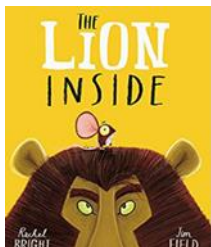
27th October 2023



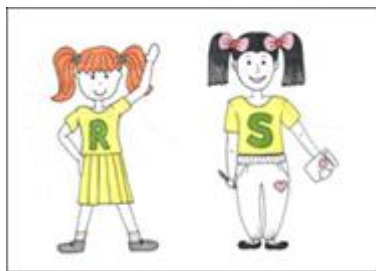
NEWSLETTER

We have had a busy and exciting start to the 23-24 academic year and are so proud of the way that our new children have transitioned into school, with other year groups transitioning to new classes and new routines. I was particularly proud of our children at our KS1 harvest celebration at the Sacred Hearts church and our EYFS children's celebration at the Baptist church. We enjoyed singing, reading poems and sharing all of the food we had collected with the Cheltenham Foodbank. We are looking forward to a visit by the Cheltenham Foodbank next term when they will be telling us all about where our food goes and how it helps children and families in our town.

This term we have been exploring our school theme of 'Community and Belonging'. We have been thinking about new beginnings and the emotions that these provoke, and how we can help ourselves and each other to understand and support these emotions. We have also been thinking about how we can work together to keep everyone safe within our school community.



We have enjoyed exploring these texts during assembly time and thinking about the families and groups that we belong to. We have also enjoyed celebrating Black History month, finding out about those who have changed the world, including Mae Carol Jemison, an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.



We have also been thinking about our RESPECT learning characters – Rebecca resilience and Sophia self awareness and what it means to have self-awareness and be resilient.

This term, we have been exploring our whole school theme 'Into the Darkness' with YR learning about themselves and their new classmates before moving on to explore 'Space'. Y1 have been thinking about what they can see in 'The Dark' and Y2 have been exploring what gives us light with their topic of 'Fire, Fire!' It has been wonderful to see the children's outstanding achievements, and their pride in sharing these outcomes with each other and their teachers. We look forward to sharing these with you during our parents' evenings after half term (Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th November). Please look out for the SeeSaw message from Mrs Durant, our School Business Manager, providing you with information about booking an appointment.

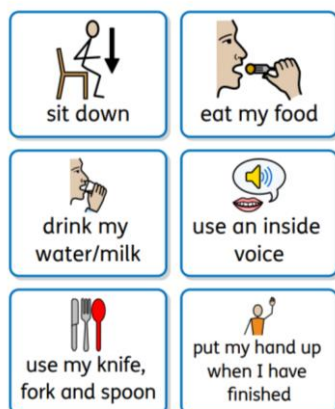
Wishing you all a happy and relaxing half term break. We look forward to everyone returning to school and Kindergarten on **Tuesday 7th November**.

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Meet some of our lunchtime team.....

At lunch time we have the following rules in our lunch hall:

Lunchtime rules



We are Mrs Purvey, Mrs May and Mrs Harris and we lead the team of adults in the hall, encouraging everyone to eat their lunch.

In the playground, we have lots of zones for children in Years 1 and 2 to use, including the forest area for 'gardening club', the top playground for ball games/group games and the 'family hub' for quiet/mindfulness activities. Our YR children remain on the EYFS playground with their classroom adults, using lots of resources, including building blocks, balancing beams and ball games. These are our school rules for playtimes:

Our playtime rules



I am Mrs Galvin and I am the outdoor play Supervisor. I lead the team of adults and children supporting games and activities at lunchtimes.



I am Mrs Holburn and I lead Forest School during the afternoons and gardening club at lunchtimes.

I am Mrs Pritchard, our school Family Support Worker and I lead the mindfulness sessions in the family hub on Monday-Thursday lunchtimes.



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Reception

It has been wonderful to welcome all the new Reception children to our school and see how well they have settled in. We enjoyed sharing all their beautifully decorated treasure boxes of special objects and memories which helped us to get to know one another.



As well as having lots of fun both inside our classrooms and in the outdoor area, Reception have also been keeping active with their 'Wake and Shake', daily mile, pilates and P.E. sessions. Trips to the new school library to share books has also been a highlight.



'We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one...' we all chanted as we followed the trail of bear paw prints around school which led us to Mrs James' office and a bear reading his favourite book! Another favourite activity during our bear theme was a teddy bear picnic of jam sandwiches with our furry friends.

We have learnt a lot about Autumn and seasonal weather in the last few weeks and were very excited to see a beautiful rainbow in the playground this week. Our impressive conker collections have inspired lots of counting practice in our maths activities whilst we have been using our subitising eyes and comparing more and fewer.

Finally, we were very proud of the Reception children for their contributions to our Harvest Festival in the Baptist church. They sang up with enthusiasm and retold the story of The Little Red Hen to a packed audience. It has been a very busy start to the year but we have been impressed with how well the children have settled into school routines and wish them all a very happy and restful holiday.

Year 1

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1! We have started exploring our big question 'what can you see in the dark?' through Funnybones, which led us to find out more about the different parts of our body, our bones and the organs inside. We have started learning about our senses and were very lucky to be visited by an optician and optometrist, who told us all about how they help our sight.



We have been fantastic artists and inventors this term! We have learnt how to mix two primary colours together to make secondary colours and have been printing using stamps we have made. We also designed and made our own inventions that could be used in space. We loved learning how to use the Makedo tools!

We are busy exploring the United Kingdom in Geography. We have had lots of fun on train rides together. You'll have to wait and see where we go next in the U.K.



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Year 2

We have had a super start to the year. We have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. We have learnt so many key facts about this important event in history and we have written some super stories about an animal experiencing the fire and a diary entry as Samuel Pepys.



We have been using our enquiry skills as scientists to carry out lots of experiments, including, testing materials to find out if they are waterproof, flammable or inflammable! We have considered properties of the materials we have investigated in order to design and make costumes for super heroes.

We have loved reading in our new school library too!



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Forest School News

Year 2 have been very busy at Forest School this term. We have developed our shelter building skills using ropes and tarps. Some of us have learnt new knots. The clove hitch was used to make bird perches and a technique called square lashing was used to make a ladder. Minibeasts are alive and well in our Forest School area and it was very exciting finding frogs and newts. We are keen to increase numbers and the variety of minibeast we find, so we have been creating homes for solitary bees and lady birds, beetle buckets and a bumble bee home. Lots of us like digging which is great for creating a large pit which can be turned into a hibernaculum (a place for amphibians to overwinter). We have learnt the names of some of our trees and made clay leaf prints to help us remember them. Did you know the hawthorn tree is also known as the fairy tree? The berries called haws are edible when cooked and we tasted hawthorn jelly. It was fun making mini-dens for the fairies. Foraging for apples gave us the idea to make apple pies in the mud kitchen. Yum Yum! Our plan is to open a woodland café in the future! In order to protect our young hedges we are learning how to build dead hedges. These will also provide habitats for wildlife. We are really pleased with our new waterproof suits which are comfortable to wear and will mean we can be out in all weathers as autumn progresses.



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Forest School Volunteers Welcome!

If you have a love of the outdoors or a skill you could share with us at Forest School we would love to hear from you. Volunteers help us to keep our child:adult ratios as low as possible.

With bonfire night approaching, please remember the following sparkler safety guidelines....

Sparkler Safety

Did you realise that sparklers burn at a scorching 2000 degrees, a staggering 20 times hotter than boiling water? If you plan to use sparklers, please observe these safety guidelines:

- No sparklers for children under 5.
- Always Wear Gloves.
- Don't hold a child with a sparkler.
- Dip used sparklers in water.
- Supervise children.
- Avoid loose clothes.
- Hold sparklers away from the body.
- Don't wave sparkler near others or run.



A message from Cheltenham Foodbank

Thank you very much for the amazing amount of Harvest Festival donations we received.

Your staff, pupils and their families were extremely generous, and we really appreciate the effort you all put in. We particularly loved the beautiful boxes we received, so thank you for sending us such lovely decorated parcels.

The total was 478.80 kilograms and will be gratefully received by our clients.

On behalf of all the clients and volunteers at Cheltenham Food Bank may I say how very grateful we are for your support, which enables us to provide for the many needy families in the Cheltenham area.

Once again a huge thank you to all the children and staff for your generosity and support.

Warmest regards

Kitty

Kitty Morrison

Office Manager



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

We recognise the additional financial pressures upon families due to the challenge of the ongoing cost of living. However, we would be very grateful if families would consider making a voluntary contribution of £50 for this academic year to ensure that all children can experience visits and activities throughout the year. Some families may be able to give more than the amount suggested. If this is the case, we thank you for your kindness as this will help us to ensure that together as a school 'community', we are supporting every child.

The contribution can be made in the following ways:

One off payment £50.00

Monthly donations £5.00 per month (September-June)

Pay as you go a letter will be sent ahead of certain events/activities asking families who have not already contributed a donation to the school to consider making appropriate payment for the event/activity.

Payments to school for donations should be made by bank transfer using the following details:

Charlton Kings Infants' School

Account no: 51478968

Sort code: 30-91-87

Ref: Your child's full name

Children of parents who do not wish to, or who are unable to contribute, will not be treated any differently. However, where there are insufficient contributions to make an activity viable, the activity may not be able to go ahead.

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals), your contribution is already covered through the Pupil Premium funding accessed through school and we are not asking you to contribute further. If you would like to discuss the voluntary contribution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Durant
School Business Manager
01242 514483
sbm@ckis.org.uk

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING.

As the cost of living continues to rise, there may be families in our school community whose personal/financial circumstances have changed since their child/children started school in Reception.



All children at CKIS are entitled to **Universal Free School meals**.

In addition to this, as part of the **Pupil Premium Funding**, your children could be eligible to additional funding which includes free school meals post the age of 7.

Your child might be eligible if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

This benefits your family and your child/children in school. The **school receives funding** which is used to further enhance teaching and learning and improve outcomes for your child/ren and others across the school.

If you believe you are eligible, please follow the link below;

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

CKIS—A safer school community for all.....

We are committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of all within our school community. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs James, and Mr Owens is our primary deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Mrs James



Mr Owens

You could also speak to any of our other deputy designated safeguarding leads – Mrs Price, Mrs Koller, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Durant, Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Netting or Mrs Ralph if you have any concerns.

Supporting everyone in our school family – CKIS family engagement and support team

A Message from Mrs Pritchard

Don't forget, if you would like to speak to Sarah Pritchard, our Family Support Worker, you can email her on familyliaison@ckis.org.uk.

Reminders from the Pastoral Team

We wish you all a happy half term and thought it would be timely to remind you all of two websites which can be very useful for supporting your children and the whole family at home. The SCARF website (www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf) has lots of activities you can do with your children to help support their health and wellbeing learning. The Glosfamilies Directory (www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk) provides a wealth of information, advice, support for families, relationship support and things to do in the local area. Enjoy the break from school and we'll see you in November.



Other Information

Contacting School

Please can we remind all parents to contact school directly if you have any concerns or queries regarding any behavioural incidents or similar that have taken place in school. It is important that we have oversight of such concerns and incidents and we strongly discourage parents from approaching other parents to try to resolve these concerns outside of school.

CKJS and CKIS Prayer Group

Prayer group for CKJS and CKIS: If you are interested in more information about the prayer group which meets to support the Junior school and Infant school, please let us know so that we can put you in touch with the group leaders. This group prays for our schools using Whatsapp and by meeting for prayer.

Contact Dan Lamb via danlamb@hotmail.co.uk



Parking for school drop-off

With the ongoing concern over the volume of traffic on School Road, the owners of The Royal have kindly agreed that parents can use their car park when dropping their children off for school. The car park is available for us to use in the mornings only and all cars must have left by 9.15am. Please ensure that you only park in designated bays and nowhere else.



When parking on site in the school playground for drop off and pick, please reverse your car when possible.

Dogs

Please can we remind all families that dogs are not permitted on school premises at any time (including drop off and pick up times for school, and breakfast and after school club, and at drop off or collection for Gym Club or Ju Jitsu).

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Scooters and Bicycles

If your child goes on their scooter or cycles to school please ensure they dismount at the school gates before entering the playground.

Labelling Items

Please ensure all uniform is named; including coat, lunch & snack boxes and water bottles.

Electronic Gates

Please can you make sure that when entering the school via the main electronic gates, you wait for them to be fully opened before walking through. If they are tampered with or touched before they are fully open this can cause them to become jammed.

Dates for your diary 2023/2024

27 th October	End of Term 1
30 th -3 rd November	HALF TERM
6 th November	INSET DAY
7 th November	Start of Term 2
8 th November	Flu Immunisations
9 th November	Flu Immunisations
13 th November	ECO switch off fortnight in school
15 th November	Parents Evening
15 th November	Indigo class assembly 9am
16 th November	Parents Evening
17 th November	Children in Need – non-school uniform or wear something spotty
20 th -24 th November	Road Safety Week
21 st November	Prospective Parents Open Morning and Evening
22 nd November	Magenta class assembly 9am
24 th November	Coffee afternoon for families of children with SEND 2pm
29 th November	Violet class assembly 9am
30 th November	Prospective Parents Open Morning and Evening
1 st December	4.30 Christmas light switch with choir singing (by the Co-op)
2 nd December	12 noon choir singing at Dunkertons
14 th December	Christmas lunch in school
	PFA Christmas Story Night (more details to follow)
15 th December	EYFS Nativity 9.30am and 1.30pm
18 th December	EYFS Nativity 9.30am
18 th December	Carol Rehearsals at St Marys
19 th December	KS1 Carols at St Marys 1.30pm
20 th December	KS1 Carols at St Marys 9.30am
21 st December	End of Term 2 – Christmas jumper day
8 th January 2024	Start of Term 3