



# Charlton Kings Infants' School

21<sup>st</sup> December 2023




## NEWSLETTER

Dear families

We have been very busy again this term with lots of special events   and activities to support and enhance our learning across CKIS. This has included having a local author to visit to share his lovely book 'The Christmas Swallow' with us all, a visit by the Space dome in YR, some local owls in Y1; and Y2 going to Slimbridge nature reserve. The last few weeks have been full of Christmas festivity with our wonderful Christmas lunch, Christmas story night and our fantastic Christmas performances. We have been so proud of our children and their confidence during their performances, full of gold standard speaking, singing and dancing!!



This term we have been exploring our school theme of 'Responsibility'  and 'Teamwork'. We have been thinking about taking personal responsibility for our actions and how we can work together as members of our school family, home family and wider communities. We have been thinking particularly about taking on roles of responsibility in school, such as; reading and playtime buddies and Eco school councillors. We have been thinking particularly about how we all take shared responsibility to keep everyone safe, happy and looking after our school environment and that of our wider world.



We have had a number of our young children busily making leaflets to put up around our local community to remind people to 'pick up their rubbish' and to 'recycle and re-use'. We have also enjoyed creating our Eco Christmas decorations and were amazed by everyone's great ideas. Here are our winning entries with some of our Eco school councillors presenting the prizes!!

Year R: Serena, Edward and Caleb



Year 1: William, Pippa and Aida



*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*

Year 2: George (not pictured), Rufus and Olivia



This term we have worked together in our classes and as a whole school to explore national



'Road Safety' week. As a school family, we have explored the importance of being **safe and seen** by others when we are walking around our local community. Please help us to ensure that our children and families remain safe and secure around our school by driving with due care and attention and making sure that you park safely in designated parking areas (not on yellow lines, on pavements or across local residents driveways). We have had a number of local residents contacting us regarding families parking across their driveways on Lyefield Road East. Please can we ask everyone to be respectful of our local residents.

Our children have continued to excel in their development and learning across the curriculum and daily life at CKIS. We are all very proud of them and thank all of the team here at CKIS for their continued hard work and commitment to making CKIS such a special place to be.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to everyone returning to school and Kindergarten on **Monday 8th January**.

Mrs James and the CKIS team



## Reception

The Reception children were amazed and astounded when an alien space ship crash landed in our outdoor area earlier this term and much debate followed about where it had come from and how to relaunch the vessel back into space!



Our space topic really captured the children's imagination, and the highlight was visiting the 'WonderDome' in which we discovered more about the solar system and how it would feel to blast off in a space rocket to the moon.



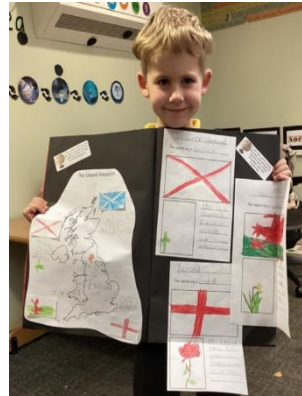
Our Forest School sessions have been a fantastic opportunity to take our learning outside and we have enjoyed such activities as painting planet pebbles, making clay moon faces and star stencilling.

All of the Reception team were so proud of the children for their retelling of 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. They learnt so many words and dance moves and really impressed both the school and parents with their performances.

It has been a long first term for our Reception children, they have made fantastic progress and demonstrated great resilience and perseverance. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved rest over the holidays. Merry Christmas to you all 🤖

## Year 1

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1! We started exploring our big question 'What can you see in the dark?' through the story, '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 have been 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!!

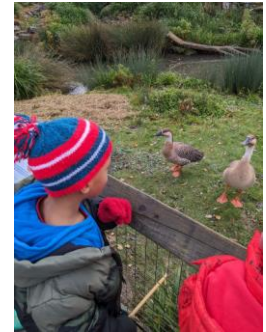


*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*



## Year 2

We have had another busy term in Y2. We started the term by learning how to knead bread with Mrs Walker. We were bakers like Thomas Farriner in the Great Fire of London and made our own bread rolls.



We celebrated the end of our topic about the Great Fire of London by performing our class assemblies to our families and friends.

As scientists, we visited Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre to learn how animals and plants have adapted to the wetland habitats there. We had a great day out!



We also had a visit from the Life Education Van. We learnt all about our bodies and our feelings with Anita and Harold the Giraffe.



We are now very excited about our Christmas celebrations to come!

*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*

# Eco School



Eco School council presenting the winning three posters for our 'Switch off fortnight' competition to the winners. Well done everyone!

## Pudsey Day



*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*

# Christmas Singing at Dunkertons



## Parking

### Important information about parking over drop-off and pick-up times

A reminder to all CKIS families to **always** park legally and considerately around the school.

We have received several complaints from our neighbours in recent weeks regarding driveways and pavements being obstructed by cars at drop-off and pick-up times. The school has been working with our Police Community Support Officers to try and resolve this, and the PCSO's will be present around the school during these busy times of day. **Fixed penalty notices** will be immediately issued to anyone who has parked illegally.

Remember that it is perfectly legal to park outside someone's house, unless the vehicle is **blocking a driveway**, or a **wheel is over a dropped kerb**. Parking on a pavement can obstruct and inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, those with visual impairments, and people with prams and pushchairs.

CKIS families are invited to use the car park at the Charlton Kings Social Club at both drop-off and pick-up times, as well as the car park at The Royal at drop-off time in the morning.

*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*





Thank for you all of your donations to the T4U shoebox appeal.

Changing Lives, one box at a time... With love from you, each shoebox is given out in poor communities in Eastern Europe bringing much needed joy and excitement.



*'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'*



## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

## Amazon Class Wishlists

On your class page on the school website you will find a link to an Amazon wish list. If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday by purchasing something from the list for them to share with their classmates that would be very much appreciated. We are in the process of updating the lists to include learning resources as well as books. With our very limited school budget, your support in buying from the wish list at any point in the year would be very welcome.

## 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](mailto:danlamb@hotmail.co.uk)





## **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).

## **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.

## **Reporting Absence**

Kind Reminder - Please ensure that you report any absences to the main school office on 01242 514483 or [secretary@ckis.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ckis.org.uk). All absence must be reported before 9.30am and must be reported for each day your child is absent.

## **Reminder - Attendance and Holiday Absence in Term Time**

Below are a few important items of information regarding your child's school attendance which we would be grateful if you could read.

### **Understanding the importance of attendance at school:**

Please see the below table. It explains how an attendance of 90% actually equates to nearly 4 weeks away from school per academic year. The Department for Education classes such a level of attendance as 'persistently absent'

#### **Attendance Percentages:**

90% in a test is a good score; 90% attendance *isn't* – it's the same as having nearly 4 weeks off school a year! See the grid below for other percentages and see how much time off per year it adds up to:

Percentage	Number of sessions missed	Equivalent number of days missed	Equivalent number of lessons missed
100%	0	0	0
95%	19	9 ½	48
90%	38	19	95
85%	57	28 ½	143
80%	76	38	190
75%	95	47 ½	238
70%	114	57	285

### **Holiday absence**

***'no child may take holidays during term time, unless the Headteacher deems there to be exceptional circumstances. A penalty notice may be issued by the Local Authority if unauthorised holiday reaches a minimum of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) during term time within the immediate preceding ten-week period.'***

#### **A timeline for managing persistent absence from school**

A 'persistent absentee' is used to describe a child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time. At Charlton Kings Infants' School we aim to support you to help your child's attendance remain above the 90% threshold. The table below outlines what that support for parents and carers might look like across the academic year.

#### **Further support for parent and carers:**

The school is particularly keen to support parents or carers who may have a concern about their child's attendance. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office, requesting to speak to Mrs James and/or Mrs Pritchard (our Family Support Worker).

***By working together to ensure your child's ongoing attendance at school, we can enable them reach their full potential in life!!***

***'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'***

# Dates for your diary

## Terms 3 & 4 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### **Start of Term 3**

Class heats for Look Who's Talking Competition (more details at the start of next term)

**Height, weight and vision check – reception children**

**Height, weight and vision check – reception children**

**Feet First Dance Festival for Y2** (more details to follow)

**End of Term 3**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **Start of Term 4**

**Parents Evening**

**Parents Evening**

**Orange Class Assembly 9am**

**World Book Day celebrations**

**Science Week**

**Purple Class Assembly 9am**

**Science Open Classrooms 2pm**

**Science Open Classrooms 2pm**

**Green Class Assembly 9am**

**End of Term 4**

**Start of Term 5**