

Charlton Kings Infants' School

9th February 2024



NEWSLETTER

Dear families

This term has flown by and we have all enjoyed beginning to see some early signs of spring, particularly during our time in Forest School! In Terms 3 & 4 (leading up to Easter), we are exploring our Geography and Science focused school theme of 'Planet Earth's Great Lands'. Year R are actively engaged in exploring 'Hot and Cold Lands', considering our big question; Where in the world am I? Year 1 have been focused on exploring the continents of our wonderful world and continue to consider; 'How can we look after our planet?' Year 2 have been actively researching their theme of 'Land and Beyond' and their big question; 'What's out there?' We hope that you have enjoyed receiving regular updates regarding your child/children's learning through 'Seesaw'. Please do take a look at our regularly updated [Curriculum pages](#) to find out more about our curriculum plans for each year group.

As an Eco school with an ongoing commitment to re-using, recycling and avoiding waste, our Eco school council have been working with everyone in our school community to develop our own CKIS Travel Plan. Our young children are keen to ensure that we can work together to make the world a happier and healthier place to live and grow. Our children would like to:

- Reduce car fumes in our local area
- Stop Pollution
- Stop heating up the world
- Keep healthy and breathe cleaner air

Please do follow the following links to videos on the BBC website which bring to life some of the issues regarding pollution in relation to the school run:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-47831610>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-south-yorkshire-49960950>

Our children are united in their commitment – 'ACT NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!'

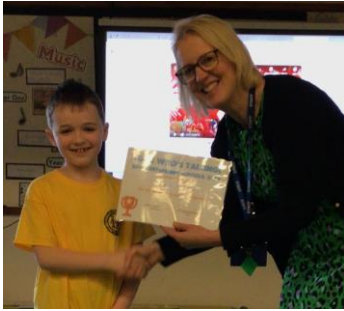
We would like to encourage children/pupils to WALK, CYCLE OR SCOOT to school if they can. We think that some of the following will help us to drive this plan...

- Set up a walking bus.
- Encourage people to walk/scoot/cycle by using green/amber/blue zones for walking/walking half way/driving.
- Make posters, banners or bunting to share our message.
- Create a buddy system for walking/cycling/scooting to school.
- Invest in bike and scooter racks in school.



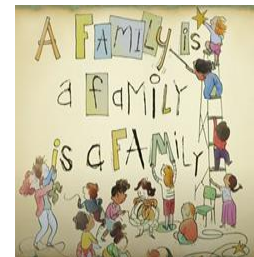
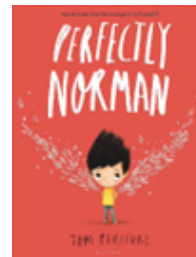
Our children have developed a **survey** for all families to complete. Please click [here](#) to complete our survey by **Friday 1st March** and be put into our raffle for a new scooter!!

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'



This term, many of our Key Stage 1 children have taken part in the Gloucestershire 'Look Who's Talking' competition where children talked about their chosen subject for two minutes. We were amazed at the range of subjects that our children talked so passionately and confidently about, from special people in their lives to tarantulas!! We are delighted to announce that Rupert in Year 2 was selected by the whole school as our school 'Star speaker' and will now represent CKIS at the next round (with star speakers from all Cheltenham Primary schools who have entered the competition). We are so proud of everyone who took part and wish Rupert every success as he shares his talk about 'Bear Grylls' with other entrants across Cheltenham!

This term we have been exploring our school theme of 'Acceptance and Difference' and our focus learning behaviour of 'Empathy'. We have been exploring how we can be like 'Elliot Empathy' by recognising how others feel and knowing how our actions can affect others. We have been thinking about how we are all special and how important it is to recognise and celebrate our differences. Here are some of the stories we have enjoyed sharing during our weekly assemblies:



We look forward to everyone returning to school after the half term break on **Monday 19th February**. If you have a child or children in YR, Y1 or Y2, please don't forget to sign up for your parents' evening slot on either Wednesday 28th or Thursday 29th February – you can request your slot [here](#). Please make sure to request your slot by **midnight on Thursday 22nd February**.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing half term break

Mrs James and the CKIS team

Reception

In Reception this term, we have been exploring the cold lands of the Arctic and Antarctica. Through our focus story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, we have imagined a stormy journey to the South Pole and learnt about explorers who did just that, including Edward Wilson who was born here in Cheltenham.

We compared where we live with cold lands and thought about the difference in climate, clothes and houses. The penguin and the little boy have really captured the children's imagination and produced some budding actors as they brought the story to life through drama and art work.



Building boats to sail to the South Pole



Cold lands small world play

The children have really impressed us this term with their writing and number skills as we have learnt to write in whole sentences and practised partitioning numbers. At Forest School, we finished the term with a very messy but fun Jackson Pollock inspired piece of art work made using tea bags!



Jackson Pollock inspired artwork

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Year 1

We've had another fantastic term in Year 1! As geographers, we have started exploring the continents and we are now experts at naming and locating them on a map... test us at home! We have enjoyed finding out about each continent, including the weather, animals, key places and lots of fun facts. Mrs Walker has also helped us to cut and taste fruit from Africa and we loved making Antarctic sledging biscuits!



In PE this term, we have really enjoyed our gymnastics lessons. We have been travelling and making shapes on the floor, low apparatus and large apparatus. We have been focusing on maintaining control when balancing, keeping our backs straight and tummies tight.

As historians, we have been developing our oracy skills whilst learning about the history of flight. We have looked at how aircrafts have changed over time and thought very carefully about whether we would rather fly in a plane from the 1900s or a plane from today. There were lots of very interesting reasons!

We can't wait to explore more continents next term and find out about how we can continue to look after the world around us!



'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Year 2

We have had such a busy term in Y2, even though it's been a short one! We have been learning to play the recorder. We can now play 3 notes; A, B and G. We will be performing to the school after half term.



We had a very special visit from the author of the book we have been reading and using to inspire our writing. The book is called 'Little Red Reading Hood' by Lucy Rowland and she lives in Charlton Kings. She told us all about her writing and how much editing has to be done before a book is published. She read one of her new books to us and set us our independent writing challenge. We are working hard on our own stories, mixing up fairy tales. We are going to edit and publish them just like Lucy Rowland!



We have also been working on our balancing skills in gymnastics. We can balance on both low and high apparatus using our core muscles to help us.

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

World Thinking Day 22nd

February 2024



We are encouraging the children to wear their Cubs, Beavers, Rainbows, Brownie uniforms to school on this day.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

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 [click here](#) for more information.

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

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 Durant (SBM) Mrs Tyler (SENDCo), Mrs Koller (Y2 lead), Mrs Pritchard (Family Support Worker), Mrs Netting (YR lead) or Mrs Ralph (KDG lead) 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.

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 CKIS and CKJS: 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



Healthy Snacks

Please can we remind all parents to send their children in with healthy snacks to have in school – fresh fruit/vegetables in a sealed/reusable container. As a healthy school we do not permit children to bring in other snacks (including in lunch boxes) – e.g., sweets and chocolate. Please can we also remind you that we are a **nut free school!**

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 and do not ride their bikes/scooters in the playground at any time. We have had a number of near misses with adults and children being bumped into by children on bikes/scooters.

Labelling Items

Please ensure all uniform is named; including coat, lunch & snack boxes and water bottles. We have 320+ children across the KDG and school and many coats, shoes, jumpers etc all look the same!!

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.

Textile Bank

Please donate any clothes or shoes to the textile bank we have here on site in the school playground.

Reporting Absence

Kind Reminder - Please ensure that you report any absences to the main school office on 01242 514483 or secretary@ckis.org.uk. All absence must be reported before 9.30am and must be reported for each day your child is absent. If we have not heard from you by this time, we will make contact with you regarding your child's absence.

Dates for your diary

Term 4 2024

19 th February	Start of Term 4 SCARF day – all children are invited to wear a scarf for SCARF day!
22 nd February	World Thinking Day - children are invited to wear their Rainbows/Beavers uniforms to school.
28 th February	Parents Evening
29 th February	Parents Evening
1 st March	Deadline for completion of Active Travel Survey (please complete to be in for a chance to win a new scooter!!)
6 th March	Orange Class Assembly 9am
7 th March	World Book Day celebrations – more information to follow
8 th March	Coffee afternoon 2pm for families of children/pupils with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities
9 th March	PFA book trail in the village (see PFA for more information)
11 th March	Science Week – more information to follow
11 th March	Y1 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
13 th March	Purple Class Assembly 9am
13 th March	Science Open Classrooms 2pm – more information to follow
14 th March	Science Open Classrooms 2pm – more information to follow
20 th March	Green Class Assembly 9am
20 th March	3-4pm Wednesday Wander – classrooms will be open for children and families to share and celebrate children's learning
20 th March	7pm PFA meeting in staffroom (all welcome)
22 nd March	End of Term 4 – all children can wear non-uniform today for a small donation to PFA. Second-hand uniform sale from 2.30pm
8 th April	Start of Term 5

PLEASE DO LOOK AT OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL PLANNED EVENTS IN TERMS 5 & 6

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