

Charlton Kings Infants' School

23rd October 2024



NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

As the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, we reflect on our first busy term of 24-25 and look forward to the build up to Christmas next term. We are so pleased that all of our year groups have settled well into new classes and new routines and continue to thrive! This term we have been reflecting on 'Community and Belonging' and have enjoyed recognising and celebrating the gift of our diversity and the opportunities this brings to learn and work together. As a school built upon love with kindness and consideration for all, our children regularly enjoy singing one of our school songs, 'What makes a family' – why not ask your child to sing it to you as the words are beautiful!

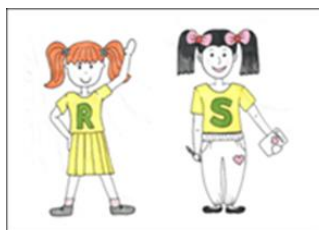
Website translator....

If you would like to view our website in your home language, please click on the globe next to the quick links tab on the home page. This will open a list for you to select your preferred language.



I was particularly proud of our children at both our EYFS and KS1 harvest celebrations as we demonstrated the importance of sharing our love with others beyond our school. We have received a letter of thanks from Cheltenham Food Bank as we collectively donated over 450kg of food which will be distributed to those in need in our town. The Food Bank have asked that we consider giving again around Christmas time as this is a particularly difficult time for many families, so please look out for further information about this later next term.

This term we have thought about the importance of working together to keep everyone safe and have identified all of the ways that we all work together to ensure everyone feels safe and secure at kindergarten and school.



Our school theme this term has been 'Belonging and Community' and we have been thinking about what groups we belong to and how we feel when we 'belong'. We have also been considering how we can be like 'Rebecca resilient' and 'Sophie self-awareness' as learners every day! We have also enjoyed celebrating Black History month, finding out about those who have changed the world, including Claudia Jameson who founded the 'West Indian Gazette' newspaper to give black people a voice and inspired the start of the Notting Hill Carnival, now the second biggest in the world!

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 13th or Thursday 14th November). This year we are trialling an on-line booking system, we hope that this will make it easier for both you and teachers when arranging appointments.

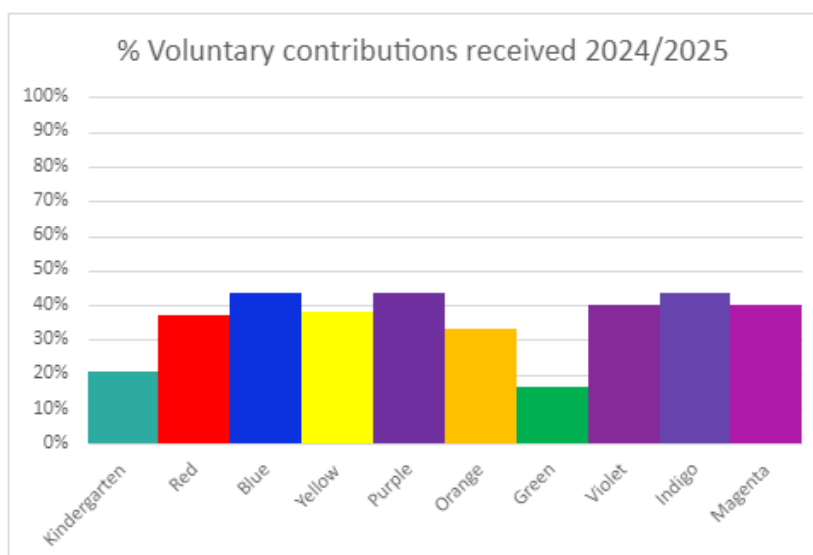
Wishing you all a happy and relaxing half term break. We look forward to everyone returning to school and Kindergarten on **Monday 4th November**.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs James".

Mrs James and the CKIS team

Voluntary Contributions



As you will be aware, our kindergarten and school budgets are stretched year on year and this year we have started the academic year with a projected £65,000 deficit which is not sustainable. We do ask that ALL families support the kindergarten and school by donating £40 per child if your child is in Kindergarten or £50 per child if your child is in YR-Y2. Some families may be in a position to give more than the amount suggested and 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 activities that we plan and deliver through our school curriculum can only be maintained by asking for this voluntary contribution. These support us in delivering a range of enrichment visits, visitors and activities planned to enhance our curriculum for every child during the year. For all children, these include:

- Regular forest school sessions
- [Life Education](#) visit in November
- Access to resources from the 'Wilson museum' lending library
- Enrichment/themed weeks and events
- Jungle animal interaction sessions/visitors in Kindergarten and YR and whole class music lessons in Y1 and Y2
- Class trips and visits in the local community
- Cooking and technology

We are anxious that **less than 35%** of families across the Kindergarten and school have contributed to date, with some classes being much lower. Without these contributions, we would have to cease a number of planned activities and experiences. If you have not given yet, please can we encourage you to do so. 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

Any families with children who are in care/have been in care, are from a service family or are in receipt of income support who are entitled to Pupil Premium will have their contribution met by the school.

Reception

What an incredible term we have all had. The children have settled beautifully and we are all so very proud of them!



We started off the term by sharing our treasure boxes, this was a great way for the children to get to know each other.

We also enjoyed making sandwiches for our Teddy Bear picnic which was a great success! One of the highlights of the term was to go on a Bear hunt around the school. We went through the swishy, swashy grass and the river splash, splosh to find a big bear enjoying some honey in Mrs James' office!

The children have enjoyed exploring Forest School. They helped to clear up a whole pile of rubbish that had been left there, then sorted and recycled what they found!

During Pilates, we have used our bodies and voices to be an array of different jungle animals.

Many Thanks for your ongoing support with reading at home, the children are really enthusiastic and excited about learning to read.



Year 1



We have had a fantastic start to Year 1! The children have impressed us with how they've settled into a new group and it has been lovely to see them developing new friendships. We have started exploring our big question 'What can you see in the dark?' and enjoyed going on a rocket into space! We have been on so many adventures from the comfort of our classrooms.

We have some super artists in Year 1. We have been using the three primary colours to mix the three secondary colours. We really enjoyed using these new skills to create a funny portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso!

As historians, we have been finding out about how things have changed over time. Thank you so much for sending in photographs of the children as babies, toddlers and now. We had a great time looking at how each of us has changed and putting our pictures into our very own timeline.

We have so many exciting things planned for next term and can't wait for you to hear all about it. We are also very lucky to be starting our weekly Forest School sessions with Mrs Holburn!



Year 2



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

We have been doing many experiments in science, testing lots of materials to find out if they are waterproof and even if they are flammable or inflammable.

We had a visit from our local Fire Service who told us all about firefighting today compared with firefighting in 1666. Thank you Black Watch!

We have been doing many experiments in science testing lots of materials to find out if they are waterproof and even if they are flammable or inflammable.

We learned how to knead dough to make bread with Mrs Walker.



We also visited St Mary's Church to find out about how Christians worship.

Eco school update



Here are our Eco school councillors this year in Kindergarten and across the school:



We have decided that our role is to support our school and to help our world. One of our Eco school council suggested that we were 'like a sandwich' and this is now our motto!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded Eco school with merit this academic year. We have the following three priorities over the next academic year:

- **Biodiversity** – increase Biodiversity across the organisation and local environments.
- **Waste/Litter** – continue to reduce waste and litter and re-cycle or re-use.
- **Transport** – encourage active travel to and from kindergarten/school and reduce pollution in the local community.

This term we have appointed Year 2 'litter pickers' who check our environment for litter on a weekly basis and recycle the items found. The Eco-school council have also led the school in designing our **Eco recycle monsters** which we would like to have in each year group to help us to recycle. We look forward to seeing them built and gobbling up our recycling in the weeks ahead!!



We are continuing to work with **Clean Air Cheltenham** and your children may have noticed that Molly, the air pollution monitor, has been moved from the playground to School Road, where she is continuing to measure the pollutants in our air, primarily nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide occurs due to combustion in vehicle engines and can be harmful in large concentrations, with the World Health Organisation recommending an annual mean of 10 micrograms (μg).

Children are more vulnerable to breathing in polluted air than adults because their airways are smaller and still developing. They also breathe more rapidly than adults, meaning they take in more polluted air. As well as this, they are normally closer to the ground and therefore the source of the emissions e.g. car exhausts. Not only does air pollution contribute to respiratory conditions (asthma, bronchitis etc), it can also affect children's working memory and cognitive development.

Please find below a table displaying the measurements from the last week in September around school drop off and pick up times when pollutants significantly rise:

W/C 23rd September						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
08:30	25.2	30.5	26.1	31.9	22.2	27.18
15:15	23.4	21.8	31.5	22.1	13.4	22.44

We are asking all families to do their bit in helping reduce pollution around our school site, by;

- Walking, cycling or scooting
- Park and Stride
- Avoid engine idling



To reduce your child's exposure, try:

- **Travelling actively** – exposure to air pollution can be up to eight times higher in the car in comparison to walking or cycling, so for shorter journeys, leave the car at home.
- **Taking quieter routes** – by walking along a quieter, less busy road, you can reduce your exposure by up to 50%.

Be part of the clean air movement in Charlton Kings...

Join us for a free event on Wednesday October 30th

Clean Air Cheltenham is bringing members of the Charlton Kings community together to form the Charlton Kings Clean Air Action Group

Date: October 30th
Location: Stanton Hall
Time: 7 - 9pm
All are welcome!

Reserve your space now



✂ Discover how air quality affects our children's health and wellbeing

🚗 Take Action: Find out how small changes can make a big difference, from reducing traffic pollution to making our homes safer

♥ Connect with other local parents, schools, and residents who care about a cleaner, healthier future for Charlton Kings





**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Shoe Box Appeal



This term during assembly Mrs James talked to the children about Teams4u who run a nationwide shoebox appeal annually to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families which are distributed through schools, hospitals and nurseries in Eastern Europe. A leaflet was sent home in your child's book bag.

If you would like to fill a shoe box for a child, please bring it into school **by Tuesday 5th November** as they are being collected on Wednesday 6th November.

Thank you

<https://teams4u.com/>

**WEAR
JEANS
CHANGE
LIVES.**



The school raised over £300 for the Charity Jeans for Genes. Thank you to you all!

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.

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.

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), or Mrs Ralph (KDG lead) if you have any concerns.

Internet Safety

As parents or carers, and as a school family, we all play a key role in helping children to stay safe online. For tips and advice on how to support children to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively, please visit:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

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.

Information from the Pastoral Team

We wish you all a happy half term holiday and hope you enjoy the break from school. We 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.



Advanced notice!

Mrs Pritchard, CKIS Child and Family Support Worker, will be facilitating a free “Understanding Your Child’s Behaviour” group, starting in the spring 2025 term. The group will use the “Solihull Parenting Approach” and will explore a variety of issues including temper tantrums, sleep patterns and parenting styles.

If you are interested in being included in the first group, look out for the surveys which will be sent out via Class WhatsApp groups and Seesaw after October half term. You can also contact Mrs Pritchard for more information using the main school telephone number 01242 514483 or email familyliaison@charltonkings-inf.gloucs.sch.uk.

Other Information

Contacting School

Please can we remind all parents to contact school directly if you have any concerns or queries, including concerns 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 Wish-lists

As a 'Healthy School' we strongly discourage children from giving out or sharing sweets on their birthdays as we think there are plenty of other times for children to have a sweet treat! If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday by purchasing something from our Amazon wishlist for them to share with their classmates instead, that would be very much appreciated. On your class page on the school website you will find a link to an Amazon wish list. 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

From the CKIS-CKJS prayer group - we are always welcoming of new members and this term we are planning to start changing some of our meeting times to enable people to join us at 9am after drop-off. Please contact Mrs James for more details, and even if you can't take part in any of our meetings you can still join us in praying for the life of the school. Mrs James can also put you in touch if you would like to join the WhatsApp group for the prayer community of Parents and Friends of CKIS-CKJS.



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, 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.

Driving and Parking around school

Please be considerate when driving and parking around the school.

Labelling Items

Please ensure **all** uniform is named; including coats, shoes, 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 2 2024

4 th November	Start of term 2
5 th November	Bonfire Night School Lunch
5 th November	Deadline for shoe boxes for Teams4U
5 th November	Open morning for prospective families 9-10am
11 th November	Remembrance Day
12 th – 13 th November	YR height, weight and vision checks
13 th November	Indigo Class Assembly 9am
13 th November	CKIS Parents evening
14 th November	CKIS Parents evening
15 th November	Children in Need – wear something spotty and bring a bear to school
18 th November	Road safety week
20 th November	Magenta class assembly 9am
21 st November	Open morning and evening for prospective families 9-10am and 7-8pm
25 th November	Open morning and evening for prospective families 9-10am and 7-8pm
27 th November	Violet class assembly 9am
3 rd December	Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime in school
4 th December	Wednesday Wander – classrooms open after school for families to visit
6 th December	Light switch on in Charlton Kings – choir to perform
11 th December	YR nativity 9.30am (Blue class families)
12 th December	YR nativity 9.30am (Red class families)
12 th December	PFA Story night – more information to follow
13 th December	YR nativity 9.30am (Yellow class families)
19 th December	YR1 and YR2 Christmas carols St Marys church 1.30pm
20 th December	YR1 and YR2 Christmas carols St Marys church 9.30am
20 th December	Whole school Christmas jumper day – donations for James Hopkins Trust
20 th December	End of term

**PLEASE DO LOOK AT OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL PLANNED EVENTS AND
NOTE THAT DATES MAY CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**