

Charlton Kings Infants' School

20th December 2024



NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

We have enjoyed another wonderful term at CKIS and continue to be immensely proud of our children and the progress that they make on a daily basis. This term we have been reflecting on our school theme of 'Responsibility' and have taken part in 'Remembrance Day' by reflecting on the key role that many have taken in the past and to this day to keep us all safe. We have also taken part in 'Road safety' week and have agreed our four key responsibilities are:

Always.....

- Find a safe space to cross the road.
- Cross the road with an adult – hold their hand and look left and right and listen for traffic.
- Wear a helmet if you are on your bike or scooter.
- Be safe and be seen!



As a school built upon love with kindness and consideration for all, our children regularly enjoy singing one of our school songs, 'Living in Harmony' – I'm sure your child would enjoy singing this song to you at home!! This Christmas we have contributed to the Teams4u Christmas shoeboxes and collected over 60 boxes to send to children who live in difficult circumstances. We have also continued to support the Cheltenham Foodbank with our reverse Advent donations – thank you for your ongoing kindness and support for those in need within our local and wider communities. It was a joy to join the CKIS Christmas choir at the Charlton Kings lights switch on – it really got us in the festive spirit.

This term we have been exploring our learning characteristic of 'Teamwork' by 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. Our Eco school councillors have been focusing upon how we can continue to develop our local environment to make it a healthy and safe place for us and local wildlife to live and play. They have also enjoyed leading our Eco Christmas decoration competition. I think that you will all agree that our school Christmas tree looks wonderful!



Wishing you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to kindergarten and school on **Monday 6th January.**

Love from Mrs James and the CKIS team x

Dates for your diary – Term 3 2025

20 th December	End of term 2
6 th January	Start of Term 3
7 th January (10am)	Open Morning for prospective families (YR September 2025)
16 th January	School Heat for Look Who's Talking competition (Y1 & Y2)
22 nd January	Puddle Ducks Water Safety Talk in school
23 rd January (2pm)	Coffee afternoon for families with children who have SEND (My Plan/My Plan +/-EHCP)
28 th January	National Lego Day
29 th January	Lunar New Year
3 rd February	Black History month
10 th February	Safer Internet Week
12 th February (6.30pm)	Safer Internet workshop for families at CKIS & CKJS - CKJS
14 th February	Random Act of Kindness day
14 th February	End of term 3

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

Reception



We have had an incredibly busy term in YR! We began our topic on 'Space' with a marvellous visit from The Wonder Dome. The children met Harold from the Life Education Centre, who taught us about the importance of looking after our minds and bodies! We learnt all about Guy Fawkes and had great fun exploring snow and ice. We have talked about remembrance and why we wear a poppy, holding a minute of silence for those who lost their lives during the World Wars. The children also wore spotty clothes to help raise money for Children in Need.



Over the last few weeks, we have been working so hard learning the songs for the Christmas Nativity performance. The children are outstanding and we loved performing it to our families!

Year 1



We have loved delving deeper into 'The Dark' this term. It has inspired some incredible pieces of writing and we particularly enjoyed writing 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers and 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. We still haven't found her, so please keep an eye out for her over the Christmas holidays!

As part of our learning about the dark, we have loved reading stories about nocturnal animals. We have enjoyed looking at different animals from The Wilson museum and we were very excited to meet a northern white faced owl and a barn owl. They were so soft to touch!

As artists, we have loved making thick and thin marks. We were so inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' and can't believe we now know how to sketch!

We hope you are impressed by the artwork on your Christmas cards this year!

We have absolutely loved our Forest School sessions with Mrs Holburn and have learnt how to stay safe in our outdoor area. We have been developing our resilience and teamwork skills by building shelters, learning how to use a saw safely and making Christmas decorations with natural materials.

Year 2



We celebrated the end of our topic about the Great Fire of London by performing our class assemblies to our families and friends at the beginning of the term. Our teachers were so proud of us all and we know our families were too.

Each week this term we have received a postcard from Paddington Bear as he has been travelling around the world. He has told us all about the continents and countries he has been visiting. We have loved making picture maps to help us remember the key facts and features about the countries, labelling the countries in each continent, writing postcards, making fact files about famous people and even sketching some of the famous landscapes. We even made some marmalade sandwiches which had mixed reviews! Thank you Paddington for helping us learn so much about our world.



In science we have been learning about habitats. We explored our local habitat and found some plants and animals that live in our school grounds. We have also been learning about other habitats around the world.

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



Forest School News

What a busy term for Forest School! Our new hedge saplings arrived from the Woodland Trust. These species are all fruit bearing so will help to attract birds and we have been able to extend our hedge along the boundary fence. Prunings from the beech hedge and other shrubs on the school site have been used to create a new dead hedge which will provide an excellent habitat for wildlife. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant and can cause damage to trees so Mr Parnell helped us remove a large amount this year. Thank you to all those who supported Forest School by buying a bunch to decorate their homes! We have monitored the weather carefully this term and have needed to shelter from the rain and light the Kelly Kettle to make hot drinks to help warm us up! Playing in the autumn leaves has been fun, but we have also collected them to make leaf mould which we can use in garden beds to improve soil structure and aid water retention. Recently we have learnt how to use tools safely and used our new hammering, sawing and drilling skills to make Christmas tree decorations. As the winter solstice approaches, we have made floating candle to celebrate the shortest day of the year. **Merry Christmas!**





Eco school update



This term we have been continuing to focus upon our three priorities:

- **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.

At the beginning of this term all classes took part in auditing the number of animals and birds seen within our Kindergarten and school grounds. We are keen to attract more wildlife and have been busy making new animal homes, including bird boxes and hedgehog hotels and have ensured we have planted trees and shrubs and have built 'dead hedges' using recycled natural materials to attract new wildlife:



We are continuing to work with **Clean Air Cheltenham** and Molly, the air pollution monitor, is busily measuring the pollutants, primarily Nitrogen Dioxide in our air on School Road. The World Health Organisation recommends 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 micrograms (μg) measurements from last week. These figures have risen since September, particularly towards the end of the week. There is a clear rise in pollutants around school drop off and pick up times:

	W/C 9 th December – measurements in micrograms (μg)					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
8.30-9.30	26.2	21.4	26.8	30.6	28.0	26.6
3.00-4.00	22.3	25.5	27.2	32.5	36.5	28.8

To reduce your child's exposure, please:

- **Travel 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.
- **Take quieter routes** – by walking along a quieter, less busy road, you can reduce your exposure by up to 50%

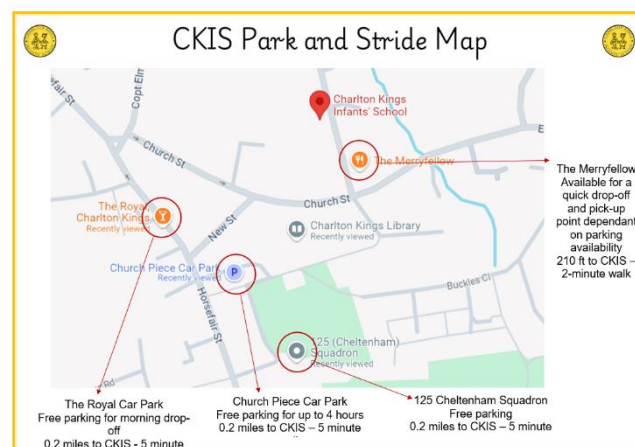
We are asking ALL FAMILIES to continue to do their bit in helping reduce pollution around our school site, by;



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



Here is our updated 'Park and Stride' map which highlights local areas where families can park away from the school and walk the last few minutes, therefore reducing levels of pollution in our immediate locality:



The Merryfellow (on School Road) are now open and they welcome families to use their car park for quick school drop off or pick up when spaces are available, allowing you to 'Park and Stride' from there. The Royal and Charlton Kings Social Club are also happy for families to use their car parks in the morning for quick school drop off.

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), 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>

We have arranged to run a ‘Safer internet’ workshop for families on Wednesday 12th February at 6.30pm. This even will be hosted by Charlton Kings Junior school and will be led by Simon Williams, Cyber Intelligence, Protect, Prepare & Prevent Officer. This will be an excellent opportunity to find out about the current risks and to explore ways in which we can continue to protect our young children from harm when using the internet.

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 very happy Christmas 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.



Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Group (Solihull Parenting Approach)

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, please complete the survey sent out via Seesaw to help us find the most appropriate day and time to run the group. 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.

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.

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 child's class page on the school website you will find a link to an Amazon wish list. We continue to update 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 comes to CKIS on their scooter or bicycle, 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. We have had a few incidents this term where children and families have nearly been hit by cars. Please do ensure that you do not park anywhere where this would put our children and/or families and members of our local community at risk.

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.

The Shoebox Appeal



This term during assembly Mr James talked to the children about Teams4u who each year run a nationwide shoebox appeal to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families which are distributed through schools, hospitals and nurseries in Eastern Europe.

We collected 66 shoe boxes.

Thank you, to you all for your kind, donations.

<https://teams4u.com/>

Christmas Jumper Day

This year we have raised funds for James Hopkins Trust with our Christmas Jumper Day. The Trust are based in Gloucestershire and provide nursing respite care for life-limited and life-threatened young children. We are excited to welcome the Trust to the school in the New Year to talk about how the money we have raised will support them in providing wonderful experiences for the children who receive care there.



Please go to the following link if you wish to make a donation - [click here](#)

Award-winning language classes at Charlton Kings Infants School!

Spring Term 2025 – La Jolie Ronde French & Spanish – Y1 & Y2

I'm offering your child the chance to join French and Spanish classes at CKIS. I am a native Spanish and fluent in French, mum of 2 who loves learning languages. I'm not alone in my passion to help children learn and love to become French and Spanish speakers; I'm teaching the multi-award winning La Jolie Ronde programmes. www.lajolieronde.co.uk

They have won the "What's-on-4-Awards", as voted for by parents for "**Best National Activity for 5-12 years olds**" 5 years running!

What my classes provide:

- A unique and well-established **structured language course**
- An **authentic accent** for the children to pick up
- **Small classes** with children of similar age
- **Conversation, games, role-plays, rhymes and stories**
- Awareness of the foreign country, its **geography and culture**



To start your child's journey through the wonderful world of learning French and Spanish, all they need is their Language Pack, which includes:

Spring Term 2025 – Thursday Lunch Club – 16 January – 27 March

Language Pack

Infant Programme Y1-Y2

- 10 weeks – 30 mins (£69.50) £6.95

Activity Pack £22

- Pupil Activity Book
- Audio Material App Access
- Parent Guides

The activity pack covers the full three terms of the academic year

The programme is designed to enhance your children's learning skills and to challenge them, in order for them to excel at the language and develop their language confidence and skills to the highest level possible. If you have any questions, please let me know.



SEND: 1. YOUR CHILD'S NAME. 2 CLASS

EMAIL: moirajallow@gmail.com

www.language lodge.co.uk



THE NURSERY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS HOLIDAY CLUB

Address

The Nursery School,
Church Street,
Charlton Kings,
GL53 8AP

Ages accepted

2, 3 & 4 years old

Contact Us to book

thenurseryschool@eygloucestershire.co.uk
01242 521944

Sessions available

8am-5pm
8am-3.30pm
8.45am-3.30pm
8am-1pm
11.30am-3.30pm

Book now for 17th-
21st February 2025.
£5.88 per hour

