

MAY LETTER

This is a text only version of the multimedia newsletter sent out to parents through SeeSaw. As such it doesn't contain all the information and formatting you will find in the original. The information is reproduced here for reference. If you have deleted your SeeSaw link to the original letter, please contact secretary@ckis.org.uk

Dear Families,

Where has the time gone?! It's hard to believe that we're already heading into our final term of the year. It really does only feel like yesterday that we were just getting started!

It has been such a privilege to watch the children grow and develop over the past months. They have all come such a long way, and it's lovely to see how excited they're already becoming about their next steps.

The upcoming term is always a particularly busy and enjoyable one, with lots to look forward to—events like the summer fair, sports days, and, of course, our leavers' celebrations. You'll find all the key dates listed at the end of this newsletter.

As always, please do keep an eye on SeeSaw and the school website, where we'll be sharing updates and reminders so you don't miss a thing. It's set to be a really special final term!

Kind regards,

Mr Owens

Acting Head Teacher

Eco committee

We are thrilled to share that we have been awarded the Eco-Schools Flag distinction! Eco-Schools were especially impressed by our whole-school commitment to sustainability, including our fantastic efforts to encourage sustainable travel, with children and families choosing to walk, cycle, and scoot to school whenever possible.

They were also delighted by how we are boosting biodiversity across our school grounds. In Forest School, we are supporting wildlife with bat boxes and a wormery, and our brand-new pizza garden is already growing delicious herbs that will soon be used in the school kitchen—how amazing is that!

This month, the Eco Council has also been busy getting hands-on with our new composter. Mrs Holburn showed us how it works, and we are excited to be turning food waste into rich compost to help our gardens thrive. It has been a brilliant step forward in making our school even greener, more sustainable, and full of life!

PFA Fundraising and Activities

CKIS PFA has had another fantastic term of fundraising and community activities. Our Spring Raffle in February raised an impressive £1,367, while Family Bingo on Saturday 25 April brought in £300.

A huge well done to all the children who took part in the Mini Marathon, where every child ran a mile — together raising an incredible £7,695. Special congratulations go to Purple Class, who topped the leader-board with £1,193 raised, although every donation made a real difference and is greatly appreciated.

Y2 hoodies and T-shirts are now on order and will be delivered sometime in late May / early June. These items may be worn in school from Monday 6 July.

Thanks to the incredible support from families this term, we have now paid off the remaining balance on the Adventure Trail that was installed in the playground in the autumn. We have also been able to fund additional outdoor play equipment including Octoplay, giant construction sets, a mud kitchen, a playhouse / snug, additional outdoor seating, plus tuff tray and sandpit. We have also rejuvenated the Forest School pond and funded magazine subscriptions for the children.

Thank you for all your support!

Next term we are looking forward to the CKIS Summer Fete on Saturday 27 June. We are still looking for volunteers, so please do sign up if you can help. We really appreciate it.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ckispfa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=102938>

Join us at our next PFA meeting. Tuesday 16 June, from 6-7 pm, in the school staffroom. All welcome.

And, finally, a shout-out to any CKIS grandparents and grandparent figures. We have created a WhatsApp group just for you. It is a friendly space to stay up to date with school and PFA news and connect with other grandparents. If you'd like to join, follow the link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LbqzF7GsklgDJoDOflNVc5>

School Choir

Our year two choir performed at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts in their 100th year celebrations.

They were the only infant choir and were first on the stage to kick off the festival. They sang 'Somewhere Only We Know' and 'We All Stand Together'.

The adjudicator commented on 'so many happy faces even before they sang'. He was impressed with their assurance and the projection of voices, together with our dynamic variety. The school choir should be incredibly proud of their performance and the confidence with which they sang on the stage at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Year Three Classes

After a successful transition to CKJS last year, we will be sending the year two classes to year three in their existing classes. The teachers across both schools are already working together on this, and you will receive an update for CKJS during the first week back after the Whitsun break.

No Child Left Behind - Coffee morning - a date for your diary

We are pleased to announce that the PFA have organised a fundraising event taking place on Friday 10th July. No Child Left Behind is a project in Cheltenham, UK that aims to help all young people to thrive. In 2018, it was highlighted that there were around 4400 children and young people in our town living in poverty. It also showed that, when compared to their more affluent peers, they faced significant challenges such as poorer educational attainment, higher rates of school exclusion, poorer mental and physical health, were more likely to be under social care and were more likely to be victims of crime. All money raised during this event will go to support the work of this vital charity.

Hall monitors and Reading buddies

I would like to extend a personal thank you to our amazing year two reading buddies and hall monitors this term. The grown-ups have been so impressed with their commitment to these roles. I know that the reception children have really enjoyed reading to the year two children this term and we definitely have some teachers in the making.

Sickness and flu

To help keep everyone healthy, please remember to keep children at home for 48 hours if they are unwell, including after the last episode of vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. This helps reduce the spread of illness and keeps our school community safe. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please ensure you notify Mrs Evans by SeeSaw or by telephone before 9:30am. If they remain absent, we would be grateful for a short message each day to let us know how they are feeling.

Parking - School Mews

No parking is provided on School Mews for either drop off or pick up. There are clearly marked Zig Zag lines and residents only parking spaces. We will be contacting the police with any reports of inconsiderate parking in the area.

Forest School update

At Forest School, spring has flung open its doors, and the warmth and energy of the sun has brought flora and fauna to life. Everybody has been enjoying observing tadpoles, beetle eggs, caterpillars, bluebells, snails and primroses. Our wildflower bed has successfully re-seeded itself and all our new hedgerow plants have come into leaf giving plenty of opportunities to learn the names of a variety of plants. The pond is flourishing providing lots of interest and we have been learning about the importance of our new aquatic/bog plants and wondering how pond skaters walk on water. Spring is a perfect time to learn about safe and sustainable foraging. Our small patch of wild garlic inspired us to make wild garlic pesto. Young beech leaves are edible and we picked some to make sushi the Forest School way! To celebrate May Day we patiently picked hawthorn blossom to make a syrup. It was very satisfying to cut some of our homegrown willow to make woven fish and tent pegs. As well as whittling we used tools to make geoboards and elder fire blowing sticks. Mrs Holburn

National Numeracy Day

On Wednesday 20th May, we celebrated National Numeracy Day as a whole school community. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote positive attitudes towards maths and help everyone feel more confident with numbers.

We shared a letter with more details about how we marked the day. Within the letter, there was also a link to the National Numeracy website. We particularly recommended exploring the Family Maths Toolkit, which offers lots of fun, practical activities to enjoy together at home. Mrs Koller and Mrs Price

Mini Marathon

On Monday 11th May, the children had a fantastic time taking part in the Mini London Marathon. Every child ran one mile to help raise money for our outdoor spaces, whilst also having fun at being active with their friends. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, determination and encouragement as the children cheered each other on and celebrated their achievement together. As a whole school family, we are incredibly proud to have raised an amazing £7,607.75. A huge thank you to all of the children,

families and staff for their support in making the event such a memorable and successful day. If you are yet to sponsor your child/ren and would like to, please follow the link below. Thanks again! <https://www.goodhub.com/go/charlton-kings-infants-school-parents-and-friends-association-tcs2026> - Mrs Mansfield

Learning across CKIS

Please look through the photo stacks below to see a sample of learning from across the school and kindergarten. Remember to check your SeeSaw notifications to keep up to date with the learning in each class.

Our Family Survey 2026 - You said/we did

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our survey this year. Your feedback is always appreciated. I have shared your many lovely comments with all the staff.

There were a few comments regarding the start of the school day and how we can make this better for all children. We agree that the front of the school is a busy place and that this can be difficult for children. The layout of the school and staff availability makes this a hard problem to solve without the help of all our families. The classroom doors are open from 8.45 to 8.50 to enable plenty of time for children to arrive on site and go straight into the school without having to wait. Please avoid arriving at the front of the school before this time. It isn't a playground and there isn't the space for children to run around safely, and this can be very unsettling for children who may find the start of the day difficult. We are working on a bell to ensure all doors are open and closed in a predictable manner.

Effective communication is vital, and sometimes, regrettably, we get this wrong. We have worked hard this year to reduce the amount of information you receive through SeeSaw to make it easier to navigate. We believe the incredible opportunities SeeSaw offers around sharing learning from our school day balance out its less than perfect messaging system and we don't want to families to have to sign up to multiple systems. Key dates will always be on the end of the Newsletter. Occasionally, things change. Year group leads will always endeavour to share relevant information in a timely fashion. Our families can help us by ensuring they check all school communication and avoid the spiral of whatsapp groups, instead coming to us directly if you have a question! We know we can always do better and will continue to focus on this for the next academic year.

We had some requests for extra year two clubs. This is reviewed every year. All full-time staff run a club as well as all senior leaders volunteering to work lunch breaks. We have no extra capacity. I am sure you will agree that CKJS runs an extensive range of clubs

and I know our year two children are looking forward to joining these as they are older and it is more appropriate. The school day is already very long for our young children.

CKIS Website

Please remember that our website contains detailed information regarding our CKIS curriculum, including the new Learning Leaves for next term. We are passionate about children reaching their true potential and we know how important working with parents and families is in achieving this. The 'Learning Leaves' on the curriculum pages provide a child friendly overview of the learning in each subject this term. These can be great for discussing learning at home.

If you have concerns regarding the progress of your child, please contact your class teacher/s as these are always best addressed by working together.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 22nd May 2026 - End of Term 5

Monday 1st June 2026 - Start of Term 6

Tuesday 2nd June 5 - 6.30 New Parents Meeting

Wednesday 10th June - Class Photos

Tuesday 16th June - PFA Meeting

Wednesday 17th June 2026 - KS1 Sports Afternoon (weather dependent)

Thursday 18th June 2026 - Kindergarten Sports Morning (weather dependent)

Friday 19th June 2026 - KS1 Sports Afternoon (reserve date)

Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Parents Evening

Thursday 25th June 2026 - Parents Evening

Friday 26th June 2026 - Y2 to Y3 Transition Afternoon and Grandparents reading session

Saturday 27th June 2026 - Summer Fete

Monday 29th June 2026 - Y2 to Y3 Transition Day

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Transition Day

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Wednesday Wander

Thursday 2nd July 2026 - EYFS Sports Afternoon (weather dependent)

Friday 3rd July 2026 - Y2 Trip to Western-Super-Mare

Friday 3rd July 2026 - EYFS Sports Afternoon (reserve date)

Friday 3rd July 2026 - Y2 Trip to Weston-Super-Mare

Monday 6th July 2026 - Y2 Climbing Wall

Friday 10th July 2026 - YR Trip to the Cotswold Farm Park

Friday 10th July 2026 - PFA NCLB Coffee Morning

Tuesday 14th July 2026 - Y2 Leavers Assembly

Wednesday 15th July 2026 - Y2 Leavers Assembly

Friday 17th July 2026 - Kindergarten Leavers Assembly

Friday 17th July 2026 - End of Term 6