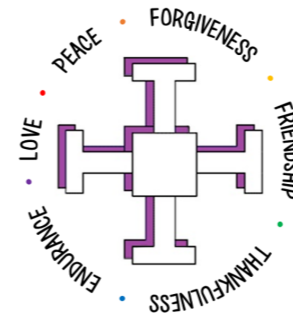


Diary Dates

Tuesday 14th January:	ELS Lesson Pop In
Wednesday 15th January:	ELS Lesson Pop In
Thursday 16th January:	ELS Lesson Pop In
Monday 10th February:	Year 6 to Condover
Friday 14th February:	Break Up Half Term
Monday 24th February:	School Open
Friday 11th April:	Break Up Easter, 1:15pm
Monday 28th April:	School Open
Monday 12th May:	SATS Week Year 6
Friday 23rd May:	Break Up Half Term
Monday 2nd June:	INSET Day School closed to pupils
Tuesday 4th June:	School Open
Friday 18th July:	Break Up 1:15pm



CHRIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



Hello All,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and found yourselves on the 'Nice' list. Happy New Year to those I haven't said it to personally.

To begin with, on behalf of myself and the staff of Christ Church (including Hazel and Ivy), I would like to say a massive thank you for all the cards and gifts we received. Your generosity is always appreciated by us all.

The first week has flown by and it has been lovely to see the children coming in refreshed and ready to learn! It was equally lovely to see the beaming smiles of the faces of parents as they dropped off on Tuesday morning.

You will be aware of a few changes this term, the first being we are now fully fledged members of the St Barts' Multi Academy Trust. As promised, uniform is the same; teaching staff and support staff are the same and pupils have received exactly what they did before Christmas. Another change you will have noticed is the move to Parent Pay. I know there have been a few teething problems, however, overall things have gone well.

So everyone understands, Parent Pay is how parents will now pay for School Dinners, Trips and Breakfast Club. To clear up any confusion, the cost for Breakfast Club is £2 per day, per child. Those children who receive Free School Meals may attend for free (Your account will be credited). You must also use Parent Pay to book places in After School Clubs - this will be first come, first served so check your messages regularly. Any questions, please come and ask!

Essential Letters and Sounds

Parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be aware that we have implemented a new 'Phonics Strategy' at Christ Church. This means we have slightly changed the way we teach early reading. The name of the strategy is above but we know it as 'ELS'.

Parents across Reception and Years 1 and 2 have been invited into school to watch an ELS session on either Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th January. This is a great opportunity to see how we teach reading (it was so different when we were kids, especially me!) If you are unable to attend, please try and send a family member and they can pass on the important bits.

If you want to know how best to support your child's reading, please speak to the class teacher, they will tell you what to focus on.

Little tricks you can use at home include: instead of saying, 'It's time for bed.' Say, 'It's time for b-e-d.' And then ask your child to say the word. You can do that with all sorts of words. Also, when you are at the shops etc... get your child to sound out, blend and read the words.

Our website also has plenty of resources to help your child at home.

Reading is the most important skill we can give our children, as it is the passport to their future, so please help us to help your child flourish.

Reading Plus

A reminder to parents of children in Key Stage 2, your child should be completing a minimum of 2 Reading Plus lessons at home per week. Since sharing Reading Plus with pupils and parents the progress made has been staggering. As an illustration of impact: One pupil has completed 113 lessons, Read 190,959 words, made 1.7 years progress and will end the year as a Year 12 reader. From the same class, a pupil has completed 37 lessons, read 26,274 words, made 0.9 years progress and will end the year as a Year 5 reader. It is clear, the more the pupils read the better they become, so please make sure they are doing at least 2 sessions per week (15 mins). Personally, I would have them doing a daily lesson at home!

New Devices

I guess many of your children have had an array of new devices for Christmas. Be they the latest game consoles or for the older pupils their first mobile phone.

I would like to remind parents that if your child is playing a game that has a 'chat' option, you should either turn it off or monitor it closely. Unfortunately, there are adults out there who pretend to be children and will try to befriend them. This can lead to children being put at significant risk.

For those who have had mobile phones, please regularly check the apps they are using, especially 'WhatsApp'. Also remember, it is hard to see what children have shared on 'SnapChat' as it disappears quickly - hence the 13 year old age limitation.

My personal preference is that you do not allow your child access to the messaging apps such as 'Whatapp' as they can cause significant problems within school. If incidents happen on social media outside of school, we are still expected by the DfE to take action as it could be classed as online bullying. If you have decided to allow your child access to these apps, please check daily as you may be shocked to find what they are saying.

Our website has lots of information to help, so give it a quick read.

Congratulations Miss Hollis

It is with great pleasure I can announce Miss Hollis gave birth to a healthy and happy baby boy on Boxing Day. He really made her wait!

The little man's name is William and he weighed in at 8lb 10 oz.

I am sure you will all join with me in wishing Miss Hollis and her partner all the very best at this special time.

We can't wait to meet William!

Welcome to the Christ Church family, William!