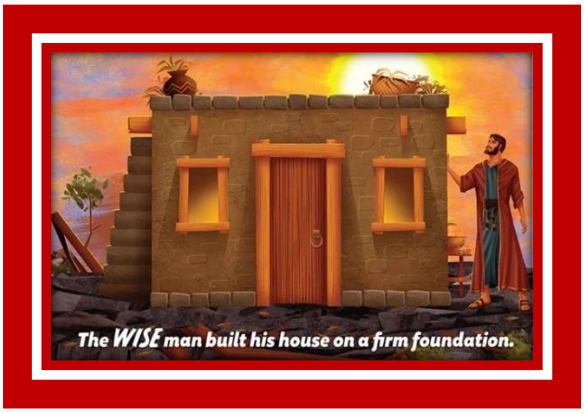
CHRISTCHURCH
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vine
Empowering All to Flourish

NEWSLETTER

15th November 2024



Firm Foundations; Rooted in Love.

Rooted in love, we grow and learn together, supported by our firm foundations. We nurture and respect the individuals within our community, so that all can flourish and succeed, with aspirational hope.

"Do everything in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14

Firstly, this week we would like to thank our PTFA for arranging a fantastic Bright & Sparkly Disco last Friday!

All the children who attended had a fantastic time!

Also last Friday, Mrs Hall held a presentation to the parents/carers of our Year 6 children in preparation for the upcoming Year 6 SATs.

Thank you to all those who attended & we hope you found the information provided useful.

On Sunday 10th November 2024 Mrs Hall attended the Remembrance Service at Christ Church. She was joined by Elissa from Badgers class who laid the wreath on behalf of Christchurch CofE Primary.

Thank you again to all the members of Worship Group for making the wreath which looked amazing!

On Monday 11th November 2024 the whole school took part is a special Remembrance Day Assembly which included a 1-minute silence to show our mark of respect.

This week we have held our Autumn Term Parent's Evenings.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended & we hope you find the targets the teachers have provided of assistance when supporting your children at home.

We would like to thank Mrs Harkett & Mrs Crease for looking after the children for our parents/carers who were unable to find childcare.

All this week we are delighted to have taken part in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme. The children took part in virtual assemblies which will be followed up with lessons & workshops.

Today our Hedgehogs class took part in their first of Five Forest School lessons & they had a fabulous time!

Today, to enable our children to show their support for the BBC's Children in Need Charity, we invited the children to wear any Children in Need related items to school.

Thank you for showing your support & if you would like to contribute to this charity please follow this link:

We're there for you- BBC Children in Need

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

P.E. Kits

A massive thank you to our PTFA in all their efforts in raising the necessary funds to purchase brand new P.E. Kits for our children. The kits will be used when representing Christchurch CofE Primary at sporting events.

The PTFA even purchased named sweatshirts for Mrs Bishop & Mr Djemal & they would like to express their thanks.

We all think the new kits are amazing – thank you so much!

Library Area

Thank you to Edith, Catalina, Lucas & Nancy from Badgers class for working so hard in updating our new Library Area.

They have been busy updating the book shelves with new green shelves, sorting books & having lots of fun filling up our new bean bags – well done!

A special thank you to our PTFA for funding the bean bags.

MacMillan Cancer Support

Friday 22nd November 2024 from 2.30pm

This year Christchurch Church of England Primary will be fundraising for MacMillian Cancer Support by holding a MacMillan Cake Sale from:

2.30pm to 3.30pm on Friday 22nd November 2024.

If you can donate cakes towards this event, please send into school with your child/ren on the morning of 22nd November 2024.

Please remember we are a nut free school so cakes should not contain nuts or nut products – thank you.

Parents/carers are welcome to join us from 2.30pm (admittance via the School Office) for coffee/tea & cake. From 3pm you will be able to collect your child/ren from their classes to join you.

Parents/carers arriving from 3pm (admittance via the school gate) can collect their child/ren from their classes.

All children are free to leave with you once you have enjoyed a yummy cake!

Please note that from 3pm only soft drinks will be available.

All cakes / coffee & tea / soft drinks will be available for a donation towards MacMillian Cancer Support

Please feel free to give whatever you are able, all donations, however small, will be gratefully received.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our school & thank you for all your generous support.

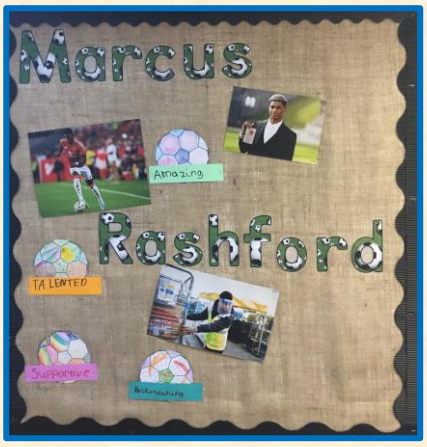
All our classes have selected a Courageous Ambassador & have produced some lovely displays all about them!

Red Squirrels – David Attenborough

Hedgehogs – Greta Thurnberg

Foxes – Nelson Mandela

Otters – Marcus Rashford



Badgers – Mary Hare

Book Swap

We have a rack of books in the school office foyer for our parents/carers to take a book to read and, if able, to replace with a book you have already read and no longer have need of.

Happy reading!

Newspaper Donations

As you can imagine art can be very messy (especially in Red Squirrels class) & we use lots of old newspapers to protect the tables.

If any of our parents/carers or their families currently purchase a daily or weekend newspaper we would be most grateful if, when you have finished with them, you could pass them onto us!

Please send into school with your child/ren or hand in at the school office.

Thank you in advance for any donations!

Helping Hands Box

We are delighted that so many of our parents/carers are using our Helping Hands Box which is located in the school office foyer.

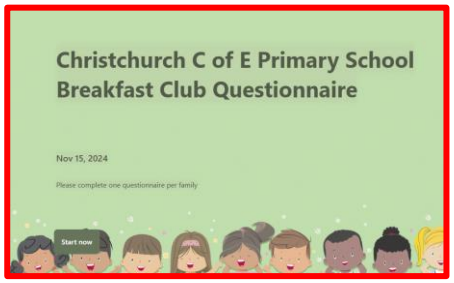
If you have any items in your cupboards which are in-date & you are able to spare then we would be very grateful for any top ups – please just add them to the box.

We all need to look out for each other & we really appreciate any contributions received.

Thank you to all those who have topped up our box your continued support is very appreciated.

Children in Need 2024

Thank you for your support!



Breakfast Club Survey

We would like to review our provision for breakfast club. Please could you complete the online form:

https://forms.office.com/

The form only needs to be completed once per family, to indicate if you could make use of wraparound care.

The closing date for the survey is **Friday 22nd November 2024.**

Primary School (Reception) Admission Round for September 2025

As you may be aware, the Primary School (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 4th November 2024, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year starting in September 2025.

The statutory national closing date for applications is:

15th January 2025

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2025-26 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

FOOTBALLS FROM HOME

Due to the weather we are currently not always able to use the field during break & lunchtimes.

Whilst the children are using the playground play equipment is provided for their use but we refrain from using footballs/baskets balls etc to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

In order to not disappoint any children can we please, therefore, ask that **no balls or other sports equipment are brought into school** as the children will be unable to use them.

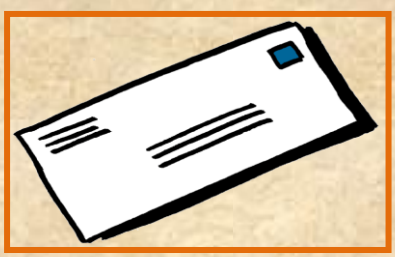
Thank you for your support in ensuring all our children remain safe.

Music Lessons

Our Music Teacher, Mr Pritchard, will be in school on Tuesdays to offer our children the opportunity to have lessons in Piano or Guitar.

If your child/ren are interested in learning one or both of these instruments then please contact Mr Pritchard directly via telephone/text on 07442170541.

The price is £7.50 per 15 mins or £75 for 10 weeks.



Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 15th November 2024

The following letters have been sent out and/or put on the school website (under Key Information/ Information Hub/ Letters Home).

- LETTER TO ALL PARENTS: Parents' Evening – alternative childcare arrangements (dated 11/11/24)

Head of School Stickers

This week Mrs Hall has given Headteacher Stickers to the following children:

Elissa – Badgers for attending the Remembrance Service at Christ Church & for reading a poem during the school's Remembrance Assembly

Louie – Foxes for working so hard in his Literacy lesson & producing brilliant work

Esme – Red Squirrels for writing a whole sentence independently – amazing!

Rowan – Foxes for extending his writing during a Guided Reading lesson – fantastic!

Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Hall

The following children have been on the gold star and randomly chosen to have Hot Chocolate with Mrs Hall.

Tommy – Red Squirrels

Leila – Hedgehogs

Bonnie-Lee – Foxes

James – Otters

Miicah – Badgers

Congratulations to you all!

CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christchurch C of E Primary School
The Street, Latchingdon
Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6JS
Telephone 01621 740328

Part of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

Tours for Prospective Parents

We are a small, friendly church school. We are very proud of our children and their achievements and we would be pleased to show you around our school at one of our open mornings.

Friday 8th November 2024 – 9am to 11.30am

Thursday 21st November 2024 – 9am to 11.30am

By appointment only – please call our School Office on 01621 740328 for an appointment.

Firm Foundations; Rooted in Love.

- At Christchurch C of E Primary we value positive relationships and caring attitudes between all in our school community.
- We aim to provide a stimulating environment, in which high standards of achievement are fostered and where all pupils are challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential
- Our school is driven by our Christian values of friendship, love, respect, hope and perseverance; which guide all our plans and actions.
- We are passionate about promoting and safeguarding the welfare of our children and are committed to providing a happy, safe and welcoming atmosphere, in which children can learn and develop. Our core values are Safe, Ready, Respect.

Applications for Primary (Reception) school place starting September 2025 can be made between 4th November 2024 and 15th January 2025.

Please visit https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place for full details.

Attendance – w/e 15/11/24

The winning class for the week ending **15th November 2024** is Otters class.

Year	Attendance %
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	94.22%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	90.74%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	98.61%
3 / 4 (Otters)	99.38%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	91.32%

Each Friday we hold a raffle for all pupils in school, on time all week. This week the raffle was drawn and the winning pupil was Jaxon from Otters class.

If your child is not in school, please remember to phone each morning before 9 am and leave a message **for safe guarding reasons we must have a reason.**

If you receive a in-app message, please contact the school to explain the absence. If we do not hear from you telephone calls will be made and if we are unable to contact you then a home visit may be appropriate.

If you child arrives late then please could an adult accompany them into the office to sign them in. Anyone arriving after the registers close (after half an hour) will be classed as an unauthorised absence unless we are aware of the reason in advance.

At Christchurch, we recognise that positive behaviour and good attendance are essential for pupils to get the most of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education and where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly, on time.

Thank you for working with us to ensure your child/ren at Christchurch have good attendance.

Stars of the Week – w/e 15/11/24

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Layla-Grace & Pippa
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Teddy-Thomas & Hope
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Alba-Rose & Bonnie-Lee
3 / 4 (Otters)	Archie-John & Lola
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Judith & Reuben

Good Manners – w/e 15/11/24

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Oliver & James
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Amelia P & Sidney
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Lexi & Penelope
3 / 4 (Otters)	Sonny & Lola
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Elissa & James

Lunch Time Stars – w/e 15/11/24

Leila – Hedgehogs
Lucas - Badgers

Reading Challenge – w/e 15/11/24

Year	% children reading at home regularly
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	50%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	57%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	69%
3 / 4 (Otters)	56%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	59%

Each week the Friday Assembly is led by members of Badgers Class. This week's leader was Elissa.

Well done to you all!

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN VEGETERIAN OPTION

Christmas Dinner
Friday 13th December 2024

Roast Chicken or
Butternut Squash whirl
Roast Potatoes,
Stuffing,
Pigs in blankets,
Yorkshire, Seasonal Veg

Free for KS1 children and Free School Meals

KS2 £2.50

ALL meals must be booked in advance on Arbor

by **Friday 29th November 2024**

Please see our website for full details of Dates to remember. Details of any events will be sent out nearer the time.

Please note that all events are for the children/staff only unless specified.

Academic Year 2024-2025

November 2024

21st Nov 24 – 9am to 11.30am – Tours Reception September 2025 intake – Flyer in Newsletter
22nd Nov 24 – 2.30pm – MacMillan Coffee Morning – Flyer in Newsletter

December 2024

6th Dec 24 – 3.15pm to 5pm – PTFA Xmas Bazaar – Details to follow
10th Dec 24 – 2pm – Christmas Nativity – Details to follow
11th Dec 24 – 9am – Christmas Nativity – Details to follow
13th Dec 24 – Christmas Jumper Day – Details to follow
13th Dec 24 – Christmas Dinner – Flyer issued 5/11/24 refers – please book by 29/11/24
17th Dec 24 – 9.30am – Christmas Service at Christ Church
23rd Dec 24 to 3rd Jan 25 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

January 2025

6th Jan 25 – First day Spring Term
22nd Jan 25 – Reception & Year 6 – Height & Weight
28th Jan 24 – 3.10pm to 4pm – Dengie Cross Country at Christchurch – Details to follow

February 2025

17th Feb to 21st Feb 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

March 2025

April 2025

7th April to 21st April 25 – EASTER HOLIDAY

22nd April 25 – First day Summer Term

May 2025

5th May 25 – BANK HOLIDAY
26th May to 30th May 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

June 2025

2nd June 25 – NON-PUPIL DAY

July 2025

21st & 22nd July 25 – NON-PUPIL DAYS
23rd July 25 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

UK Health Security Agency

Essex County Council

12 November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Measles in Essex

Measles is circulating in Essex. Most cases of measles have been in school children and preschool children not protected by a full course of the MMR vaccine.

Measles is very infectious and spreads easily amongst people who are unvaccinated. It can be a very serious illness and can sometimes lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases, can cause death.

If you or your child have symptoms of measles, seek medical attention. Be sure to phone ahead before you visit your GP surgery or other healthcare setting. This allows arrangements to be made to prevent others from being infected. Do not send a child with these symptoms to school unless they have been medically assessed and told they can go to school.

Measles signs and symptoms

- cold-like symptoms (runny nose, sneezing or coughing)
- sore, red eyes
- a high temperature (fever)
- A few days later, a red-brown blotchy rash will appear. This usually starts on the head or upper neck, before spreading outwards to the rest of the body.

Protection against measles

The best way to protect yourself, family, and friends, is the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination. MMR is a highly effective and safe vaccine and protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Anyone who has missed a dose of MMR should contact their GP surgery to get vaccinated. 2 doses of the MMR vaccine gives long-term protection.

If you are not sure if your child has missed an MMR dose (or any other vaccination) you can contact the Essex Children's Immunisation and Vaccination team on 0300 790 0597. You can also ring this number to have your child vaccinated in a community vaccination clinic.

UK Health Security Agency

Vaccination clinics:

All clinics listed below are from 10am – 3pm.

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Sydney House Clacton

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Timberlog Youth Centre, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Maple Lodge, CM16 6TN (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Livewell Hub Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich, CO12 4EX

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Crouch Vale Medical Centre, CM3 5QP

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital RM16 2PX

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at The Lodge, Wickford, SS11 7XX

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Timberlog YC, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Orchard Day room, CM16 6TN (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Hermit YC, CM15 8AG

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Livewell Hub, Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Clough Road, Colchester, CO4 9QS

Parents should Call 0300 790 0597 to book MMR appointments.

For further information about measles, please visit
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/

Information about the MMR vaccine can be found here:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

Kind regards,

Dr Smita Kapadia, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control,
UK Health Security Agency

Dr Danny Showell, Consultant in Public Health,
Essex County Council

Essex Fire Museum November

Free entry, but booking is essential as we are on an active fire station site.
Contact us to book: museum@essex-fire.gov.uk or 01376 576847.

Open Day

10.30am to 4.00pm
(Last entry: 2.30pm)

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM

Date: 24th Of November

Essex Fire Museum Christmas Open Day
(With our Santa's Grotto)

Free entry, but booking is essential as we are on an active fire station site.
Contact us to book: museum@essex-fire.gov.uk or 01376 576847.

10.30am to 4.00pm
(Last entry: 2.30pm)

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM

Date: 15th Of December

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

10 HAVE FUN!

Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.

we are cycling UK

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/teaching-cycle-safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.11.2024