NEWSLETTER

5th December 2025

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

Christmas has arrived at Christchurch C of E Primary school!

We now only have 2 more weeks before the Christmas Holidays but still lots to look forward to!

Among the activities that have taken place this week:

On Monday 1st December 2025 Mrs Brew from our PTFA came into school to make Christmas Card with the children.

We would like to thank her for her time – all the children really enjoyed taking part in this activity & we know you will all have loved the cards they made!

On Tuesday 2nd December 2025 the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) Team were in school to undertake the height & weight check for our Year 6 children & height, weight & vision check for our EYFS children.

Well done to all the children for being so well behaved.

Today we were all very excited to watch the pantomime Red Riding Hood performed by Chaplins Pantos 4 Kids.

All the children (& adults) had an amazing time!

Oh no you didn't!
Oh yes we did!

We would like to thank the PTFA for arranging this wonderful event for us all to enjoy as well as supplying crisps as a treat after the performance!

Next Monday 8th December 2025 some of our children are attending an iSingPop Christmas Concert at the Central Baptist Church in Chelmsford.

They will be joining other children from across the Vine Schools. We are sure they will all have a fabulous time!

Our Christmas performances this year are due to be performed on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 9am & 2pm.

All the tickets that have been requested have been sent home with the children this week. Please remember to bring the tickets with you to the performance!

Please, also, note that due to these performances there will be no Forest School next week. Therefore, the children who normally take part in Forest School should come to school wearing their normal School Uniform.

Our Christmas Service will be held this year at Christ Church on Wednesday 10th December 2025. We would like to invite our parents/carers to this service as follows:

EYFS/KS1 – 9.15am start
KS2 – 10.15am start

We look forward to as many parents/carers as possible joining us at Christ Church for one of these services.

Next Wednesday 10th December 2025 is the last swimming lesson at Blackwater Leisure Centre for our Year 3 & Year 5 children!

Christmas Post Box

On Monday 1st December 2025 the Christchurch CofE Primary School's Christmas Post Box opened for business!

Last postal date is Thursday 18th December 2025!

From next week our "Christmas Delivery Elves" (Badgers class) will be making daily deliveries to every class.

If your child/ren are sending cards to their friends, to assist our "Elves" in sorting the mail, please can you ensure that the envelopes are **clearly addressed including name & class.**

Thank you for your assistance!

PE DAYS – Autumn Term 2 2025

Please can children **come into school wearing their PE kits on the following days:**

EYFS – Monday & Thursday

Year 1 – Thursday

Year 2 – Thursday

Year 3 – Thursday

Year 4 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5 – Thursday

Year 6 – Thursday

Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in their PE lessons, they should come to school wearing their normal School Uniform and bring a letter explaining why they are not participating. Please note all long hair **must** be tied back during PE lessons.

Forest School – Autumn Term 2 2025

From Tuesday 4th November 2025 to Tuesday 16th December 2025 (6 sessions) the children in Years 1, 2 & 6 will be taking part in Forest School on the school grounds.

Please note there will be no Forest School on Tuesday 9th December 2025 due to the EYFS/KS1 Nativity & KS2 Carols.

Please could all children in Years 1 & 2 come to school every Tuesday wearing clothes/shoes suitable for taking part in Forest School.

Please can the children wear clothing you do not mind getting muddy & that they are wearing long sleeves & long trousers to allow them to fully take part in all the activities.

Please can the children in Year 6 come to school every Tuesday wearing their School Uniform with a bag containing suitable clothing/shoes to change into for Forest School.

Please note that the children in Year 4 will be taking part in Forest School in the New Year.

Head of School Stickers

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

Harrison – Badgers for helping Mrs Fuller put up the stage

Reuben – Badgers for helping Mrs Fuller put up the stage

Lost Property

We will be keeping any items which we are unable to return to the children in a **Lost Property Basket** which is **located in the School Office Foyer.**

If your child/ren have lost any items then please have a look through the basket to see if you are able to locate.

Please remember to name items to assist with returning them to the children – thank you!

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.

Primary School (Reception) Admission Round for September 2026

As you may be aware, the Primary School (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 10th November 2025, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year starting in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is:

15th January 2026

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 2026-27 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

The J9 Initiative

All of our teaching staff have attended J9 training sessions & therefore Christchurch C of E Primary School can help anyone suffering domestic abuse to obtain information to access a safe place where they can seek information and the use of a telephone.

If anyone needs to access this help then please come to the school office stating J9 and assistance will be provided.

Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 5th December 2025

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

- CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE TICKETS (issued to those who requested 3/12/25)
- LETTER TO ALL PARENTS: Christmas Service at Christ Church – 2025 – 10/12/25 (emailed 5/12/25)

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

School Council

This week the Pupil Parliament School Council members have put up the Christmas Tree in the School Hall.

They had a great time & we think they did an amazing job – well done!

Red Riding Hood Pantomime

Reading Raffle

Reading is an important life skill. We want to reward and encourage children to read at home. Therefore, we have launched our Reading Raffle!

For your child to be entered into the Reading Raffle each week, your child needs to read **at least 4 out of 7 times a week**.

They need to have their **Reading Diaries signed and shown to their class teacher on a Friday morning**.

The raffle will run from Friday to Thursday each week

If your child has read **at least 4 out of 7 times**, then their name will be entered into the raffle.

A name will be picked at random from each class. The winner of each class will win a book! This raffle will be every week and we hope to see all children entering every week!

Congratulations to this week's winners – we hope you enjoy reading your new books!

Sophie – Red Squirrels

Connie-Viyana - Hedgehogs

Miley - Foxes

Rosie – Badgers

Attendance – w/e 5/12/25

The winning class for the week ending **5th December 25** is Badgers class.

Year	Attendance %
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	89.76%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	94.87%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	92.83%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	94.88%

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 Tacey from Foxes 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 text 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.

Safeguarding requires the school to know why a child is not in school. Every child legally must attend school and parents/carers have a duty to notify the school.

Each week the Friday Assembly is led by members of Badgers Class. This week's leaders were Harrison, Riley, Molly & Poppy.

Well done to you all!

Stars of the Week – w/e 5/12/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Mia & Amily
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Samuel & Brooklyn
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Daisy L & Thomas-James
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Humza & Dylan

Good Manners – w/e 5/12/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Tate & Mia
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Hope & Evie-Leigh
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Louie & Charlie
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Esme & Reggie

Lunch Time Stars – w/e 5/12/25

Elouise – Badgers

Tacey - Foxes

Reading Challenge – w/e 5/12/25

Year Group	% of class who have read
R	36%
Year 1	62%
Year 2	44%
Year 3	36%
Year 4	58%
Year 5	80%
Year 6	76%

Hot Chocolate Winners–w/e 5/12/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Jaydon
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Thea
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Amelia
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Emily

Mrs Bishop will be taking the Hot Chocolate winners on a Monday & their picture will be in the following week's Newsletter.

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 2025-2026

December 2025

5th Nov 25 to 10th Dec 25 – Year 3 & 5 Swimming Lessons at Blackwater Swimming Pool- ltr emailed 16/10/25 refers
8th Dec 25 – 11.15am to 4pm – iSingPOP Christmas Concert at Central Baptist Church – letter emailed 6/11/25 refers
8th Dec 25 – 1.45pm – Full Dress Rehearsal - EYFS/KS1 Nativity & KS2 Carols
9th Dec 25 – 9am to 10am – EYFS/KS1 Nativity & KS2 Carols – letter emailed 24/11/25 refers
9th Dec 25 – 2pm to 3pm – EYFS/KS1 Nativity & KS2 Carols – letter emailed 24/11/25 refers
10th Dec 25 – 9.15am to 9.50am – EYFS & KS1 – Christmas Service at Christ Church – letter emailed 5/12/25 refers
10th Dec 25 – 10.15am to 10.50am – KS2 – Christmas Service at Christ Church – letter emailed 5/12/25 refers
13th Dec 25 – 10am to 3pm – PTFA Christmas Fair at Latchingdon Village Hall
17th Dec 25 – Christmas Jumper Day – Children invited to wear their Christmas jumpers
17th Dec 25 – 12.30pm to 1.20pm – Christmas Dinner – Flyer refers
22nd Dec 25 to 2nd Jan 26 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

January 2026

5th Jan 26 – First Day Spring Term

February 2026

13th Feb 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
16th to 20th Feb 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

March 2026

5th March 26 – World Book Day – details to follow
30th March to 10th April 26 – EASTER HOLIDAY

April 2026

13th April 26 – First Day of Summer Term

May 2026

4th May 26 – BANK HOLIDAY
25th May to 29th May 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

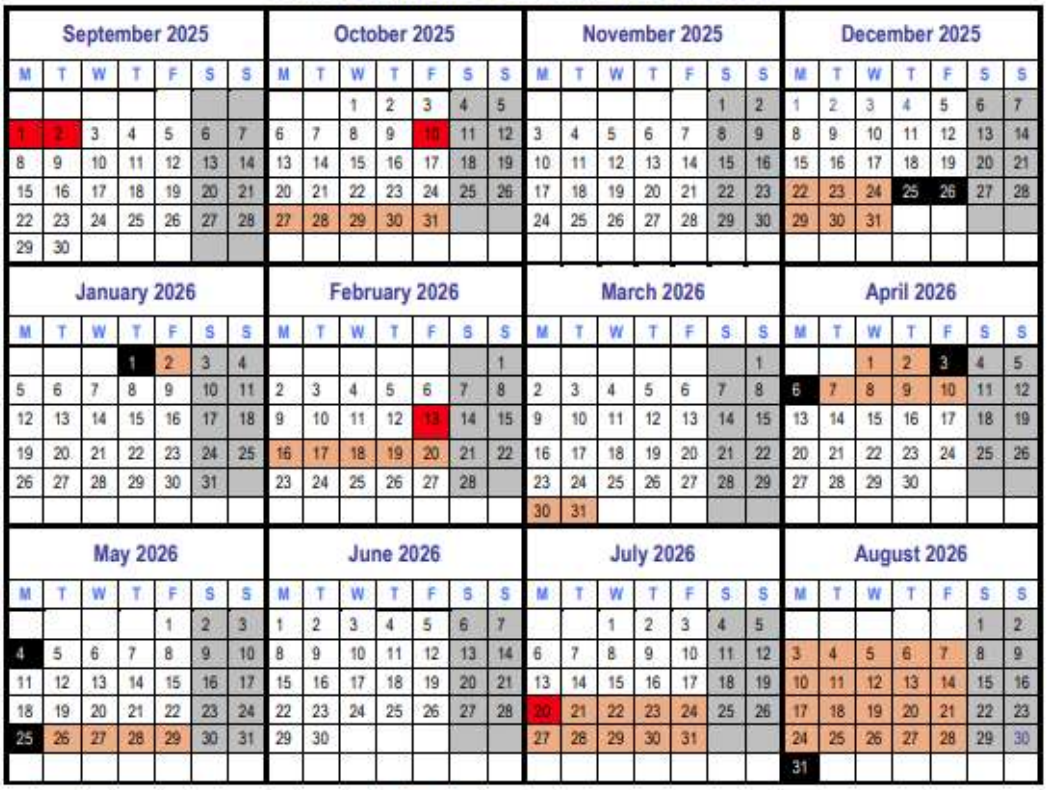
July 2026

20th July 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
21ST July 26 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

PLEASE NOTE BELOW CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Christchurch C of E Primary School

School Term Dates - Academic Year 2025-2026



= Schooldays = School holidays = Bank holidays

= Weekends = Non-pupil days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 *Half Term 27 October – 31 October*	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 *Half Term 16 February - 20 February*	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 *Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May*	65 days
		195 days

Please note:
The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

PTFA

The PTFA Members are:

Chairperson: Mrs S Brew

Treasurer: Mr A Brew

Secretary: Ms R Smith

Staff Members: Mrs L Hall & Mrs D Bishop

PTFA

Today the PTFA had the pleasure of visiting school and making Christmas cards with all the children 🎄✂️✨
The children were all so polite and well-behaved — we had so much fun! 😂We can't wait for the next time ❤️
We hope you all love your Christmas cards 💌

Sports & Play Camps Winter Holidays 2025/26

www.lsccoaching.com/book-online

£25 per day

PAID & FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE NOW

Reserve your Space Today!

Monday 22nd December 2025
Friday 2nd January 2026

Maldon
Maldon Primary School

Heybridge
Heybridge Primary School

Maylandsea
Mayland Primary School

4–12 years

ADDING TO THE FUN:

Big Winter Family Party
Maldon Primary School
Mayland Primary School
19 / 12 / 25
3:30–6:30pm

LSC Hamper Day
Maldon Promenade Park
Mayland Primary School
23 / 12 / 25
10:00–12:00pm

Essex ACTIVate
lsccoaching.com
Essex County Council
RED sports + play camp
Little Sportsters COACHING

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.
When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...
MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS
WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...
1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY
Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!
2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?
We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.
3 DECK THE HALLS
There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.
4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW
From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!
5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES
Between time-constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.
6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92
If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too: get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.
7 A WINTER'S TALE
Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' A Christmas Carol and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.
8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES
People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.
Thank you
9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'
Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: Home Alone and The Santa Clause are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has Elf and The Grinch, and Netflix goes with The Princess Switch and The Christmas Chronicles.
10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?
Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.
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National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday
www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety
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