



26th November 2021

Christ the King News

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we are seeing an increased level of both staff and pupil absence due to a range of issues, including COVID-19. The control measures that we have put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are now maintaining cases at a consistent but low level. We thank everyone for co-operating – especially wearing face covering on school premises, encouraging good hygiene measures at home and not sending your child to school if they are symptomatic of Covid-19. We encourage all families to use lateral flow tests on a regular basis to identify non-symptomatic cases or book PCR tests for anyone who develops symptoms.

Covid 19 Symptoms

If your child is symptomatic of Covid-19) or tests positive following a Lateral Flow Test or PCR test please email the school COVID line: covid@ctkcps.com and a member of the admin or senior team will contact you.

Staffing

- We say farewell to Mrs Rogers, our **kitchen assistant** in December. Mrs Rogers has worked at Christ the King School as a dedicated member of our midday team since 2016. Mrs Crowhurst has been appointed to replace Mrs Rogers. We look to recruit a further two **midday supervisors** for January 2022. Applications are available from the school office.
- Miss O'Sullivan has been appointed as **Assistant Headteacher** from January 2022 and will support the senior leadership team along with Mrs Lord and Mr Smith.
- Mrs Shutler (**Year R teacher**) returns from her maternity leave in January 2022. Mrs Shutler will teach Thursday and Friday in Year RGS, Mrs Riggs will continue to lead the learning within our pre-school each morning.

Christmas Nativities and Carols

Due to increased Covid-19 cases and staff absences across the school this month we have taken the decision to record our nativity and carol celebrations and deliver the festive events virtually. We apologise for any disappointment, but guarantee the children will be as proud as punch when you watch their classes perform.

Reporting Absences

Please phone the school office before 9am to report your child as absent.

School Start Times

Please note the school start times below – some children are persistently late

EYFS: 8.45am

KS1: 8.40am

KS2: 8.30am

Home Time Routine

Please wait until all children have been collected to have a dialogue with the class teacher or TA on the door as they need to give their full attention to dismissing children safely and swiftly. If you cannot wait, then please send the teacher a message on DoJo or email them. Any changes to pick up routine must be made in writing / email please or, in an emergency, a phone call to the school office.

Bags and Book Bags

KS1 pupils should all have a book bag – no ruck sacs in KS1 please as there is not enough room on pegs!

Colder Weather

Please ensure your children layer up this winter - this means they need to wear an under vest and an extra fleece on top of their uniform. Class rooms need to be well ventilated to reduce the spread of Covid-19 – wearing extra layers ensures the children remain comfortable. Their outdoor coat will only be used for outdoor use so that they feel the benefit.

Celebration of Learning





We love the pop up toys made by Year 1 pupils and the clay poppies crafted so carefully by Year 2 pupils. Year 2 also made crowns in celebration of the Feast of Christ the King and enjoyed dressing up for their Great Fire of London drama day. All pupils enjoyed dressing up for our Children in Need Pyjama day – thank you for all the contributions.

We thank Year 1 for their toy donations for their SEE, JUDGE, ACT for our Toy topic. Year 1 learnt that not everyone is lucky enough to have toys so they chose to act upon this and to donate some of their unwanted toys to a charity to raise money. We will be taking their donated toys and books to the charity shop this weekend. A pic of some of the toys is below... 😊



Pupil Premium Funding

If you are in receipt of income support, please could you confidentially speak with the school admin team who will assist you in an application for Free School Meals. Although children in EYFS and KS1 already receive free hot lunches, we still desperately need parents to fill in these applications. Once registered for Free School meals we can then access additional support for your child, funding to support learning, uniform, trip and extracurricular subsidy. Please apply if you are eligible.

Applying for a place at Christ the King School

BCP still manage our admissions, however we still urge families to complete our school application forms which are available from our office or online. This year our new parents' presentation for Reception 2022 will be held in October and will be recorded and posted on our website. To find out more about our school and ethos please follow the link below and share with family and friends: <https://youtu.be/33ZmKW4ipS4>

Wellbeing Wonders

Here's five fabulous ideas that you could try with your child/ren over the next few weeks (and beyond!) to create a sense of wellbeing for you and your family.

1. Go on a 'senses walk'. Head to a familiar place (or somewhere completely new) and think of all of the things that you can see, hear, smell and feel.
2. Take some photos of people and things that are important to you. Could you display these in different ways?
3. Try using your non-dominant hand to do some everyday tasks, e.g. brushing your teeth, drawing or writing. How does this feel?
4. Find some old toys or other items that could be donated to a charity. How could your donation help others?
5. Plan a routine that might help you to relax before bedtime. How does this compare with others' routines?

If your child is struggling with their mental health, especially with the longer days and the colder weather, click on the link to hear about 5 mental health tips for the Winter. Watching the video/reading the information will help generate some useful talking points about how the change in seasons affects us all and what we can do to feel better:

<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/coronavirus/5-mental-health-tips-for-kids-this-winter/>

The Wellbeing Team

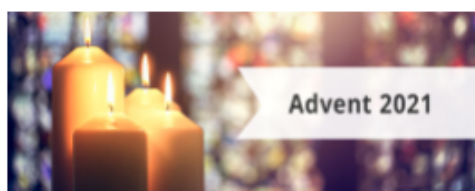
Prayer Space

The children enjoyed taking part in our Prayer Space activities this week. The children have completed some lovely prayers in response the music and Gospel readings. What a wonderful way for our children to get ready for Advent and prepare the way for our Lord.



Advent

"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make
straight paths for him. Every valley
shall be filled in, every mountain and
hill made low. The crooked roads shall
become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" (Luke 3:4-6)



During this special season of the year, all of us at Christ the King, need to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make our crooked ways straight and smooth out the rough places so that we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Therefore, we are very excited to celebrate Prayer Space week. Activities like: **Wonderful world, Just a book** or **The gifts** are going to help us to see how great is our God, who created our world and loves us so much that make us responsible for it. We will give thanks to our God for everything we have and pray for the most needed people in the world. We considerate our own gifts committing ourselves to shine and share those gifts as candles for others.

Let's pray together: Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Novena

The year from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021 was proclaimed by Pope Francis, as the Year of St Joseph, recognising the special virtues of St Joseph that make him an inspirational Saint relevant today. It also marks the 150th anniversary of blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as the Patron of the Church. In celebration of the Year of St Joseph, we invite families to join in a **novena*** reflection. This reflection is designed to be used across 9 days (or 9 sessions), to be concluded on the 8th December 2021, which is also the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

**A novena is nine days of prayer usually asking God for a specific intention or cause. Novenas are a tradition dating back to the Early Church, when Jesus' disciples spent nine days in prayer after Jesus' ascension into heaven. At the end of the nine days, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, giving the disciples strength and courage to continue His work.*

Follow this link:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/end-of-year-of-st-joseph

Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- The fine weather this week and the opportunities to learn outdoors.
- Pyjama day – the children enjoyed raising money for children in need.
- Netball club and the time volunteered by Miss Roberts and Mrs Banner.
- The prayers and support of our parish and local churches.

We pray for:

- Staff members who are absent with ill health, that they recover and re-join us soon.
- During this month of remembrance, we pray for the souls of all our loved ones who have departed this life.
- Continued health and protection for all in our community from Coronavirus.
- Our governing body, for the continued health and dedication of our volunteers.
- Our local clergy, especially Fr Chacko and those leading our local churches.

And finally, I look forward to seeing you next week. Have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

faith
hope
love

