

17th December 2021

Christ the King News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all members of our community, pupils, their families and our dedicated staff for working tirelessly this term to keep children learning in school. The tenacity of the staff and the pupils has astounded me, and despite the challenges of absent staff, we have managed to keep the school open and functioning safely. Providing continuity and a safe, happy learning environment has been our top priority.

The situation regarding COVID-19 continues to cause concern nationally with the high transmission rates of the OMICRON variant. Please limit your mixing over the break and do a lateral flow test before meeting up with family and friends.

COVID – Return to School in January 2022

We encourage anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster yet to get their vaccines done as soon as possible. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children in education – hopefully avoiding any future lockdowns.

On return to school in January our current Covid control measures will continue for at least the first week back in January. All pupils start back at school on **Tuesday 4th January 2022** - we expect the routines and day timings to remain unaltered – current COVID-19 control measures have been updated following the Governments Plan B announcement and our most recent C19 Risk Assessment is posted on our website on our C19 Page. In the event of any changes due to Government restrictions, we will email parents and post updates on our website.

As an extra pre-caution, we ask families to test children both the day before and also the morning before coming back into school. This way we can prevent any spiking of covid cases in the first two weeks back of the new term. We have several staff still unwell following positive covid infections earlier this term and do not want to risk another term with high absence levels. Your support is necessary!

Spring Term Dates

Term starts on Tuesday 4th January 2022 – class times will remain the same as Autumn 2021.
Half Term: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2022
Last day of Term: Friday 8th April 2022

Farewell to Mrs Perry

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Perry, our deputy head teacher, who takes up her headship in Poole in January. We celebrated Mrs Perry's time at Christ the King with an assembly; Year 5 pupils joined in and other year groups joined virtually. Mrs Perry was showered with love and gifts and the children even sang to her! Mrs Perry was appointed as Maths Leader and Year 4 teacher 8 years ago, she then was promoted to assistant head and SENCo, then deputy headteacher. Mrs Perry will greatly miss the pupils and her colleagues at Christ the King. We wish her every success next term!

Staffing Changes –January 2022

We welcome Mrs Mellon and Mrs Yusef who join Mr Smith in the Year 5 team next term. Both Mrs Mellon and Mrs Yusef taught at Christ the King during 2019-2020 and are known by the staff and many pupils.

Christmas Nativities and Carols

A huge well done to the children and staff who worked incredibly hard to create magical nativities and carols this year. Despite all the absence and Covid restrictions they did a fantastic job. You may enjoy these services by clicking on the links below:

- <https://youtu.be/1jjcGAeMdtU> Pre-School & Reception Nativity – 4 parts
- <https://youtu.be/AyO7jvqQmKc>
- <https://youtu.be/6m2dPdCJhqQ>
- <https://youtu.be/BgHaAWOHCpk>

- <https://youtu.be/gfplxiUJ-AA> Years 1 & 2 Nativity

- <https://youtu.be/DbOQBPSOG0c> Lower KS2 Carol Service

- <https://youtu.be/BcXKkiyLP8o> Upper KS 2 Carol Service

Safeguarding

Following the tragic news of young Arthur and the abuse that the young child suffered, it is timely to remind parents of our commitment to safeguarding all of the children at Christ the King School. We believe that every child is special and should be treated with love and dignity. From January 2022 our Designated Safeguarding Lead team are:

- Mrs Lord – DSL
- Mrs Hodge – and Mrs Tickel – Deputy DSLs

COVID-19 Update from BCP

BCP and Dorset schools have had a tough term. The bulk of rising cases have been in school age pupils and the staff who work with them and we have seen 2 distinct and difficult phases. In half term one we saw high case rates in pupils at about 100 per week across schools all PCR confirmed. This was challenging for pupils and families and there were outbreaks that needed managing down and even a few cases of year group closures to create a firewall to protect others.

However, most schools managed with onsite isolation of outbreaks and the relatively few staff cases were manageable with support staff or cover. Since October half term, we have seen as many cases per day as we have had in a week. Although case rates remain high in pupils of most year groups, the educational workforce has suffered from Covid, Covid isolations and other illnesses which has left many schools stretched. Schools have seen 15-20% staff absence-some have seen far higher rates.

We know that some of you will have been very disappointed that we have needed to have postpone trips or have virtual nativities, but schools do not take these decisions lightly. These measures have always been taken in consultation and support from the BCP team dealing with Covid and Public Health Dorset. They are also made in light of extra guidance for BCP and Dorset only in England, where we can take more enhanced measures until the end of this term at least.

Despite the excellent work of parents, pupils and staff, cases continue to rise in schools and latterly in the community. Whilst we cannot go into specific details, as well as cases in pupils, we have also seen both Covid and other illnesses taking their toll on staffing. Staff absence in BCP and Dorset is 4 times the national average. There is much that you can do to support us over Christmas and the New Year.

What you can do:

- Keep testing habits going in families over the holidays and awareness of hand washing etc. after shopping trips
- Be vigilant for symptoms and do not send children in after the holidays with any Covid, fever or headachy symptoms
- Seek PCR tests for family well-being if you get symptoms or are asked to do so
- Encourage adherence to changing guidelines
- Follow guidance from track and trace who are following up on Omicron and/or guidance on Day 2 testing and test for return if you are holidaying abroad-current guidance is you cannot return until negative tests are back
- Be aware that we often have to respond to cases and changes in policy very quickly

What we will try to do

- Prioritise keeping children in school for learning as much and as safely possible
 - Be aware of outbreaks and be transparent about when and why we need to change things
 - Discuss alternatives with PH and BCP when staff numbers are down or cases are rising
- We can assure you we explore all other avenues before we postpone an event or switch to remote learning. Please stay in touch about symptoms and we will access support for you at the start of term.

If you need to take time off in the holidays or in term times, there is support for families still available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme> with isolation periods.



BCP Event for parents and SEND staff: SEND Co-Production Charter **Date:** 13th January 2022, 10.00am - 12.00pm **Venue:** Slades Park Pavilion, Ensbury Park Road, Bournemouth, BH10 4HF (may have to be a virtual event depending on Covid restrictions)

Do you know what we mean by a SEND co-production charter? It's about developing a new way of working to gather and enhance families' experiences of SEND services across BCP. BCP Council and the Dorset CCG want to commit to co-production by developing a SEND Co-production Charter with BCP parents/carers, children and young people and all key partners from across education, health and social care. Please come along to the event to find out more and to give you and your family the opportunity to share experiences so we can ensure the Co-production Charter reflects the opinions of all BCP SEND families and to also meet many of the representatives from the various charities and support groups. Please note, similar co-production events with children and young people will be held separately.

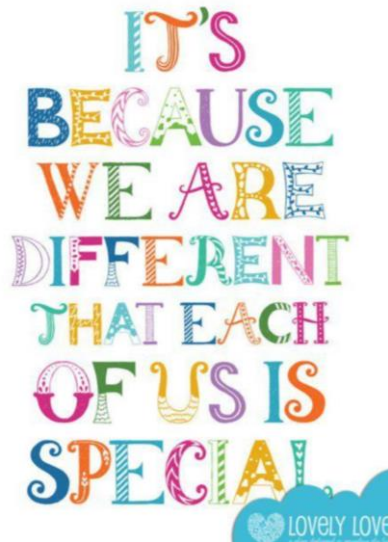
Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund is available to help residents in financial hardship across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole from January 2022. Vulnerable residents who are struggling to afford food and keep warm this winter are encouraged to access help through the council's Household Support Fund scheme. BCP Council has been awarded £2.6 million from government and is working with partner organisations to provide assistance to local people who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and who are in financial hardship.

The support includes:

- Discretionary grants and advice about energy costs from Citizens Advice BCP
- A food voucher scheme to help support vulnerable children and families with meals over the school holidays, provided through early years settings, schools and colleges
- Investment in community food providers across the BCP area to meet increased demand
- Funding for local voluntary and community organisations which are providing fuel and food assistance.

For more information visit: www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/householdsupport **We will update you on next steps in more detail next term.**



PTFA Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle and well done to all the lucky winners! The funds will support the children next half term, continuing to subsidise trips and playground improvements. Thank you to the PTFA who have funded a virtual pantomime for the children again this Christmas.

Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a mid-day supervisor, the post is for 38 weeks per year, working 5 hours per week over five days. Full details can be found on our website under 'About Us' and then 'Job Vacancies'

Applying for a place at Christ the King School

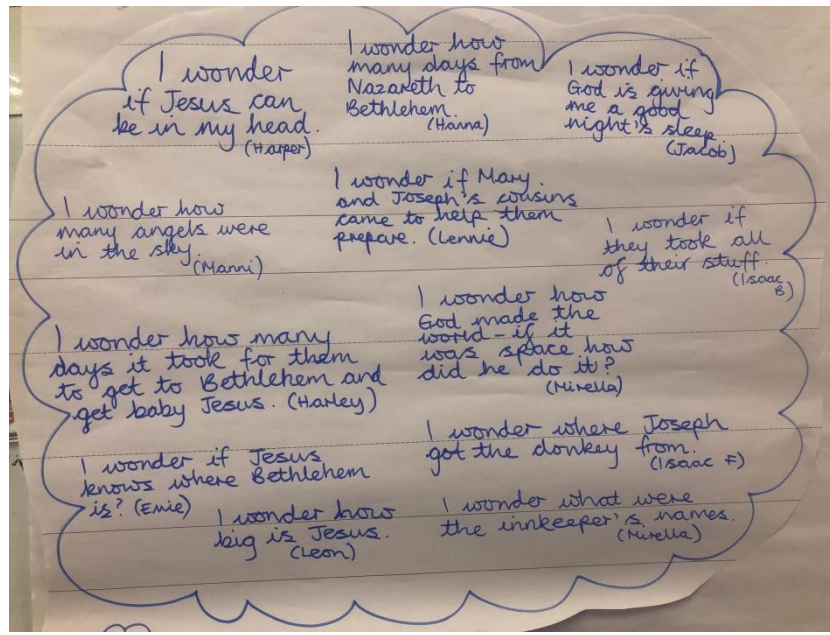
The deadline for applying for a place for reception Class 2022 is looming next month. Please contact BCP admissions to complete your online application or collect a paper application from our school office. Our new parents' presentation for Reception 2022 is posted on our admissions page on our website. To find out more about our school and ethos please follow the link and share with family and friends: <https://youtu.be/33ZmKW4ipS4>

Advent

A time to prepare for the birth of baby Jesus.

A time of hope.

A time to wonder...



Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- Mrs Perry and Mrs Rogers who leave our school this month. We pray that they both enjoy their new ventures and continue onwards with good health and love.
- The hard work and positive attitude of staff and pupils this term, enabling them to learn and progress in their learning and studies.
- The support of parents, governors and local clergy this term – your prayers are appreciated.

We pray for:

- A happy and healthy Christmas and New Year break and time with loved ones.
- Continued health and protection for all in our community from Coronavirus.
- Our local clergy, especially Fr Chacko and those leading our local churches this Christmas.

And finally, I look forward to seeing you after the Christmas break. May you all be blessed with peace, love and good health this season.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

faith
hope
love



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



the
sandwell
well-being
charter
mark

