



Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy

www.churchfield.staffs.sch.uk

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Executive Principal: Mr C. Dobson

Head of School: Mr G. Lloyd

Friday 5th September 2025

Next Week

Dates of future events are at the end of the letter

Monday	
Tuesday	Swimming starts for Year 4 and Year 5
Wednesday	Young Voices Choir - lunchtime with Miss Hall
Thursday	
Friday	Celebration Assembly for invited parents 3pm

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to everyone after the summer holidays! I would also like to offer a warm welcome to parents and carers of children who have started with us for the first time this week, in Hoglets and Hedgehogs (our Nursery classes), Caterpillars (our Reception class) and across other year groups as well.

Start of Year Reminders

There are always quite a few reminders to draw attention to at the start of the year. Hopefully the list below is comprehensive, but if you do have any questions, please feel free to ask or call.

Bikes and Scooters - all bikes and scooters should be stored in the bike shed at the back of the school. The buggy shelter outside Nursery is not for bikes and scooters.

Birthdays - to celebrate their birthdays, children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform for the day. If they are lucky enough to be celebrating at the weekend or during a holiday, then they can come in non-uniform the day before or day after.



No Debt Policy - We have a no debt policy in place at school. This means that paid for meals, breakfast club, after-school club and paid for nursery sessions need to be paid for in advance. Please keep Parent Pay accounts in credit. If you need further explanation or support with Parent Pay, please speak to Mrs. Leech in the office.



Parking - When parking to drop off and collect children, please do so with respect for our neighbours. We regularly get complaints from the new houses next door of parents parking there and blocking driveways etc. The car park at Lea Hall is available to use and is only a very short walk from school. Please also ensure that the entrance to the school car park is kept clear as this is in constant use.

PE Kits - On PE days, children should wear PE kit: white t-shirt, dark shorts or joggers and trainers. On colder days, children should wear their school jumpers. It is not a non-uniform day and there is no reason for children to wear hoodies, football tops etc.



Children who have pierced ears should only wear stud earrings to school. Earrings must be removed for all PE lessons, including swimming. Please ensure children are not wearing earrings on PE days, as they will not be able to take a full part in lessons if they are.

Reporting Absence - if your child is going to be absent from school, please call the office **before** the start of the school day on each subsequent day of absence.

Smoking, Vaping and Mobile Phones - Smoking and vaping are not allowed on the school site. We also ask that the use of mobile phones is limited to emergency use only.

Start and End of day - The gates open at 8:40am and all children should be in school by 8:55am at the latest. Any late arrivals should be signed in at the office by an adult and a reason given.

Any children in Year 5 and 6 who wish to walk home by themselves will need written permission from parents. We will not release children without this.

Celebration Assembly

Every Friday at 3pm we will be presenting a child from each class with a Learner of the Week Certificate. Parents of children receiving these certificates will be invited to join us on a Friday afternoon, by text on the Thursday evening. Awards will also given out for children achieving their Rainbow Reader badges, and the class who won the Words of the Week award will be announced. At the end of each month, instead of a Learner of the Week award, one child in each class will be presented with an award for living our school value of the month.

Words of the week

Every week each class will be learning new Words of the Week. Across Key Stage 1 and 2 words will relate to their History or Geography topic, Science and Maths. The class who we think has made best use of their Words of the Week will also receive a certificate in Friday's Celebration Assembly.

From next week, I will put a list of words each class has been learning on the letter so that parents can ask their children all about them and continue to encourage the children to broaden their vocabularies.

Class Dojo

All the classes now have their new Class Dojo pages up and running. If you have not connected yet, please do so as there will be lots of information posted on there for your class. **The messaging system is available, but please only use this if your question is not urgent. I also need to remind parents that there is no expectation of staff to respond to messages outside of working hours.** Dojo messages should **not** be used for reporting absence or booking after-school club sessions - these should be via a phone call to the office.



Learning at Churchfield

As often as possible we try to give you an idea of what is going on across the school by sharing



a few of the pictures that are added to Class Stories on Dojo. This week Butterflies go straight on to their

Maths learning with some brilliant number recognition. Caterpillars have met Sid the Snake as they got started with learning phonics. Dragonflies made their own personal time-capsules, which they'll look at again at the end of the year. Robins are looking at tooth-decay in science and have started an experiment to see what causes it.



It has been a super start to our new school year together and everyone here is looking forward to seeing what our brilliant children achieve this year!

If you have anything you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Faithfully

Mr G Lloyd
Head of School

Value of the Month: *Hope*

Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. Often, in the Psalms, the writer says to God: 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon. Hope is not always spontaneous or easy. There is work to be done. As well as trusting God, we have to develop qualities of steadfastness in our own character.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:5-8

Upcoming dates

Thursday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival at St Augustine's - 1:30pm start
Friday 10 th October	Hello Yellow Day in support of Young Minds
Wednesday 15 th October	Parent Meetings (we'll let you know when to book)
Wednesday 22 nd October	PE Enrichment Day and Reception Open Morning
Friday 24 th October	Break up for half-term
Monday 3 rd November	Children return to school

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College