



Cathedral Primary School

Newsletter



'Many Voices, One Harmony'

Newsletter No.1 - Term 1, 2023

A message from Mrs Yarnold & Mrs Gerolemou

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a brilliant start to the year we have had. It has been fantastic to welcome all of our new Reception parents and children into school. The children have settled well at our Brandon Hill site and are enjoying the easy access to outdoor play space. We are super impressed with how they have learned our school routines. Huge thank you to EYFS and Year 1 parents for supporting us with the split site logistics, it is working so well and we really appreciate your understanding in this period of change to how our school is operating.

At our main site the children have enjoyed being able to watch the work taking place in our school hall. The renovation of the parquet floor is well underway. The old blocks have been removed in the main hall and the waterproof membrane and cement has been laid. We will keep you updated on the progress through our newsletters and website. The use of Shine Sports Hall whilst our hall is out of use is working really well and the children have quickly adapted to this routine for the PE lessons.

On Thursday last week we gathered together for the first time for this academic year for a whole school Collective Worship in the Cathedral. We celebrated the beautiful voices of the Chamber Choir and Mrs Bebbington-Lewis led the singing with some wonderful Harvest songs. The focus on Harvest allowed us the opportunity to reflect and be thankful for what we have. Children were selected for Value Awards and there was a feeling of celebration throughout our school community. It is really special to use this wonderful space to bring the whole school together.

A huge thank you once again for the contributions made for the Food Bank. Each year at an assembly we discuss the challenges that some people face and how these food parcels can support people in times of need. The South and East Foodbank will use the contributions to provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. Their aim is to end poverty and hunger in the UK.

Once again, there have been so many curriculum highlights for this term. Please make sure you follow us on [X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#). These are just a snapshot of some that the teachers would like to share:

★ **Reception** - We are so proud of how our Reception children have settled in! We have been talking about how to make friends and what makes a good friend, and it has been lovely to see new friendships developing. We have also had some brilliant conversations about what makes us 'us' and how everyone is different and everyone is special.

★ **Year 1** - Year 1 has made a fantastic start to the year! This term we have been focusing on our super sentences and the children are starting to confidently think about their capitals, finger spaces and full stops. In science we have had some particularly interesting conversations about the seasons and types of trees. And what amazing, creative ideas we've had in our reading lessons, Where the Wild Things Are has been a real favourite over the last few weeks.

★ **Year 2** - Year 2 have really enjoyed Geography this half term. They have demonstrated a good understanding of human and physical features. Year 2 enjoyed exploring College Green using a map and colour coding what features they could see. Using this information they were able to create a class tally of what features they had identified and this led to a great discussion about what feature was more common. Brilliant fieldwork skills Year 2- well done!



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★ **Year 3** - Year 3 have made a fantastic start to their French learning this term. They have already learnt the greetings, classroom instructions and the colours as well as cultural aspects of life in France like how people greet each other with kisses. You should hear their super French accents! Bon effort Year 3!

★ **Year 4** - This term we have learnt to write persuasive adverts, thinking about how devices like bullet points and slogans help to get our message across. In maths we have been thinking about the composition of 1000 and starting to look at numbers to 10,000.

★ **Year 5** - Year 5 have wowed us with their writing. They've been non-stop! First, they wrote exciting stories set in Ancient Greece which had rather mysterious endings... After that, the children dialled up their persuasive powers and wrote letters to apply for their dream job! They used persuasive devices such as the power of three for impact, fronted adverbials and flattery. In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about mixtures, solutions and finding the best way to separate materials!

★ **Year 6** - Year 6 have been lucky to participate in 'All God's Children,' an exhibition and workshop hosted by Bristol Cathedral and the University of the West of England. The exhibition and workshop allowed Year 6 to explore the question: 'How should we tell visitors about the history of Bristol Cathedral, when some of that history makes us feel very uncomfortable?' This involved talking about the legacy of those who are memorialised or buried in the Cathedral and the role they played in the transatlantic slave trade. They learned a lot about the Cathedral's history and made some fantastic contributions to this important topic.

★ **Forest School** -How lucky have we been with the weather at Forest School this term! Reception, Year 1 and our Pastoral groups have been bathing in the Autumn sunshine. It has given us more opportunity to explore more activities. Year 1 has really developed their creativity in making mythical woodland creatures, experimenting with different woodland materials, becoming absorbed into their own creations and developing characters. This has led to wonderful storytelling, using their imagination to conjure up exotic creatures with habitats, bringing these together as families. Blown away with how Year 1 has built on their own ideas and inspired each other to be more creative.

★ **PE** - There has been so much excellent PE work on show to start the year with lots of our year groups enjoying using the Shine Sports Hall for their PE lessons. There are two year groups I would like to highlight in particular. Year 6 have really embraced their topic of 'consistently try to improve' and the progress they've made in their tag rugby and netball skills has been fantastic. Year 4 have worked so enthusiastically on their health and fitness topic of 'how and why our body changes during exercise' and have demonstrated great understanding with both their discussions and how hard they've worked on our tasks!

As we head towards Term 2, we are looking forward to the many events leading up to Christmas. We are particularly looking forward to the Key Stage 1 plays and Key Stage 2 carol concert. Mrs Bebbington-Lewis will also be planning some opportunities to share some musical achievements and we look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

Wishing you a restful half term,

Best Wishes

Sara Yarnold, Louisa Gerolemou and the CPS Team



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Values

This term throughout collective worship we have focused on the value of **Thankfulness**. The children have thought about what **thankfulness** means to us. Our poem this term helps us to think about what **thankfulness** is:

Thankfulness is.....

Thinking of good things
Happy memories
All creation praising God
Not taking anything for granted
Keeping focused on the positive
Feeling blessed
Understanding the sacrifices people make for us
Living joyfully
Not complaining
Expressing gratitude to God
Saying thank you to those who help us
Showing gratefulness by our deeds



Throughout this term the children have been learning about **thankfulness** in lots of different ways. These are some of the ways that the different classes have been learning about **thankfulness** this term:

★ **Year 1** - Over the last few weeks, Year 1 has enjoyed listening to stories about thankfulness. We have thought hard about our world and how we can show gratitude when looking after it. The children have been impressing their teachers with all of their 'thank yous' this term!

★ **Year 2** - This term, Year 2 have enjoyed reflecting on the assemblies and discussing our value of Thankfulness. We have been sharing examples of when they have shown Thankfulness in and out of school. Year 2 are very Thankful to have each other and be part of CPS.

★ **Year 3** - Year 3 we have been thinking about thankfulness in PSHE lessons. We talked about different ways in which we can show gratitude and the power of words.

★ **Year 4** - In their PSHE lessons, Year 4 talked about all the different people around school who help us. They have shown thankfulness by remembering to say thank you to these people when they see them.

★ **Year 5** - In their reading lessons, Year 5 have learnt about Ernest Shackleton and his heroic expedition. All of our school values were shown in the way the crew looked out for each other. They were very thankful to have such a supportive leader.

★ **Year 6** - In PSHE, Year 6 has been learning all about what it means to be a global citizen. As part of this, we have talked about the rights and responsibilities that help us achieve our learning goals. Year 6 expressed thankfulness towards all of the people at school that help uphold these rights and responsibilities and help create a harmonious learning environment where they feel safe, respected and ready to learn.

Collective Voices have continued to inspire the children with their support in Collective Worship. This term they have supported Mrs Yarnold to deliver Collective Worship at the Brandon hill site.

Next term our collective worship will be focused on **Trust**.



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Attendance

Good attendance gives your child the best opportunity of success and helps develop skills for life. Your child should attend school every day unless there is an unavoidable cause. Evidence shows there is a clear link between a pupil's attendance and their success.

Missing school damages pupils' learning, disrupts routines for themselves and their classmates, and can make them feel isolated from their peers. Pupils should never miss school for reasons such as holidays, birthdays, tiredness, mild illness or to care for a family member.

Holidays during term time are not allowed. Permission for any planned absence from school must be sought from the Head Teacher and Governing Body.

A request must be made in writing via our online form, explaining the intended absence, circumstances for the absence and the length of the absence. This request form can be found on our 'Letters & Forms' page of the website - **CPS Absence Request Form 2023-24**

A maximum of **2 days** authorisation for an exceptional circumstance may be given.

Exceptional circumstances include:

- Bereavement
- Spending time with a terminally ill parent /sibling
- To attend a close family funeral
- Close family wedding
- Religious observance

At Cathedral Primary School we aim for attendance above **96%**

This term our whole school attendance is **95.6%**

Now the children have settled in, we have reintroduced our Attendance Mascots! Each week the class with the best attendance receives our Attendance Mascot.

Alice the Axolotl (Brandon Hill site) and **Ace the Aye Aye** (CPS site)

The following classes have received the Mascot this term:

- Tango
- Hip Hop
- Country





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Pastoral

From Term 2 Alex Lewis will be moving positions to share the SENCO role with Lizzie Snelling. Cara Parry, who many of you will already know, will be moving into the role of Pastoral Mentor. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Parry will be doing a comprehensive handover to ensure a smooth transition of pastoral support.

More than 10,000 children and young people are likely to be struggling with their mental health at any one time in Bristol, but it can be difficult to know where you can get help. Please click on the link for support and information.

[Mental health support for children aged 5 to 11](#)

From the Office

Booking School Meals ➤ Please remember to book your meals on Sunday evening for the coming weeks.

Illnesses ➤ We would just like to remind parents that if your child has vomiting and/or diarrhea they must remain off school for 48 hours from the last bout. When leaving a message on the absence line, please make sure you leave your child's name, class and reason for the absence. If you just say 'poorly' or 'unwell' the office will still have to contact you to find out more details as we need this for our school reporting.

Life Cycle Uk ➤ If you would like to find out about Bikeability courses happening this half term, please visit this [website](#) for more information.

RWA ➤ If you are looking for ideas over the half term there are many activities taking place at the [RWA](#)

Start of Term ➤ Term begins on **Tuesday 31st October**. Monday 30th is a staff training day.

CPS PTA

PTA Newsletter Autumn 2023



It has been a busy start to the year with the warm weather giving many opportunities for ice lolly sales nearly every week! It has been great to have sales happening at both school sites and having more parents helping us to set up and serve - thank you to everyone who has helped!

The PTA restarted the monthly meetings following the break over the summer and already we have been able to support the school financially for a number of areas including forest school, WOW days and we are currently looking at supporting some outdoor resources for the Brandon Hill site and CPS sites over this coming year.

The PTA launched a seasonal colouring competition for the school giving the opportunity to win some prizes and have some creative fun. A massive thank you to Mezz for creating the colouring in sheet! We will be announcing the winners soon after the closing date of 18th October so keep an eye out.

Upcoming Events

We have a number of events coming up:

PTA Autumn Quiz Night: Friday 10th November, 7.30pm. A fun evening with fellow parents and friends. We have 50 spaces available at £10 per ticket, all profits will be going towards the PTA, a donation bar and snacks will be available. More information and sign up can be found [here](#).

Children in Need Cake Sale: Friday 17th November, 3pm. Weather permitting, we will be holding a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need. All proceeds will go to Children in Need. Class Reps will be in touch nearer the time for cakes and helpers!



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Circle of Hope (Christmas Wreaths): Date TBC, our annual wreath making event led by Floriography by Vera, both in person and online. Sign up information will be coming out soon

Christmas Tree Sale: Saturday 9th December 9am - 12pm, more information will be sent out soon.

Christmas Fair 2023: Saturday 9th December 11am - 1pm. We will be holding the Christmas Fair at the Cresswell due to building work in CPS but all your favourite stalls will be there! We are getting some amazing prizes for the raffle including a night at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel including complimentary champagne, Laser Fusion vouchers and free games at Jumble Rumble to name a few! Tickets will be sent out just after half-term for £1 each. The fair is a fantastic opportunity to have lots of festive fun and get to get involved raising funds for the school. We are looking for volunteers and donations so please sign up here to get involved!

PTA Meetings

The next PTA meeting is the 23rd November, 7.30pm - 8.30pm. These meetings are held online and last 1 hour. The main focus will be the Christmas Fair but we welcome everyone to join us and get involved.

Thank you again for all your support and please do get in touch if you would like any more information or would like to get involved: cathedralprimaryschoolpta@gmail.com / <https://www.cathedralprimaryschool.org/children/pta>

Many thanks,
Jonathan and the PTA Team

Building Work at CPS

It was a busy summer at CPS with the move for Reception and Year 1 to the Brandon Hill site and the commencement of the renovation works to the parquet floor at the College Square site. The children have been fascinated to watch the work taking place in the main hall, viewed via the upstairs windows, and we are pleased to report things are progressing as planned.

Over at Brandon Hill the children have settled in amazingly well and we feel very much at home in the new building. We know working across a split site can have its challenges and we would like to thank you for all your support as things settle into place.

