



# Cathedral Primary School Newsletter



'Many Voices, One Harmony'

Newsletter No.2 - Term 2, 2023



## A message from Mrs Yarnold & Mrs Gerolemou

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a wonderful term! There have been so many end of term Christmas celebrations and each one of them has blown us away. The singing around the school and during the performances has made Cathedral Primary School feel exceptionally festive this year!

The Reception and Year 1 children's singing blew us away in their performances of "A Big Little Nativity". Such courage to sing so confidently in the Cresswell Theatre. Year 2 wowed everyone with their brilliant singing in their Christmas Carols and Poetry show! We are incredibly proud of them.

I am sure that those of you who came to the Key Stage Two Carol Service in the Cathedral will agree that it was a very special evening hearing the Christmas Story and the singing from our children. We thought they were amazing! We are so fortunate to have such a magnificent setting where children, staff, parents, family and friends can gather together. This celebration once again gave us an opportunity to witness the talents of all the children. Each one of the children worked so hard to learn some beautiful songs and create awe and wonder moments.

Our chamber choir has been very busy this term performing at Tyntesfield, Clifton College and today they are singing at the hospital. The senior choir were very privileged to be singing with a choir of 550 children at the Bristol Beacon; the South West's largest concert hall. It was such an honour to be one of the first choirs performing on the newly refurbished stage. The CPS Rock Stars also performed at a Rock Band recital, the children certainly got into the rock mode for their performance! There have also been lots of recital concerts that the children have performed at. We are incredibly proud of the music events that have taken place.

Children in Need was once again a big success and we raised over £600 between the school and the PTA cake sale.. Thank you so much for supporting this important charity..

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** - It has been a busy term in Reception! We continued our Forest School sessions and both classes experienced their first Forest School fire. It is wonderful to see how comfortable the children are in this space, even after just three visits! The children did themselves proud in their first CPS Nativity, learning and singing the songs beautifully and looking fabulous in their costumes, and in the same week, experienced their first school trip to Bristol Beacon to see The Snowman.

★ **Year 1** - Year 1 have had a very busy term. We have really enjoyed learning all about The Christmas Story through our Nativity but also through our RE learning lessons. We thought hard about special people to give thanks to as we lit the candles of advent and we hope that our messages have been sent to our loved ones. Alongside this, the children have produced some fantastic poetry about Christmas and thinking hard about pattern and rhyme! A term to be proud of!



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★ **Year 2** - Year 2 have been creative within their writing this term. We wrote invitations to King Charles for Paddington's birthday party. The children demonstrated brilliant vocabulary and were able to use a variety of exciting adjectives. Furthermore, we have been identifying command and statement sentences within our own writing. Their determination and independence has been outstanding! They should be very proud of themselves during this busy half term!

★ **Year 3** - Year 3 have been learning all about Hinduism in their RE lessons this term. As part of our learning, we visited a Hindu temple where we were able to ask lots of questions about how Hindus show their faith. We were also lucky enough to have a Bhangra dance workshop as part of Interfaith week. We examined lots of special Hindu artefacts and dressed in traditional clothes. It was so much fun dancing to the music and learning some of the traditional moves!

★ **Year 4** - This term Year 4 have been writing third person narratives. We practised using inverted commas to mark speech and included creative similes. In geography, we have learnt all about lines of latitude and longitude and how they help us to locate places. Our science lessons have been about states of matter and how matter can change from one state to another. We have done some exciting experiments!

★ **Year 5** - Year 5 have continued to impress us with their knowledge of Ancient Greece during our History lessons. In Geography we have been jetting off around the world to explore different biomes. During our writing lessons, the children created creative haikus and cinquains all about animals which were a pleasure to read. Finally, in Maths the children have been looking at formal written methods for short multiplication and short division!

★ **Year 6** - This term Year 6 have done a fantastic job performing famous British poems. After reading and analysing Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare and Daffodils by William Wordsworth, they impressed us with their understanding of complex features such as iambic pentameter and assonance. They then had the chance to practise performing their poems, thinking about the importance of eye contact, body language, volume and rhythm.

★ **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 have 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** - Year 5 have tackled their PE learning at Failand this term with enthusiasm and shown great resilience during the changeable weather conditions! They have made excellent progress in both their football and hockey skills whilst we have been exploring our topic of 'how we judge performance'. I've also had great fun meeting the Reception children for the first time and they have impressed me so much with their work on our topic of 'following instructions' whilst going on exciting bike and pirate adventures! I would also like to give a special mention to all the Year 5 & 6 children who took part in our basketball team this term. They embodied our CPS values throughout the 4 weeks of competition and were awarded the most improved team of the tournament by the organisers. Well done.

Huge thanks once again to the PTA for organising Christmas fundraising events. The Christmas Fair was a real success this year and it was so lovely to see so many of you there! That and the annual Christmas tree selling have been fantastic fund raisers for the school. Of course the children loved receiving books from Santa too!

There is a festive atmosphere around the school today as Santa visited CPS to deliver some lovely presents for the children. As always, our younger children asked some thought provoking questions!



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Once again, you have been very generous with gifts this Christmas. Many thanks from all the staff. We would also like to thank you for your continued support this term with homework, spelling and reading activities. Please remember that it is really important to keep up with regular reading over the Christmas break.

We would like to finish by saying thanks to all of you for your support in making our school so special. We really hope that families have a fantastic break together and look forward to working with you in the new Year.

Wishing you a restful Christmas holiday,

Best Wishes

Sara Yarnold, Louisa Gerolemou and the CPS Team



## Values

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

- Taking someone at their word
- Relying on someone to support you
- Unbreakable promises
- Showing that you can be trustworthy
- Treasuring good friends



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

- ★ **Reception** - In Reception we have talked about being kind, and what it means to be kind to our friends. When someone shows us kindness, this helps us to develop trust in our friends.
- ★ **Year 1** - Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the different people throughout the Bible this term. They have thought about what makes someone trustworthy and whether the people in the stories could be trusted by others. We have also linked this to the characters we have read about in our reading lessons term, especially in the story 'The Boy who cried Wolf!'
- ★ **Year 2** - In Forest School, Year 2 have been focusing on Trust throughout a variety of activities. This includes working as a team whilst building a shelter and supporting one another during challenging tasks and weather! They have shown great resilience and have formed trust in one another.
- ★ **Year 3** - Year 3 have been thinking about the theme of Trust in our reading book Leon and the place between, where Leon trusts those around him when he goes on a magical adventure. We have trusted in our own abilities when it comes to swimming. It takes trust in ourselves and a lot of courage to get better at swimming and our coaches have said how this year group has been absolutely brilliant at doing both and because of this have massively progressed.



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★ **Year 4** - In PSHE, we have been learning how to work effectively in a team to ensure everyone is heard. We discussed the importance of trusting your teammates and being there when they need support.

★ **Year 5** - In reading, Year 5 have been reading *Secrets of a Sun King*. This has shown us the importance of friendships and supporting one another in order to achieve something important. This has helped to remind us that having trust in other people, but also trust in yourself to do the right thing is very important.

★ **Year 6** - In Year 6 we have been reading *Big Heart Boy*. This novel really highlights the importance of trust we have in others, especially professionals like doctors. It has shown us how, as human beings, we automatically trust doctors etc but for friendships, trust has to be earned. This has sparked some interesting oracy conversations around what Cameron in the book should do and what the children would do if they were him.

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 **Perseverance**.

## Attendance

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

This term our whole school attendance is **94.5%**

**Alice the Axolotl** (Brandon Hill site) and **Ace the Aye Aye** (CPS site) have been enjoying visiting lots of classes this term because of their excellent attendance.

Well done to this term's winners:

- Tango
- Hip Hop
- Calypso
- Soul
- Swing
- Motown



## Pastoral

Dear CPS community

I have loved my time working with you all as a Pastoral Mentor. After half term I took on the role of SENCO as a job share with Mrs Snelling. I had a great first few weeks but then my family circumstances changed unexpectedly, and I am sad to say that my last official day at CPS is December 12th. I am so sorry to any families that this has impacted, as I have not been in school as much as I would have liked. I will be popping in on an ad hoc basis after Christmas to help Mrs Snelling while the school recruits a new SENCO.

Wishing you all a warm and snuggly festive break.

Alex Lewis

Next year, Mrs Snelling will continue as the SENDCo for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 classes. In the interim whilst we are recruiting, she will oversee KS2 supported by other SENDCo from our Trust.



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If parents/carers have any concerns about their children, they should still continue to contact class teachers in the first instance via the office. Mrs Snelling can be contacted via the office or through the SENDCo email address [senco@cathedralprimaryschool.org](mailto:senco@cathedralprimaryschool.org)

This website may be useful for parents with children who have Autism, ADHD, Anxiety, Hyperlexia, Hypernumeracy and Sensory needs - [andnextcomes1](http://andnextcomes1.com)

### Governors

From the end of January 2024 we will have an opening for a new parent governor to join the CPS' governing board. This is owing to a current parent governor's end of term of office and their child's progression into secondary school this year.

With this in mind we wanted to share that we will be warmly welcoming applications for a new parent governor in January to join our current Chair, community, parent and staff governors and wanted to share advance notice of this.

The role of a governor is to work with the school to support its management and shaping of strategy and policies to support the provision of excellent education to all children. Governors bring a wide range of skills, professional and lived expertise and the board and school benefit greatly from this.

If you would like to have an informal conversation around what the role involves, please have a chat with Jess Tomico (parent governor, children in Year 1 and 4) or our Chair, Tim Gear-Evans (also a CPS Parent, children in Year 4 and 6) or contact Paula Parker, our Clerk to Governors in the School Office.

More information on how to apply will be shared in the New Year.

### From the Office

**Calendar updates** > Please check your child's class page, the '[key information](#)' page or the '[calendar](#)' pages of the website for the latest information for things like PE days and Forest School.

**Booking School Meals** > Thank you to everyone who remembers every week to book lunches in advance. This really makes a huge difference to the office. Keep up the good work!

**Illnesses** > With the winter bugs in full swing, we would just like to remind parents that if your child has vomiting and/or diarrhoea 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.

**Childcare Vouchers** > We would like to make all parents aware that we are able to accept childcare vouchers to pay for Breakfast Club only. Currently, the school is signed up with; Edenred, Care-4, Government tax free childcare vouchers and Enjoy Benefits. If you would like more information about how to use childcare vouchers for any of these schemes, please contact the school office.

**Holiday Activities** > The RWA will be running [Events for Children and Families](#). There are also lots of ideas of things to do in Bristol this Christmas with the [bristolfamilyblog](#).

**Job Opportunity** > Innovate (our school catering provider) is looking to recruit a catering supervisor. For more information please click on the link. [Catering Supervisor at Bristol Cathedral Choir School](#)

**Start of Term** > Term begins on **Wednesday 3rd January**. Tuesday 2nd January is a staff training day.





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## CPS PTA

The PTA have enjoyed a busy and successful term with a number of events providing great opportunities to meet new families and raise money for the school.

We held a quiz night in October which was a great evening and certainly revealed a competitive side in our school! We are looking at hosting another evening social event in the spring so do keep an eye out for further information.

Our Children in Need cake sale was a great success raising £234.60 for CiN and we also held a colouring competition with some very impressive entries.

In the last couple of weeks, Christmas events have been in full flow including Wreath Making, Christmas Tree sales and the annual Christmas Fair which raised a staggering £3116.07!

All these events were really well attended and really helped get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Thank you so much for all your donations, time volunteering and supporting our school.

We have been able to support a number of activities at the school including percussion and Bollywood workshops, waterproofs for Forest School, and funding for the Christmas books. We are looking forward to supporting future school initiatives in 2024.

The PTA wants to wish everyone a restful Christmas and thank you once again for your continued support.

