



CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers,

Thank you for your support this year, it has been a great year working with you all and your children. I feel that I now know you very well but sadly it is time to leave. I wish all the CTK children the very best for the future and look forward to hearing all about their achievements as they grow and enter secondary education and the big wide world!

It is time for me to go and take with me many stories and memories from CTK!!!

Thank you for your ongoing support, it has been a pleasure!

Vanessa Bingham

Letter from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and support throughout this school year. It has not always been easy. We started the year with serious illness among some staff. The senior leadership team has worked very hard to try minimise the disruption to our pupils.

Going forward, we as governors are excited and confident about the future. Mrs Ridguard our new and substantive Catholic headteacher will be in place in September. I am confident that she will lead the school with enthusiasm and dedication. The Ofsted inspectors commented on how friendly our pupils were and how they feel safe in school, which is good. Ofsted has given us a clear agenda for raising standards and ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to develop to their full potential. The wellbeing and education of our pupils is our priority.

Your support has been and is important, I am sure that you will experience a really good change in September, the only way is up!!

I hope you and your family have a restful and relaxing summer holiday.

With best wishes,

Vicky Hammell

Chair of Governors

Goodbyes

First, we bid farewell to Mrs Tetchner, our Assistant Headteacher, who joined us many years ago as a newly qualified teacher and has become such an integral part of our school community that she is almost part of the furniture! Mrs Tetchner is taking up the post of Deputy Headteacher at another school, and we wish her every success as she embarks on this exciting new challenge.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Gooch, who, like Mrs Tetchner, has been with us for many years and has become a familiar and cherished part of school life. She will be taking up a part-time role elsewhere, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

We also bid a fond farewell to Miss Pearce, who is moving to a position closer to home, Miss Lockwood, Mrs Dougal and Mrs O'Reilly who are beginning an exciting new chapter at another school. We thank them sincerely for everything they have given and wish them happiness and success in the next stage of their journeys.

Last, but certainly not least, we say a fond farewell to our Interim Headteacher, Mrs Bingham, who has been with us over the past year, providing kindness, guidance, and unwavering support.



Welcome

In September we will be welcoming new members of staff

Yvonne Ridguard – Headteacher, Bhavna Turnell – Assistant Headteacher, Sherry Sandhu – Year 5 Teacher, Poppy Webb -Year 2 Teacher, Aggie Burton – Reception Teacher, Rebecca Eade- Gleeson – HLTA, Amina Mejri -Teaching Assistant

Reminders

If you need to talk to your child's teacher, you should contact the school office who will arrange a call back or meeting. If you would like to send in an Email, this should be sent into the Admin@christtheking.reading.sch.uk address, and this will be forwarded onto the teacher. Emails should not be sent directly to the teachers.

Entrance

From September all children should be coming into school through the Exbourne Road entrance or Lulworth Road - Ark entrance if previously agreed, where there will be staff to greet your child in the morning. All Children coming in through the Durham Close entrance will be marked as late and the gate will only be accessible to children arriving late after 8.50am, when other gates are locked.

School meals

The cost of School meals will be increasing to £2.97 in September. Years 3-6, all meals need to be paid for on the day or in advance and not in arrears. They can be paid for by cash or cheque to Caterlink.

If you know your child is going to be late then you need to call the school to order a meal before 9.30am otherwise you will need to provide a packed lunch, as meals are cooked to order.

Medication

If your child has been prescribed medication by the Hospital or GP and it needs to be taken during school hours, please ensure it is given to the school office and not any other member of staff.

PLEASE NOT ANTIBIOTICS WILL ONLY BE ADMINISTERED IF THE DOSAGE IS 4 TIMES A DAY, EVERY 6 HOURS AND NOT FOR 3 TIMES A DAY WHICH IS EVERY 8 HOURS.

The medication needs to be in its original packaging with a pharmacy label on it. You will be required to complete a medication form which is available from the school office.

If your child has an allergy or Asthma please make sure you come to the school office to complete medical forms and ensure your inhalers or medication is in date.

Collection times

All classes from Reception to Yr 6 will finish school at 3.20 from September.

Absence

The correct procedure to report an absence is to call in on 0118 9015434 and leave a voicemail on the absence line. Please **DO NOT** email in as these can be easily missed if staff are off site. Messages should be left before 9am with child's name, class and reason.

Families of Faith

July 2026

Good News from the Gospel	Prayer Corner	Families Faith in Action
6 July - Matthew 11:25-30th Jesus invites everyone who feels tired or has worries to come to him for rest. He teaches us that being gentle and humble brings peace. When do I need to rest in Jesus' love? 12 July - Matthew 13:1-23th God's Word is like a seed: when we hear it with open hearts, it can grow and bear lots of good fruit in our lives. How can I make my heart good soil for God's Word? 19 July - Matthew 13:24-43th The Kingdom of God might start small or hidden, but it grows into something amazing - we are invited to be part of it. How can I help goodness grow in the world? 26 July - Matthew 13:44-52th The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure worth giving everything for; when we truly find it, we joyfully accept and live in it. What treasures do I want to find in my life with God	Dear Jesus, Thank You for coming to Mary and Martha's home. Martha worked hard to get everything ready, and Mary sat and listened to You. Please help me to be like both of them - to work and help others when it's needed, but also to stop and listen to You with my heart. Amen. Dear Jesus, Please help me to be like Pier Giorgio - to smile even when things are hard, to help others with love, and to always put You first in my life. Amen.	Invite a friend to dinner Make the tart of St Martha Spend time with your brothers and sisters Exercise Pray a walking rosary Call a family member to say they love them Make a rice crispie chocolate mountain using Fairtrade chocolate

Christ the King School

Prayer

Dear God above, so kind and true,
Thank You for our friends and
teachers too.
Help us learn, work hard, and play,
And care for others every day.
Bless the sick and those in need,
Guide our hearts in word and
deed.
Amen.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End of Term finish 1.30 - [Wednesday 22nd July](#)

Start of New Academic Year – [3rd September](#)

Inset Day School Closed - [Monday 28th September](#)

Music Lessons Available

Mr Harrison will continue to come into school to provide Piano and Drum Lessons on a 1-2-1 or grouped lesson basis from September.

If you would like your child to have music lessons, please come into the school office to complete the registration form.

Lessons are subject to availability.

MUSIC LESSONS

CHRIST THE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL



Drum lessons

WHO ARE THE LESSONS FOR ?

Instrumental lessons will be available to all Christ the king pupils, and will offer pupils the opportunity to start lessons in learning an instrument.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE LESSONS CONDUCTED ?

Instrumental lessons will be conducted during school time and will be taught in our dedicated music room.

WHO WILL BE CONDUCTING THE LESSONS ?

All lessons will be conducted by Mr Harrison, who is a professional instrumental teacher.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ?

Pupils have the option to choose to have grouped lessons or individual lessons.

Grouped lessons: 2 pupils (20 minutes) -	£8 per pupil
Individual lessons 1 pupil (20 minutes) -	£16 per pupil

HOW CAN I SIGN UP MY CHILD FOR LESSONS

Lessons are subject to availability, but Mr Harrison aims to start pupil's lessons as soon as possible once an application and first payment has been received.

School Uniform- Please ensure your child/ren come to school in correct uniform

Navy-blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without school badge

White polo shirt with or without school badge

Skirt or dark grey trousers with white or grey socks

Sensible shoes - Trainers, jelly shoes or sling-back sandals are not acceptable for general wear.

Boots may be worn in winter to and from school; however, pupils must change into black shoes once in school

Religious head coverings, where worn, should be in school colours or black

Children come into school in their PE kit on their PE day

PE Kit consists - T-shirts should be in the child's house colour (red, green, yellow or blue), White t-shirts are acceptable with navy shorts and plimsolls.

Tracksuits in black or navy may be worn, and trainers are acceptable when P.E. is outside, but not for indoor P.E. sessions

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery in school. Only small, simple studs in pierced ears and wrist watches are acceptable

“Smart” watches are strictly prohibited.

Children should not wear jewellery to school on PE days

If children do attend school with jewellery, they will be asked to cover or remove objects before Physical Education lessons or any other lessons where the wearing of such items constitutes a potential safety risk

Teachers and other members of staff do not take responsibility for the safe keeping of jewellery which has been removed.

Mid to long length hair should be tied back. Hair accessories should be minimal and should be brown or black.

No markings should be shaved into hair or on scalp and hair dye, both temporary and semi-permanent is not permitted unless authorised as part of a school event.

The wearing of make-up, nail varnish or false nails is not permitted.

The wearing of temporary tattoos is not permitted.

In consultation with the headteacher, exceptions on the grounds of medical evidence may be granted.

Nursery

Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of fun, teamwork and determination. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a variety of exciting races and activities, showing great enthusiasm, resilience and encouragement towards one another throughout the morning.



It was wonderful to see so many families joining us to cheer on the children and celebrate their achievements. Every child gave their best and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

The children have had a wonderful time celebrating International Day the children tasted a variety of different foods, talking about colours, textures, smells and flavours. They were encouraged to be adventurous and try something new, sharing opinions with their friends and teachers. We loved learning that people around the world enjoy different foods and traditions. We had such an amazing morning for international Day. Was so lovely to see the children come in wearing clothes of their nation. The children enjoyed learning new dances from around the world, colouring flags, listening to different music and most of all trying amazing, delicious food. We were so lucky to have so much fabulous food to try, and the children had a go at trying and tasting most of the food parents had provided. What a lovely fun morning.

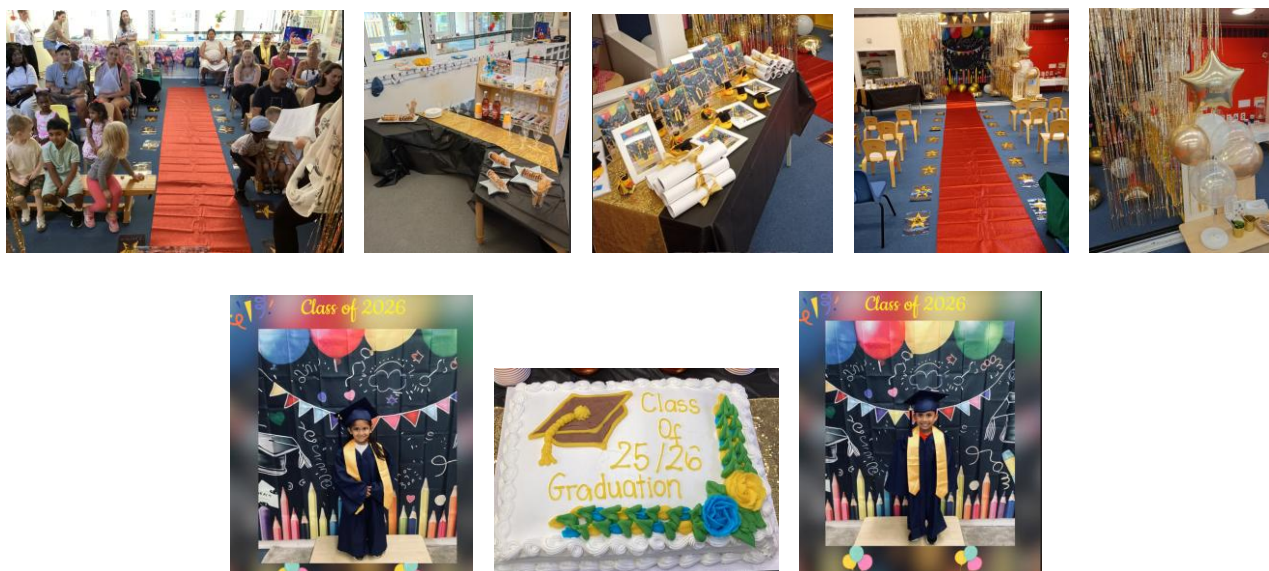
Thank you to all the familiar who kindly contributed food your generosity helped, this experience be extra special for the children.





Our Nursery Graduation was a truly special occasion as we came together to celebrate our wonderful children and all they have achieved this year.

The children delighted everyone with their confidence singing, smiles and enthusiasm as they proudly received their graduation certificates. We are incredibly proud of each child and all they have accomplished. As they prepare to begin their exciting journey into reception, we know they will continue to flourish, embrace new challenges and make many more memories.



What a fantastic way to celebrate the end of a wonderful year! Our Nursery Beach Party was filled with sunshine, laughter and lots of seaside fun.

The children enjoyed a variety of exciting beach – themed activities, including sand, water games, dancing and music and even an ice cream station. The beach party was a lovely opportunity to relax, have fun and mark the end of an incredible 2026.



As another wonderful year comes to an end, we would like to say a very special goodbye to all of our Nursery children who are leaving the Christ the King family and those taking their exciting next step into Christ the King reception.

It has been a joy and privilege to watch each child grow in confidence, develop new skills, make friendships and embrace every opportunity to learn through play.

To our children moving to reception, we wish you every success as you begin this exciting new chapter. Keep smiling, keep believing in yourself, and always remember that you will achieve wonderful things. Thank you to all our families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. It has been a pleasure sharing in your children's learning journey.

The team would like to wish you all a happy, safe and memorable summer and wish all our Nursery children, especially those moving onto Reception, every happiness and success in their next adventure. You will always be a treasured part of our Christ the King Nursery Family. To those children returning in September, we can't wait to welcome you back for another exciting year of learning, laughter and new adventures. We will be starting the new term with "All about me"

Ducklings – Miss Nyilas

Stars of the week – Seth, Zayd, Whole Class

As we reach the end of a wonderful school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has gone by. This term has been filled with learning, laughter, friendship, and so many special memories. The Ducklings have worked incredibly hard and should be so proud of everything they have achieved.

Over the past few weeks, we have successfully completed all our learning topics for the year. In English, we enjoyed reading and exploring The Tiger Who Came to Tea. We enjoyed lots of exciting activities inspired by the book. In Science, we learned about plants and how they grow and what they need to survive. Our History topic focused on transportation, where we looked at all the ways you can get around past and present. In Design and Technology, we looked at different textiles and designed our own colourful bunting. In RE we finished Pentecost and started talking about Sacraments where we shared a meal together after talking about Holy Communion. In Maths, we explored different 2D and 3D shapes, and in PSHE we reflected on communities. We looked at how we belong to the community and thinking about the people who help, support, and care for us.

One of the highlights of the term was celebrating International Day. The children had a wonderful time sharing food from different cultures, learning songs in another language, and celebrating the unique backgrounds that make our classroom such a special place. It was a joyful reminder of how lucky we are to learn alongside one another and to be part of such a diverse and welcoming community. We also welcomed the new Ducklings on our transition day. We enjoyed listening to a story, engaging with activities and getting to know each other with play. We also had our final reading buddy session with the Year 5/6's. Stories and ice lollies were shared by all, we are excited to continue reading in September.

As always, the end of the school year brings a mixture of excitement and sadness. We will be saying goodbye to some of our Ducklings who are moving on to new schools, as well as those who will be joining new classes in September. While we will miss them greatly, we are so proud of how far they have come and wish them every happiness and success in the next stage of their journey.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our children, parents, carers, and staff for helping to make this such an amazing year. Together we have learned so much, celebrated achievements, overcome challenges, shared countless smiles, and created wonderful memories. It has been a privilege to watch the children grow in confidence, independence, and happiness throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support, kindness, and encouragement. I hope you all enjoy your summer holiday. Wishing you all the best, see you in September!



Reception – Mr Taplin

Ahoy there! This month our topic was Pirates. The children thoroughly enjoyed exciting adventures as they explored life on the high seas through stories, art and creative activities.

Literacy

In Literacy, we read the story Pirate Tom. The children practised sequencing the events of the story to develop their understanding of the beginning, middle and end. They also used descriptive language to describe a pirate, thinking carefully about appearance, personality and adventurous vocabulary.

Maths

This month, we consolidated the children's learning from across the year. We revisited key mathematical skills through fun activities, including recognising and creating patterns, identifying and describing 2D and 3D shapes and using positional language such as *above*, *below*, *next to*, *behind* and *in front of*.

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Our pirate theme continued in EAD, where the children learned to follow step-by-step instructions to draw a pirate and a pirate ship. These activities helped to develop their listening skills, confidence and fine motor control while encouraging creativity.

Religious Education (R.E.)

In R.E, we learned about the Sacraments, with a particular focus on Baptism and Holy Communion. The children explored why these are special celebrations for Christians and what they represent.

Understanding the World

As the excitement of the World Cup continued, we learned about the tournament and followed England's progress. This provided opportunities to explore different countries, flags and cultures while encouraging discussions about teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

As we reach the end of the school year, I would like to say just how incredibly proud we all are of all the children and everything they have achieved. They have grown in confidence, independence and resilience and it has been a pleasure to watch them learn and develop throughout the year.

We hope all of our families have a wonderful summer break filled with fun, laughter and special memories. Thank you for your support throughout the year and I look forward to hearing about the children's adventures when they return.

Year 1 – Miss Scott

We have had a wonderful final month in Year 1, filled with exciting opportunities to celebrate all that the children have achieved this year.

One of our highlights was visiting Mr Taplin's class to share our writing. The children loved reading their work to the younger children and talking about their ideas. It was fantastic to see how much confidence they have developed as writers and how proudly they shared their achievements. They were wonderful role models and showed great kindness and maturity throughout the visit.

We also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Beale Park. The children were full of excitement as they explored the park, spotted a variety of animals and took part in learning outside the classroom. They asked thoughtful questions, showed great curiosity and behaved brilliantly throughout the day. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to learn together and create lasting memories with their friends.

As we reach the end of the school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence, independence and resilience. They have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of everything they have achieved. I wish all the children and their families a happy, safe and relaxing summer break.





Year 1/2 – Mrs Uminska

What a wonderful way to end the year!

Our International Day was a real highlight. The children listened to the legend of the Dragon of Wawel Hill from Kraków and loved hearing how the clever shoemaker outwitted him. We then had a go at making our own pierogi — out of playdough, so sadly not for eating! — before tasting a lovely spread of real food from lots of different countries. It was such a joy to see the children trying new flavours and sharing where their own families come from. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

In maths, we have been busy weighing objects using the scales and learning all about units of measurement — the children have become very good at comparing which objects are heavier and lighter, and at using the scales carefully.

In literacy, we have been finding out some surprising facts about eggs and using them in our own writing.

We also enjoyed our trip to Beale Park, which was a fantastic day out. The children were a credit to the school, and we were so proud of their behaviour and enthusiasm throughout.

Finally, thank you for all your support this year. It has been a real pleasure teaching your children, and we have loved watching them grow in confidence. We wish you all a happy, restful and sunny summer break, and send our very best wishes to those moving up to Year 2 and to those heading off to Year 3/4. Good luck — you will all do brilliantly!



Year 2 - Miss Lockwood

As we reach the end of another wonderful year, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all the fantastic learning, achievements and experiences that the children have enjoyed during their time in Year 2. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout the year.

English

In English, the children have been learning how to write fact files about animals. They researched a variety of animals and carefully selected interesting information to include in their writing. The children worked hard to organise their ideas using headings and subheadings, and they focused on writing in clear sentences while using exciting vocabulary and factual language. We were impressed with the effort they put into presenting their work and sharing their knowledge with others.

Maths

In Maths, our focus has been time. The children have developed their understanding of reading analogue and digital clocks and have practised telling the time to the hour, half hour, quarter past and quarter to. They have also applied their knowledge to solve a range of time-related problems, showing growing confidence and accuracy.

Design and Technology

In DT, the children became engineers as they designed and created their own cars with a moving axle. They carefully planned their designs, selected appropriate materials and worked hard to construct their vehicles. The children enjoyed testing and evaluating their finished products, making improvements where necessary and developing their problem-solving skills along the way



International Day

One of the highlights of the term was our celebration of International Day. The children spoke proudly and confidently about their countries, cultures and family traditions. They enjoyed learning about different places around the world and were excited to try a variety of foods from different cultures. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our school community and learn from one another.



Keeping Cool in the Hot Weather

During the recent hot afternoons, the children enjoyed a special spa session to help them stay cool and relaxed. They loved taking part in activities such as soaking their feet in cool water and spending time with their friends in a calm and relaxing environment. It was a lovely way to cool down and provided plenty of smiles and laughter for everyone involved. A big thank you to Miss Ali for bringing in ice lollies for us to enjoy!



Beale Park Trip

Our trip to Beale Park was a fantastic way to end the year. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the park, observing the animals and spending time in the play areas. They showed great curiosity as they learned about different species and enjoyed discussing what they had seen throughout the day.

We were particularly proud of the children's excellent behaviour. They listened carefully, followed instructions and represented the school exceptionally well. Their manners, enthusiasm and positive attitudes were noticed by members of the public and staff at the park, making them a real credit to themselves, their families and our school.



It has been a pleasure teaching and supporting the children this year. We would like to thank all families for their continued support and encouragement throughout the year. Watching the children grow in confidence, independence and resilience has been a privilege, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.



KS2 took part in the WEC Olympics at Palmer Park, everyone completed a range of field events including jumping and throwing and then a selection of running events.

Sadly we did not win this year, but everyone had a great day out.

Year 3 – Ms Pearce

Stars of the week

3/07/26 - Charlie Navaneeth

10/07/26 - Olivia

18/07/20 - Year 3

This month we celebrated international day! The children looked fantastic in their traditional clothing and they got to try lots of delicious food from around the World! Thank you to Miss Robson who taught the children traditional Vietnamese puppet making. They children loved the experience of making Something and learning about a new country.



During the final few days of maths, we have been investigating a range of skills such as measurement, mass and pattern making. The children have had to undertake tasks to win points for their teams.

DT – This term we have been looking at healthy eating and we made Healthy Pitta's. The children got to use a range of skills when assembling their pitta and we had a great afternoon trying it!

A note from Miss Pearce

Year 3 have worked incredibly hard this year despite all the changes; they have grown into wonderful children who are ready to tackle the next part of their learning journey in year 4! I wish them all the best in everything they do, and it has been a pleasure to finish the year with them! Miss Pearce x

Year 4 – Miss Thompson

Star of the week

3/07/26- Lyla and Rion

10/07/26- Yash and Sebastian

17/07/26-Year 4

Year 4 International Day

Year 4 had a fantastic time celebrating International Day. The children enjoyed learning about different cultures from around the world, exploring traditions and customs, and sharing their experiences. One of the highlights of the day was tasting a variety of delicious foods from different countries. It was a fun, engaging and memorable experience that helped everyone appreciate and celebrate our diverse community.

Our International Day adventure showed us that although we are all different, we are all part of one wonderful community.

Design and Technology: Healthy Pitta Pockets

In DT, Year 4 had great fun making healthy pitta pockets. The children developed their food preparation skills by safely chopping and preparing a range of healthy ingredients before creating their own delicious fillings. Everyone enjoyed tasting their creations and learning about the importance of making healthy food choices. It was a fun and rewarding experience for all.

The best part was enjoying our tasty pitta pockets together and seeing the smiles on everyone's faces!

A Message from the Teacher

I have had so much fun teaching Year 4 this year. It has been such an amazing journey, and I have loved watching every child grow in confidence, knowledge and independence. Some of the children I have taught for two years, which has made this journey even more special.

It has been a real privilege and honour to be part of your learning journey. Every single one of you is amazing, and I am incredibly proud of all that you have achieved this year. You have shown kindness, resilience, determination and enthusiasm every day.

I wish you all the very best as you move on to Year 5 and Year 5/6 next year. Keep believing in yourselves, working hard and aiming high. I know you will continue to shine and make us proud.

Remember, once a member of Year 4, always part of our Year 4 family! Good luck and enjoy the next chapter of your adventure.

Year 5 – Miss Webb

Starts of the Week- Bartosz, Kamari, the amazing school band, David and Issa.

This month has been full of completing work. We finished our book 'Millions' and answered lots of questions about what we would do with all that money. In English we had the chance to write and publish our own Superhero comic and a story about a wicked witch from a fairytale!

We also learnt all about earthquakes; where and why they occur, where the safest place to be is (under a table or in an open) field and about the amazing invention of ShelterBoxes, how they help those impacted by earthquakes and what else we could add to them. We worked hard in our end of year tests and spent lots of time trying to keep cool in the heat, like by playing Drip, Drip, Drop- a fun, water version of Duck, Duck, Goose! We also watched the incredible Year Six production, took part in a clown skills workshop and went on some fun inflatables at a local secondary school.

Dear Year Five,

I just wanted to say thank you for welcoming me to Christ the King. It has been a whirlwind teaching you this past term and I hope you learnt lots of new things- I certainly did! I wish every single one of you the very best in Year Six, whether you're staying here or moving to a new school, and know you can all achieve whatever you put your mind to. Please have a safe and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing you around the school in September!

From Miss Webb 😊

Year 5/6 – Mrs Powell

It has been a very busy and rewarding time in Year 5/6, filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and many achievements to celebrate.

Some of our Year 5 children visited Blessed Hugh Farringdon to take part in a new public speaking competition, where they represented the school brilliantly and showed great confidence and teamwork.



We also enjoyed our Enrichment Week, during which the children took part in a wide range of exciting activities. Highlights included a fantastic day trip to Chessington, alongside many other experiences that made the week both enjoyable and memorable for everyone involved. We were extremely fortunate to receive a substantial amount of funding from The Happy Days Charity, The Great British School Trip – Hyundai, and The Ewelme Foundation. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and support, which helped provide valuable opportunities and memorable experiences for our children. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all three organisations for their kindness and commitment to enriching the lives of young people.

To round off the year, our Year 6 pupils finally received their much-anticipated leavers' hoodies! We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards these, including sponsorship from Fast Food Systems Limited and Goldsboro Books. Your generosity helped ensure that every child had a special keepsake to remember their time at primary school.



We are also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for their fantastic production, *I'm an 11-Year-Old, Get Me Out of Here!*. The children worked extremely hard to learn their lines, songs and choreography, and their confidence, enthusiasm and talent shone through in every performance. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their time at our school and create lasting memories before they move on to their next adventure.

Our Year 6 Leavers' BBQ was a wonderful opportunity for the children to spend time together, celebrate their friendships and reflect on their many happy memories of primary school.

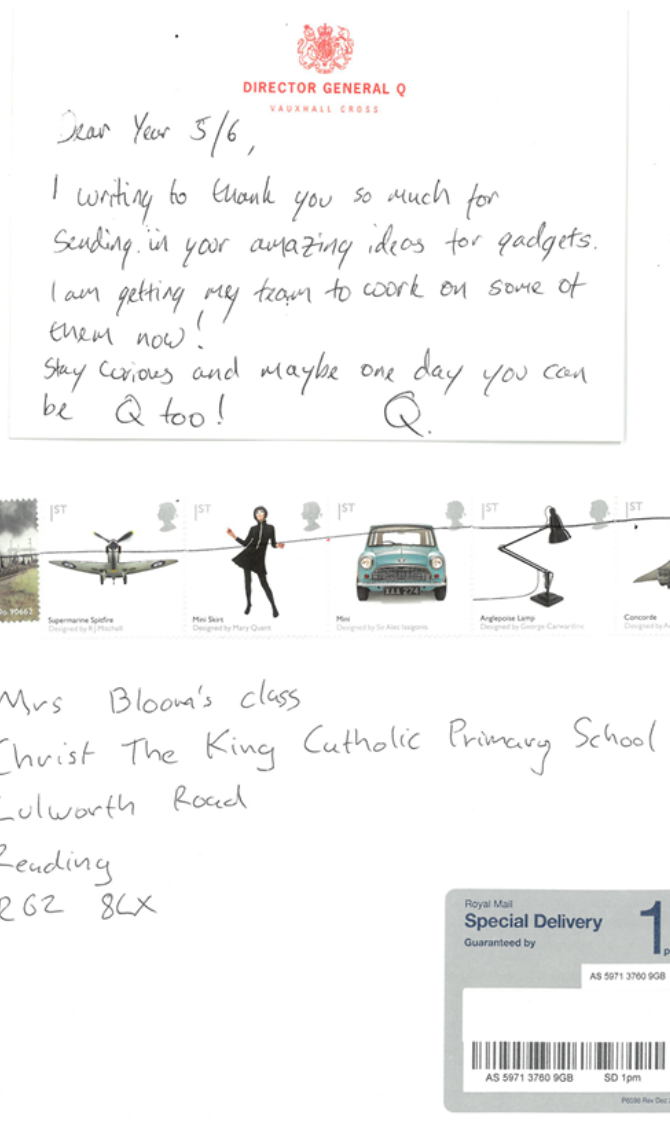
We also shared a beautiful Leavers' Mass, which gave us the chance to come together as a school community, give thanks for the children's time with us, and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their education.

As the year comes to a close, we would like to wish all of our Year 6 pupils the very best for the future. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know they will be a great success in their new schools.

Year 5/6 - Mrs Bloom

It has been a very busy and rewarding time in Year 5/6, filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and many achievements to celebrate.

In Mrs Bloom's class, we had a very exciting letter arrive! Last year, we sent examples of our writing to MI6 in London. The children had created and described their very own inventions – gadgets designed especially for teenage spies. We were thrilled to receive a response from MI6, who thanked the children for sharing their imaginative ideas and praised their creativity. It was a fantastic surprise and a wonderful opportunity for the children to see how their writing can reach a real audience. Here is their response:



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Stars of the week:

Year 5

Newel, Ferya, Ewa, Amelia, Nikola and Olesia.

Whole class.

The Ark – Mrs Machado



Our Egypt Day was a fantastic experience filled with creativity, learning and fun. The children loved dressing up as ancient Egyptians and immersing themselves in the theme throughout the day. They showed great enthusiasm when painting clay models and creating their own hieroglyphics, learning more about this fascinating civilisation through hands-on activities. A particular highlight was the brilliant interactive lesson delivered by Oliver Rado (Nelly's dad), who brought ancient Egypt to life with engaging activities and fascinating insights that captivated the children from start to finish. It was a memorable day enjoyed by everyone it was a great way to finish off our History and English topic.

Our lovely picnic afternoon was a wonderful opportunity for our ARK community to come together and celebrate the end of another fantastic year. Families, children and staff enjoyed spending time together as we shared food, laughter and special memories. It was also a chance to say a heartfelt goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and to Mrs Tetchner as they begin exciting new chapters in their journeys. We will miss them greatly and thank them for all they have contributed to our school. We wish them all the luck in the world with their next adventures and every success and happiness in the future. ❤️

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the Great British Summer Savings scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON
Secretary of State for Education

MP RT HON RACHEL REEVES MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer



Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

*True Teaching
Serving the Community in Reading since 1958*



Year 7 Entry 2027 **OPEN DAY** **Thursday**

17th September 2026

Morning 9am - 12pm

Evening 5pm - 7.30pm

(10am, 5.45pm & 6.30pm Headmaster's Address)

Fawley Road, Southcote

Reading, RG30 3EP

01189 574 730

www.hughfaringdon.org

admin@hughfaringdon.org

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Thank you so much ♥



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Cricket Festival - for Youth Mental Wellbeing

Time

Monday 10th August 2026 - 11am to 4pm
Ages 9-11 years old

Venue

Emmbrook and Bearwood Cricket Club, Lowther
Road, Emmbrook, Wokingham, Berkshire
RG4 1JB

Description

Fun, free and interactive cricket festival hosted by
Berkshire Cricket & Sport in Mind to help improve
the mental wellbeing of young people. Please bring
a packed lunch. Sign up your young person by
scanning the QR Code!

This group is provided **FREE** by the mental health charity Sport In Mind &
Berkshire Cricket for the benefit of local young people.



@sportinmind



youth@sportinmind.org



www.sportinmind.org



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