

The KET Newsletter

Autumn 2 2025



ISSUE #09
December 2025

Seasonal greetings from the CEO

Christmas is just around the corner and schools have been busy in the run up to the end of term.

Nativity plays, class and year group productions and church services have each played an important part in celebrating the Christmas message.

Of course, so much more has taken place over the term and this newsletter gives an insight into the wonderful experiences children across the Trust have enjoyed since October.

I wish you all a very happy, restful and joyful Christmas break when it arrives and I look forward to seeing you in 2026!



Mr. Chris Wright
CEO - The Key Educational Trust

[Christ Church Academy](#)

[Christ Church CE First School](#)

[Oulton CE First School](#)

[St. Mary's CE Primary School](#)

[St. Peter's CE Primary School](#)



Christ Church Academy



CHRIST CHURCH ACADEMY
Excellence in Education

Autumn Term Highlights

The **CCA choir** have been super busy again spreading festive cheer - visiting Stafford Hospital for the second time and bringing their wonderful voices to the residents of Oulton Care Home!



It's been such a joy to see our pupils sharing music, kindness, and Christmas spirit with the community. They represented the school beautifully, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work, talent, and enthusiasm.



Charlotte Hernandez from **Stone Library** came into school to launch the titles on this year's Young Teen Fiction Award longlist! Pupils from KS3 got to enjoy a 'speed dating' session and vote for their favourite.



CCA Crowned Athletic Champions!

Competing against five schools in the recent KS2 Sportshall Athletics tournament, CCA emerged victorious with an outstanding team performance. Through determination, teamwork, and fantastic sportsmanship, **our pupils secured first place** and truly represented the school with pride.



These talented athletes will now go on to represent Staffordshire at the county finals in March, and we wish them the very best of luck. We are incredibly proud of their achievement!

Eleven of our students—forming two outstanding teams—took part in the **Business Language Champions Language & Tourism Challenge** at King's High School, Warwick.

The students designed complete hotel concepts set in a French-speaking country, producing menus, brochures, staff interviews and business pitches, all delivered entirely in French.



We were the only state school to enter the competition and are delighted to share that we won! Special congratulations go to Isabella S-G, who received a leadership award in recognition of her confidence and excellence in French. We are incredibly proud of all involved—an exceptional achievement by an outstanding group of students.

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Bebras Challenge 2025 - This term CCA pupils competed in the Bebras Challenge tournament for the first time. All pupils had the opportunity during Computing lessons to complete the 2025 challenge which tests Computational and ICT skills through the use of abstract code breaking and logic puzzles. Pupils competed against children of their age from all over the world. We look forward to finding out if we have any winners!

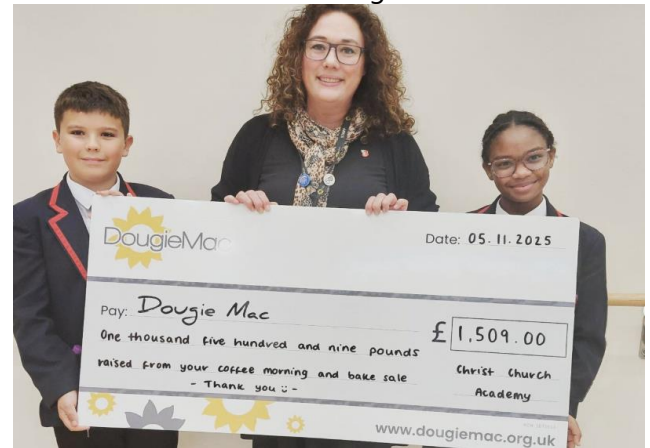


Year 5 pupils welcomed PCSO Neil Moffatt and his colleagues into school this term, participating in a range of sessions as part of the **Junior Police Cadet training programme**. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions that have taken part so far, and they have all been complimented for their positive and responsible approach!



CCA welcomed Sam Holgate from **Dougie Mac Hospice** who came into school to receive a cheque for over £1,500 raised by our amazing Year 7 pupils! Sam delivered a brilliant assembly, teaching pupils about Dougie Mac's dementia unit and helping them understand more about what dementia is. A group of our pupils will even get the chance to visit the unit soon.

A huge thank you to Sam for such an inspiring visit, and another massive well done to our Year 7s for their kindness and fundraising efforts!



A Festive Finale to the Term

As the term draws to a close, our pupils delivered a truly magical performance at the Victoria Hall during the Christmas Concert in collaboration with Entrust Music Service. Our pupils shone brightly in the joint ensemble pieces, and their solo performance of "Winter Carol" was nothing short of breathtaking. A big thank you goes to our dedicated staff for their hard work and guidance, and to families for their continued support throughout the term. Your encouragement makes these moments possible and so special for our pupils.



🌟 **Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas.** 🌟

Christ Church First School



CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

As we approach the end of 2025 and reflect on all the activities that have taken place this half term, we can appreciate why the children are all so tired! It has been an action packed half term, culminating in a range of Christmas activities for all the children and parents.

On 11th November, the children from the School Council, attended the unveiling of a special bench at Christ Church. This bench is for members of the community who may need to rest a while and spend some time in quiet reflection.



The bench was donated by the church and is a way to remember the members of the community who are suffering or have had a loved one suffer from dementia.

Christ Church First School donated the planters and the plants around the bench. We were joined by Andrew Best (Deputy Mayor) to help with the big reveal.

On 20th November, the school's choir performed at the Stone Christmas light switch-on. This is an annual event and signalled the start of the busy season for the choir.



On 27th November, the choir were busy once again. This time, we attended the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church in Eccleshall. The choir sang three songs on their own and all schools joined together for two group numbers.

December started with Year 1 Christmas crafts. Parents were invited into school to complete a range of craft activities with their children. We always enjoy inviting our parents into school and the children loved having a helping hand with their makes.

On 3rd December, Reception created Christingles with the help from some of our Open the Book team. This was a lovely morning as the children learnt all about the meaning behind the Christingle and enjoyed making them (and eating the sweets!) They also wrote all about it in class.



On 5th December, the choir were on the move again. This time we went into Stone to reveal our Advent window in the Cats' Protection shop.

We had the letter "E" for equality and the children in Year 3 created a window depicting how God treats us all equally. The choir sang well and the event was well-attended.



That evening, we had our Christmas fair and we had a special visit from Santa to start the Christmas cheer. This is a valuable fund-raiser for our PTFA.

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On 8th December, the choir visited the residents of Bromfield court to spread some Christmas cheer. It is the first time that we have visited and we had a great time. Everyone was really welcoming and the children really enjoyed the signing.

We held our Christmas concert in church on Tuesday 9th December for Years 2-4. The children performed the Nine Lessons and carols retelling the Christmas story. The signing was amazing and the children performed so well. The feedback from those who watched was overwhelmingly positive. This is the first year that we have moved away from a traditional school nativity play and it was a great success and much less stressful for staff and pupils alike, although the finished service was brilliant.

Year 1 welcomed their parents into school on 10th December for a family worship. Again, we did not do the traditional 'play' and the children shared their work, retold the story of the nativity, sang and danced. The parents then stayed in school after for festive refreshments and the children got to spend a bit of extra time with them, which was lovely.

On 11th December, we welcomed Reception parents into school for their production of "Oops-a-daisy Angel." This is always a very special event as the youngest children demonstrate how amazing they are by learning all their lines and the words to all the songs. It was a fabulous morning and everyone loved it. The whole school watched the dress rehearsal and were very complimentary about how well they all performed.

The 12th December saw the children (and some staff) dressed as elves for the Alzheimer's Society awareness day.



The children loved coming to school in Christmas jumpers or dressed completely as an elf to raise awareness of this condition. Even Ozzy got involved although he's not that happy about it!



In maths, children in Year 3 used squared paper to create Christmas images and then were challenged to recreate them in



Lego. These are some of the results!

The final event for the choir was the performance at the Royal Stoke hospital on 15th December. They performed in the atrium and then headed to the Children's ward to sing there. Again, they were well-received by all.

That afternoon, we welcomed the Reception parents into school for their "crafternoon!" They enjoyed making reindeer headbands, snowmen and Christmas wreaths.

We ended the year with a trip to the Santa Safari at West Midlands Safari Park for Years 2-4. The children had a full tour of the Safari Park and were treated to a visit to Santa and a special gift. This was a great way to end 2025.

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OULTON FIRST SCHOOL

Hand in hand Learning together

Remembrance Week - School councilors from KS2 joined pupils from CCA at the **Remembrance** service in Stone.



Oulton First School Choir - The school choir have been extremely busy over the festive season singing at the Stone Light Switch On, **Alzheimer's Society**, Advent Window, Oulton Abbey and the St John's Church Advent event which raised £420 towards church repairs.



Fundraising - The PTFA Christmas Fayre raised an amazing **£2,700** which will go towards new ipads and playground equipment.

Christmas Nativities - Each class retold their own version of the Christmas story to parents and did an incredible job...so confident and professional!



EYFS – The First Nativity

Youthnet - On 18th December **Youthnet** visited Oulton and each class spent time exploring Christmas with a carousel of activities.

Christmas Crafts –

Our annual Christmas Crafts was another success this year. Parents were



invited into school to make Christmas Crafts with their children, which is kindly organised by our PTFA.

Christmas Dinner, Jumper Day and a visit from Santa!

On Wednesday 18th December, the children enjoyed a Christmas dinner and had a surprise visit from Santa who gave each child a selection box.



Children wore Christmas Jumpers and donated items to Stone Food bank.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Oulton First School Community!



St Mary's, Mucklestone.



Remembrance Service



Our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day with a thoughtful service led by pupils. The children reflected on the importance of remembering those who served and sacrificed, and they expressed their understanding through beautiful artwork and heartfelt prayers. Their creativity and respect made the occasion truly special.

Children in Need



Our Family Circle charity group hosted a fantastic cake sale in support of Children in Need. Their hard work and generosity helped raise funds for a wonderful cause, and we are so proud of the community spirit shown by everyone involved.

Eccleshall Christmas Tree Festival



We are incredibly proud of our school choir, who performed beautifully at the Eccleshall Christmas Tree Festival. The children sang both on their own and alongside Christ Church Academy and Christ Church First School, creating a truly magical atmosphere. Everyone commented on how wonderful and harmonious their singing was—well done to all involved!

Christmas Concert and Christmas fair at Tern Hill Hall



What an amazing evening at our Christmas concert and our Christmas fair. We had a great turn out of parents and grandparents and we made an incredible amount of £929.60 for our PTFA. Thank you to Tern Hill Hall for hosting our special event.

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Class 3 Family Finish

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed having their parents come into class for their family finish. The children created Christmas crafts which included Christmas decorations. It was lovely to see so many parents and everyone getting in the Christmas spirit.



Panto time!



The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance of *Peter and the Wolf* when the pantomime company visited our school. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience live theatre, and they were captivated by the music, characters and storytelling throughout the show.

Music Christmas Concert



“What an incredible Christmas music concert at St Mary’s! The children sang beautifully, filling the school with festive cheer. Every performer shone—our talented pianists, solo singers, and those playing woodwind and string instruments all did a fantastic job. It was a truly memorable evening showcasing the amazing musical talent in our school.”

St Peter's, Caverswall



The children entertained the pensioners at their annual Christmas meal. They sang a variety of Christmas songs including The 12 Days of Christmas, Rocking Around the Christmas Tree, A Ray of Hope and Away in a Manger. Everyone enjoyed joining in and singing along. The children were then asked to draw the raffle. A lovely start to Christmas. Well done to the choir.



Our Nursery children took to the stage for their very first Nativity performance, *The Wriggly Nativity*, and what a wonderful celebration it was! The children worked incredibly hard learning all the songs and dance moves, and their efforts truly shone through on the day.

They sang, wriggled, and acted their hearts out as they retold the story of the very first Christmas with such enthusiasm and confidence. It was a joy to watch and a very proud moment for everyone at St Peter's Primary School.



This half term in Tova class we held our Design and Technology open afternoon. We were joined by parents, carers and grandparents to create our own animal hand puppet. The children used their knowledge from the Animals Science topic to create their design and added embellishments to resemble their chosen animal. Afterwards we stitched our felt together using our sewing knowledge and emulated our final design. The children thoroughly enjoyed this topic.



On the last week of the term, Key Stage 2 went to the New Vic Theatre to watch *The Little Mermaid*. The children were transported to a magical underwater world, where different colours, textures and sounds filled the room. The children sat in amazement and thoroughly enjoyed the show.



The children really enjoyed their trip to the pantomime to watch *Sleeping Beauty*. The show was fabulous, and the children enjoyed cheering and singing songs as well as joining in with the show. We even got sprayed with water pistols! Theo B from Reid class went on stage to meet some of the cast and to represent our school. He did a brilliant job, and showed us his amazing air piano skills, singing to 'I Am the Music Man'!

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On Friday 5th December, the children brought in their old toys and Christmas jumpers for our Toy and Christmas Jumper sale. We set up the sale in the hall and held it after school. The children brought their pocket money to treat themselves to a new toy, board game or teddy and even get a new jumper for Christmas. The sale was a roaring success and we raised money to support events and activities at school.



We were very lucky to have a visit from Olympic gold winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington. She spoke to the children about the importance of swimming and how we can be safe when we are in the water. She spoke about her swimming career and showed us her impressive four Olympic medals, two were gold and the other two were bronze. We were also excited to hear that Rebecca's swim school 'Swim' is taking over our local high school Blythe Bridge High School's swimming pool. Swim@Stoke Blythe Bridge will open up for lessons in January 2026 and many of St. Peter's children have already signed up for swimming lessons.



Last week parents, family and friends were treated to the Reception and Key Stage One production of Born in a Barn. This is the Nativity story told from the point of view of animals who lived in the stable (and some who possibly didn't).

The storyline was ably pieced together by the donkey (April S) who carried Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The donkey tells his story both to the audience and to the other animals assisted by sage comments from a very wise owl (Marley E).

During the course of his story-telling, he comes across a rather aristocratic cat (Ella R) who is most impressed when he discovers that the baby in the barn is royalty!

The rather slow-witted cockerel who feels his job is under threat was played with great conviction by George B.

The play had everything an audience could want from a nativity: cute shepherds, singing angels and an adorable Mary and Joseph.

However, this production also boasted a few surprises, including a camel who got the giggles, a house-proud sheep and a disco number to wake up the shepherds!

The children all performed extremely well, and the staff were very proud of each and every one of them.

