

The KET Newsletter

Spring 2026



ISSUE #10
March 2026

Welcome from the CEO

Daffodils are out, the sun seems warmer and the days are gradually getting longer – there is so much to be grateful for at this time of year!

The Spring term may have been a relatively short one, however, children across The Key Educational Trust have enjoyed a term packed with fantastic learning opportunities.

This Newsletter shines a light on just a few of them – enjoy!

I hope you all have a super Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone in April.



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

Spring Term Highlights

These amazing superstars have been nominated by their teachers as **Kindness Champions** for going above and beyond to show kindness to others. Whether it was helping a friend, sharing something with a classmate, cheering someone up, or simply spreading positivity around school, their random acts of kindness have made a real difference.

We are so proud of the way they lead by example and help make our school a happier, more caring place for everyone.



Despite being totally fabulous, **Arctic Lemons** didn't win Battle of the Bands this year - their performance was superb and they were commended on the complexity of their song choice and so many other aspects of their performance. It was clearly a close call — they were just one vote away from the Audience Favourite Award!



CCA had three **Secret Readers** visit Year 5 — but little did the pupils know the readers were actually parents! Norah, Sam and Clara were definitely surprised to see their mums walk through the door!

A huge thank you to our wonderful Secret Readers for sharing stories with the class. The children loved listening to Harry Potter, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and The Twits. It was such a special treat for everyone!



During February half-term, 37 of our amazing children jetted off on a **Ski-Trip** to the Pyrenees to take on the slopes of Cerler, Spain. From first turns to fearless runs, they absolutely smashed it both on and off the mountain. Blue skies, breath-taking views, endless laughter and confidence levels soaring higher than the peaks themselves. We couldn't be prouder of our CCA Ski Family – what a week!



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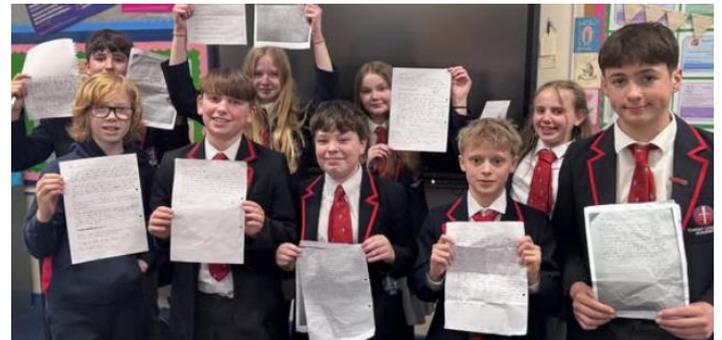
Our school hall was transformed into a bustling French marketplace as part of our pupils' **Languages and Arts drop-down day**. They enjoyed a fantastic French theatre performance before diving into a variety of creative workshops. From singing in French and exploring French artists to mime, dance, sign language, caricature art and even playing the ukulele — there was something for everyone!

They spent the day creating, exploring and performing, and truly wowed us all in the end-of-day showcase.



Recently, some of our Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to write letters to middle school students in South Korea! As part of an **English letter-writing practice**, the students abroad sent heartfelt letters all the way from the other side of the globe. Pupils carefully hand-wrote thoughtful letters to help build friendships and support language learning across cultures. What a fantastic way to connect, communicate, and celebrate global learning!

Well done to everyone involved!



We are proud to be taking part in a **Charity Darts Event in support of Macmillan Cancer Support**, and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us so far. Whether you've helped with our bake sale, joined us on the oche, donated, shared our cause or cheered us on, your support truly means a lot. We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together already, with our current fundraising total now just over £1,700—and still growing! Every contribution is helping to make a real difference to people affected by cancer.

The final total raised will be announced on our socials!



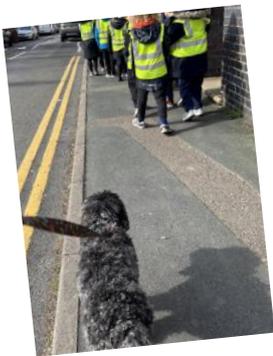
Christ Church First School



CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

The Spring term has been a busy one at Christ Church First School. The children have been involved in all sorts of exciting activities from trips and visitors to a range of sporting events.

At the start of January, we started our Fitness Friday sessions for Years 1-4. The whole school has been coming together on a Friday to take part in a selection of fitness-based activities, such as yoga, aerobics, dancing and even a rock-paper-scissors contest. This week we took the whole school on a wellbeing walk; this included the school dogs Ozzy & Maggie.



In January, our girls took part in the Girls' Biggest Ever Football Session at Alleyne's Academy. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to play with girls from different schools. They did really well, considering that for some of them, they have only played football as part of a PE lesson on our playground.

Our boys' team have also played at All Saints First School in Standon and had a great match. Again, we had players who have never played outside of school.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we welcomed the author and actor, Andrew Clover, into school. Reading is a big part of life at Christ Church and Andrew certainly inspired the children as many bought his books. They also really enjoyed the writing workshops and many children have started to write their own mini-books at home. It was a brilliant day and Andrew was a big hit with the children.



On 4th February, Year 3 and 4 welcomed one of our parents into school to talk to them about sustainability. Leo works for Biffa and delivered a presentation on the work Biffa do to recycle our rubbish. It was a really interesting and interactive session and the children learnt a great deal about recycling and sustainability.

Here, Jenson is dressed in the PPE a refuse handler would wear.



As part of their history lessons, Year 2 visited the Brampton Museum on 11th February. They took part in a workshop about Florence Nightingale where they learnt about medical techniques used. This has helped them with their learning back in school too!

After half term, we took a small group of children to Clip 'n Climb as part of the School Sports programme. This session was designed to build confidence and promote teamwork.

The children were amazing – their teamwork earned them the gold award. A few were really scared to try any of the climbs at the start of the morning but had all given it a go by the end of the session. It was so lovely to see them working together, supporting one another and overcoming their initial fears.



We celebrated World Book Day on Friday 6th March.

This year's theme was Roald Dahl and the children dressed up as a wide range of characters from Matilda to a whole host of Oompa-Loompas! Teachers joined in too, with Mrs. Graham as Fantastic Mr. Fox and Mrs. Best as Mrs. Fox. Miss Bourne was Mrs. Twit.

We ended the day with a family reading session which was really well attended. It was so nice to see the hall and classrooms full of children sharing books with their grown-ups. This was well-received and we will certainly do this again, although perhaps on a smaller scale!

From 16th-18th March, Year 4 attended their annual residential at Laches Wood. This year was different as we ran a joint visit with children from both Oulton First School and St Mary's Primary. It was a lovely 3 days and the children mixed together and new friendships were forged. They enjoyed all sorts of activities from axe throwing and archery to rescuing a stricken pilot from the woods. We even had a cave disco!



On 23rd March, Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a visit from Carrie (aka the Bug Lady) who brought with her a collection of spiders and no-so-minibeasts. The children always enjoy this visit as they get to touch and hold all sorts of creatures such as African land snails and tarantulas.



Our Easter church service on 24th March brought the term to a fitting close. The children retold the Easter story interspersed with wonderful songs and some incredible solo performances. We also had more than 30 pupils playing the guitar accompaniment to Lord of the Dance. As always, the children sang beautifully and the church was full of friends and family.





OULTON FIRST SCHOOL
Hand in hand Learning together

It has been such a busy term here at Oulton with much learning taking place in the great outdoors!



Year 4 pupils spent 3 days at **Laches Wood** Outdoor Education Centre and Year 3 pupils spent a day at **Kibblestone** International Scout Camp. Children related their learning to our school Christian values – Trust, Thankfulness, Friendship, Forgiveness and Koinonia.

Eden - Bouldering was great and there were safety pads at the bottom in case we fell. We *trusted* the leaders.

Isla - We showed *thankfulness* because we were thankful that we got to go to Laches Wood and do all of the activities that we did.

Reggie - I'm really *thankful* that we got to go in the bus for caving and that God gave us the materials to make it.

Archie - I made a new *friend* called Nathaniel. I really enjoyed being in the outdoors.

Pupils dressed as their favourite book character for **World Book Day**.



We also hosted a Scholastic Book Fair which raised **£250** of FREE books for our school. We also had a book swap where pupils could exchange old books for new.

EYFS pupils invited their mums for lunch to celebrate **Mother's Day** whilst KS1 & KS2 held a special Mother's Day assembly.



The topic in EYFS has been 'people who help us' and we have had visits from the Fire Service and Police.



St Mary's, Mucklestone.



Bikeability

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability, developing their confidence and skills when cycling on the road. The children practised essential safety techniques, learned how to navigate junctions and demonstrated brilliant listening and teamwork throughout. We are incredibly proud of how sensibly and responsibly they represented the school while out in the community. Well done to everyone who took part!



Music lessons

Music continues to be a real strength at St Mary's, with children enjoying a wide range of lessons including guitar, piano, woodwind instruments and singing. Our pupils show impressive dedication, practising both in school and at home to develop their skills and confidence. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm grow each week, and we are super proud of the commitment and progress they are making across all areas of music.



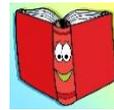
Hallé Orchestra

KS2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to watch a live performance by the Hallé Orchestra. The children were captivated by the music and fascinated to see so many instruments played together by such talented musicians. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience orchestral music up close, and the children returned to school inspired and full of excitement.



World Book Day

The whole school had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters. The corridors were full of creativity and colour, with everything from dalmatians and Roald Dahl classics to Gangsta Granny and even Jeremy Clarkson! We also had an extra-special moment when one pupil dressed up as his own Grandad—a professional footballer featured in a book—alongside plenty of enthusiastic footballers. All the staff joined in too, making it a fun-filled day enjoyed by everyone.



Charity Cake Sale



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.

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Standon Bowers

Our Year 5 children had an incredible day at Standon Bowers, pushing themselves to try new



and exciting challenges — from axe throwing and rifle shooting to leaping from great heights with huge smiles and even bigger bravery! Their excellent behaviours, teamwork and determination made us so proud. Well done, Year 5!



Year 5 and 6 Viking Workshop



Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time during their Viking Day! The children explored real and replica artefacts up close, took part in trading activities, acted

out Viking scenes and even dressed in traditional Viking-style clothing. Throughout the day, they investigated the big historical question: *Were the Vikings really pirates?* It was a brilliant hands-on experience that brought their learning to life.



Ladies' Tea Party



The children proudly hosted their lovely Ladies' Tea Party, celebrating all the special women in their lives. The children worked hard to decorate the

tables beautifully and did a fantastic job serving and welcoming all of the amazing ladies who joined us. It was a heart-warming afternoon enjoyed by everyone.



Laches Wood

Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time on their residential at Laches Wood! They threw themselves



into every activity—from caving and climbing to search and rescue and even a round of frisbee golf. The children showed

great teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm throughout. They also thoroughly enjoyed mixing with pupils from



other schools across the Trust, making new friends and sharing unforgettable experiences.

St Peter's, Caverswall



What a term this has been – starting with heavy snow to finishing with full sun and a swimming pool on site! Despite it being a quiet term in school we have done a lot. Children have taken part in fitness days and Children's Mental Health Week. Additionally, we spent a special day celebrating our talents, uniqueness and differences.

Fitness and Skipping Day

At the beginning of the half term, all the children took part in our Fitness and Skipping Day. We had a fitness and skipping session where the children participated in a variety of activities. One activity included the children working as a group and rolling a fitness dice which gave them a fitness move to complete. Then, the children had a go at showing off their dancing skills using pom poms, bells and ribbons. They also challenged themselves with a range of different skipping tasks and finally, they completed a sequence of fitness challenges as a group. The children thoroughly enjoyed being outside and tackling the activities.



Moki-band Week

As part of our initiative of keeping fit and healthy, we have recently completed our 'Step into Spring March Challenge', where the children tried to collect as many steps as they could throughout the week, to earn greatest steps of their class and the greatest average steps per class. The children have enjoyed challenging their classmates to get the most steps and taking part in the challenge.

Year 5/6 Open Afternoon

On Friday 30th January, Year 5/6 invited their parents, carers and family members to take part in our Potteries themed open afternoon. The children have been learning all about the pottery industry and Josiah Wedgwood in particular. We researched his life and achievements and created a commemorative plate in the Jasperware style to celebrate his life. During our open afternoon, the children and their parents, carers and family members created their own plate to commemorate their own achievements and what it means to be them. We had some beautiful designs at the end of the afternoon and it was lovely to see the children exploring what makes them 'them'. The children really enjoy having their parents in and getting to share what they have learnt.



Wishing you Christ's many blessings throughout this joyful season. May the Lord lift up your heart, at Easter and always. May the miracle of Easter bring you perfect peace. Hope you always feel His love shining in your life. Praying that you feel Christ's peace all year.

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The children in Tova class worked very hard to put on a fantastic Easter Service in Church. The children held the church service with confidence and shared their understanding of Easter with their peers and families. All of the children participated and worked together to share the teaching of The Bible through acting and singing. We are extremely proud of all the children and very thankful for those who joined us in Church.

In January, the Ingmar class held an assembly and invited parents in to learn all about the Potteries. The class had loved learning about Josiah Spode and Josiah Wedgwood - the two significant people who worked together with Thomas Whieldon to establish and develop the pottery industry in the area. The local history unit inspired the children to design their own vases in Wedgwood's signature style and colour. They finished the assembly by singing 'The Salt of the Earth' (The Potteries song).



Time for Swim – On-Site Swimming Pool

For two weeks, our school hosted the *Time for Swim* portable swimming pool, giving every child from Nursery to Year 6 the opportunity to take part in swimming lessons on site. This unique programme allowed pupils to develop water confidence and essential swimming skills without leaving the school grounds. Each class received age-appropriate sessions led by qualified instructors, focusing on water safety, basic strokes and building enjoyment of swimming.

The initiative was an exciting and memorable experience for all pupils, helping many take their first strokes in a safe, supportive environment. It also strengthened our school's commitment to promoting physical education, wellbeing, and lifelong swimming skills.



Diversity Day

We celebrated diversity in our school and launched the National Year of Reading at St Peter's on 23rd February. Children took part in a range of activities thinking about what makes them unique and discussing how that makes our world a wonderful place. We also talked about our favourite books and made recommendations to others.



Children's Mental Health Week 2026

Our school took part in Children's Mental Health Week 2026 to help everyone understand the importance of looking after their mental health and wellbeing.

We started the week with a whole-school assembly based on the theme "My Place". During the assembly, children thought about where they feel safe, happy, and supported, both in school and at home. We discussed how different places can affect our feelings and why it's important to have spaces where we feel comfortable being ourselves.

Throughout the week, classes took part in activities focused on wellbeing, such as sharing feelings, mindfulness and talking about who they can go to for help. Children explored ways to look after their mental health and support others.

We also had a special wellbeing-themed day, where children took part in fun and relaxing activities designed to boost mood and encourage positive mental health. This included creative tasks, outdoor time and opportunities to connect with friends.

The week helped everyone understand that mental health is just as important as physical health, and that we all have a role in supporting each other.



Our Easter activities have begun as we count down to the break. Chocolate has been collected for the Chocolate raffle draw on Friday. Wooden eggs have been decorated at home and displayed in school.