

The KET Newsletter

Summer 2026



ISSUE #11
July 2026

A few words from the CEO

As the summer draws to a close, we can confidently look back over what has been a super term and a very successful academic year.

We welcomed new cohorts last September and they have settled in so well and contributed so much to our schools over the year.

We also wish our most senior pupils all the very best as they prepare for the move to their new schools. They have really flourished over their time in our schools. I know their lights will continue to shine bright and make us proud in the future.

This Newsletter is a snapshot of the wonderful opportunities and experiences our pupils have enjoyed over the summer – no doubt helped along by the sunny weather!

This is my last Newsletter as I retire as CEO at the end of August. It has truly been an honour and privilege to serve as Principal and CEO since 2012. Thank you to everyone for your support over the years and I wish all in the KET every success in the future.

I hope you all have a wonderful and well-earned break over the summer.



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](#)



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Christ Church Academy



CHRIST CHURCH ACADEMY
Excellence in Education

Summer Term Highlights

A particular highlight of the term was our **Year 8 trip to Paris**, which was a tremendous success. We are so proud of every student who attended. They represented the school brilliantly, embraced every opportunity, and it was wonderful to see them using their French confidently in real-life situations—from ordering food to asking for directions. The trip was an unforgettable experience and a fantastic reminder of how valuable language learning can be beyond the classroom.



Our **KS3 Orchestra** enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Victoria Hall to watch the world-renowned **Hallé Orchestra** perform live. The World Cup-themed concert gave pupils the exciting opportunity to experience the power of a professional orchestra in a fun and engaging way, inspiring our young musicians.



Stone Rocks 2026 was a fantastic celebration and the perfect way to mark our 10th anniversary. Once again, our amazing CCA community came together to make it a day to remember.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, shared their talents, helped behind the scenes, performed, ran stalls, or simply came along to support the event. Every contribution, big or small, helped make the day such a success.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our wonderful community. Thank you for making Stone Rocks 2026 so special!



Congratulations to Team Tropic Airlines – Thomas, Rosie, James, Emma, Sophie and Lexie – who proudly represented Christ Church Academy at the **National Careers Challenge Grand Finals 2026** at the Telford International Centre. After qualifying through the employer-led challenge earlier this year, the team presented their ideas to employers and business leaders from across the UK, finishing as National Runners-Up. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of the creativity, confidence and teamwork they demonstrated throughout the competition. Well done to the whole team!



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Our **KS2 Sports Day** was another fantastic success, with pupils showing outstanding enthusiasm, determination and team spirit throughout the day despite the hot weather.

Congratulations to **5VH** and **6KEB**, who were crowned this year's Sports Day champions! A huge well done to everyone who took part and gave their best.



Our **KS3 Sports Day** was also a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and sporting achievement. Pupils gave their all in a range of track and field events, demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

Congratulations to **7KH** and **8HR**, who were crowned our KS3 Sports Day champions after a series of impressive performances across the competition. Well done to every pupil who took part and represented their form so positively!



Thank you also to all the parents and families who came along to cheer on the pupils at both events. Your fantastic support helped make the day even more special.

We've loved welcoming our new **Year 4 pupils** for their **transition days**! 💙 It has been a pleasure getting to know everyone, and we hope they've enjoyed getting a taste of life at Christ Church Academy. We're so excited to welcome them back as Year 5 pupils in September and can't wait to see them begin the next chapter of their journey with us.



We had a wonderful evening at Christ Church celebrating the achievements of our Year 8 pupils. It was a bittersweet occasion as we said goodbye to such a fantastic group of young people and recognised their hard work and success with well-deserved awards, medals and trophies. It was lovely to celebrate this special milestone with so many families, making the evening even more memorable. We are incredibly proud of all our Year 8 pupils and wish them every success and happiness as they begin their next adventure. 💙 🏆 ✨



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Christ Church First School



CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

In April, Reception learnt all about people who help us. They had a number of visitors to talk to them about their jobs. Firstly, we welcomed some paramedics into school and they brought an ambulance onto the playground. The children loved looking around the ambulance and setting off the sirens. Then we welcomed a vet and the children gave Ozzy (school dog) a thorough health check! We also had a visit from a fireman and they got to try on the kit and finally a policeman who talked about the work they do to keep us all safe.



Also in April, our older "Glee Club" members performed at the Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford as part of Stafford's Gotta Dance. They danced to "Can't Stop the Feeling" and they were amazing. It's always a long night but they did a brilliant job.

In May, we welcomed Claire Bailey from Staffordshire Cricket into school to run a cricket day for the whole school. The children took part in a range of cricket activities and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions.

Reception Class held their family worship and told their parents all about the exciting visitors they had and what they had learnt from them. They sang some lovely songs and the parents had a great time.

We also started our visits to the library in May. As part of the National Year of Reading, we made arrangements for all year groups to visit the library, get a library card and start to borrow books. All children have enjoyed the visits and the stories shared by the library team.



To end the first half term, we held our Sports Day at the Church at the Crossing. This was followed by a family picnic. Although the weather was hot, the children were fabulous and everyone enjoyed the event.

In June, we took a group of Year 3 children to Lichfield for their Inspire event. We were accompanied by children from Oulton First School as well. The children took part in a range of activities and had a great tour of the cathedral. It was nice to see them reflecting on their Christian Values and talking with such confidence.



On 20th June, our Glee Club took part in Stone Rocks – the annual music festival at Christ Church Academy. All members performed the dance from the Gatehouse and they sang two songs in the acoustic tent. They performed really well and they also enjoyed being part of the Big Sing with choirs from all the other schools.

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We held our first Careers Week in June with the focus on jobs that involved computing. We welcomed visitors from the Lego Education Innovation Studio and the children loved this session. We also learnt all about cyber security and online safety which was as interesting for the adults as it was for the children. We also had a visit from Mr. Coulson and some children from Christ Church Academy for a session on coding. This was another popular session and the children learnt a great deal.



In July, Year 1 and Year 3 went to Gladstone Pottery Museum as part of their local history topic. They learnt a great deal about the importance of the area as well as how pottery flowers were made, how the bottle kilns worked and the history of the factory. The children also got to create their own wonderful pots to bring back to school.



We had a visit from the library service to launch the Summer Reading Challenge and the theme this year is "Read to the Beat". We look forward to seeing how many of our children complete the challenge this year.



Year 2 and Year 4 stayed closer to home and ventured to the canal and the River Trent as part of their geography learning. They looked at how and why canals were formed and then the features of the river.

Year 4 members of Glee Club took part in the Eccleshall Music Festival alongside St Mary's Primary School and some other local schools. Christ Church pupils took part in the percussion and singing workshops and really enjoyed the sessions. They performed to parents at the end of the day, which was lovely.



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OULTON FIRST SCHOOL

Hand in hand Learning together

It has been a hive of activity at Oulton this summer term with plenty of outdoor learning.

EYFS Father's Day Den Building



Pupils invited a parent into school for a den building activity which was

followed by a story and refreshments. KS1 & KS2 parents came into school for a special assembly where pupils sang songs, read a poem and presented cards and artwork.

EYFS Trentham Gardens

As part of our mini-beast topic, Reception children spent the day at Trentham Gardens. There was even time to play on the adventure playground and go-karts!



EYFS Balance Bikes

Reception children have loved learning to ride a balance bike this term. They can now check the bike is safe before they ride and have enjoyed playing different games which focus on spatial awareness and control.



KS1 Florence Nightingale

KS1 children have been learning about Florence Nightingale and visited the Brampton Museum in Newcastle.



Year 2 NSPCC

The NSPCC visited Year 2 pupils to present their Stay Safe Speak Out programme.



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KS1 Fruit Kebabs



Fruit kebabs were on the menu in KS1 as pupils designed and made their own kebabs as part of the DT project.



KS2 Artwork

Class 3 studied international versions of Cinderella in English. They created art using pastels inspired by the artist Brian Pinkney, illustrator of the book "Cendrillon".



KS2 Lichfield Cathedral Visit

Class 3 visited Lichfield Cathedral in June. They had a fabulous day, learning about courageous advocacy and refugees and taking part in art and prayer workshops.



Oulton Choir

Our school choir has supported many events over the school year. A highlight was taking part in the Stone Rocks event earlier, along with the C-K Community Choir.



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St Mary's, Mucklestone.



Cricket Day

The whole school enjoyed taking part in a fantastic Cricket Day led by coaches from Shropshire Cricket. Throughout the day, pupils developed their batting, bowling and fielding skills through a range of fun and engaging activities. It was wonderful to see everyone participating with enthusiasm, demonstrating teamwork, perseverance and excellent sportsmanship. A big thank you to Shropshire Cricket for providing such an enjoyable experience for all our children.



Year 5 and 6 Art Work

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed exploring the work of the famous street artist Banksy. As part of the project, pupils designed and created their own stencils before using spray paint to produce striking pieces of artwork. The children demonstrated great creativity and care throughout the process, and their finished artwork showcased both their artistic skills and individuality. We were incredibly proud of the fantastic results!



Sports day

Despite the extremely hot weather, we were delighted to hold a shortened Sports Day so that the children could still enjoy taking part safely. Pupils showed great determination, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the events. It was also wonderful to welcome so many parents and family members to support and cheer on the children, helping to make the day such a special occasion. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event such a success.



Year 3 and 4 Cross Country event

A small group of children from Years 3 and 4 proudly represented the school at a multi-school cross country event. The children showed great determination, resilience and enthusiasm as they tackled the course alongside pupils from other schools. We were extremely proud of their effort, sportsmanship and positive attitude throughout the event. Well done to all who took part!



Confirmation Celebration

We were delighted to hear that Martha recently took part in her Confirmation at Ashley Church. This was a very special occasion, and we are proud of her commitment and involvement in this important step of her faith journey. Well done, Martha, on this wonderful achievement.



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Pizza-Making in DT

Class 3 and 4 had great fun in their DT lesson with Miss Rhodes, designing and making their own pizzas. The children planned their toppings, brought in ingredients from home, and even decorated their own pizza boxes. They enjoyed preparing and creating their pizzas before taking them home to share with their families. The finished pizzas looked delicious, and the children showed fantastic creativity and teamwork throughout the project.



Whole School trip to Chester Zoo

The whole school enjoyed a fantastic trip to Chester Zoo, where the children had the opportunity to see a wide variety of animals and learn



more about conservation and the natural world. The day was filled with excitement, curiosity and memorable experiences for everyone. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our PTFA, whose generous support funded the majority of the trip and

made this wonderful opportunity possible for all of our pupils.

Year 6 Leavers' Service

We said a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils during a special Leavers' Service at church. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their time at our school, reflect on their achievements and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education.



We also said goodbye to their class teacher, Miss Rhodes, who is leaving us to embark on new adventures. We thank her for her dedication and commitment to our children and school community and wish her every happiness in the future.

We wish all of our Year 6 leavers, and Miss Rhodes, the very best for the exciting journeys ahead.

Summer Fayre

We were delighted by the fantastic turnout for our Summer Fayre. It was wonderful to see so many families and members of the community coming together to support the event and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon.



There was something for everyone, including an inflatable assault course, tombolas, a BBQ, pony rides and the ever popular 'Soak the Teacher' stall! The event was a great success, filled with laughter, community spirit and lots of happy memories.



A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered or donated prizes to help make the day so special.

St Peter's, Caverswall



Standon Bowers

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils had an unforgettable week at Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre, where they embraced a wide range of exciting activities, including climbing, caving and BMX biking. Throughout the week, the children challenged themselves, stepped outside their comfort zones and showed great determination and resilience.

As well as developing new outdoor skills, the visit provided valuable opportunities for personal growth. Pupils learned to become more independent, take responsibility for themselves and their belongings, support and encourage one another, and work together as a team. They returned with increased confidence, lasting memories and a real sense of achievement. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and behaviour they demonstrated throughout the week.



Summer of Sport

Our Summer of sport started with Sports Day. A wonderful afternoon was had by all on Friday 5th June for our annual sports day. The sun was shining and all children from Nursery to Year Six took part in a variety of races. The younger children completed egg and spoon, obstacle and running races while the older children took part in running, bean bag and egg and spoon races. The highlight was the house relay race.

Nursery Sports Day

This year we had a separate sports day for our nursery pupils which was led by our Y6 children. They had a wonderful time moving round a range of sporting activities.

Cross Country

Our amazing Year 4, 5 and 6 Cross Country runners took part in our cluster Cross Country event at Blythe High School after school on Thursday 23rd April. It was a very hot afternoon and the children showed great courage and determination running in such hot conditions. However, they did enjoy a cool down with their water bottles at the end.

Y3/4 Swimming Gala

Well done to our amazing Y3/4 Swimming team who took part in the Y3/4 Cluster Swimming Gala on Monday 15th June. Both girls and boys finished in third place overall. Great performance from all our swimmers.

Rounders

The Year 4/5/6 children took part in our cluster school rounders competition. They had been learning the skills of rounders with Mrs Knapper during rounders PE lessons this summer term. Well done children.

Northwood

Children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 had a wonderful day at Northwood Stadium for our local cluster schools' athletics day. They took part in a range of track events (sprint, distance run, bundles and relay races) and field events (discus, javelin, short put and long jump). The team finished fourth place overall. Well done to all the children involved.

Y2/3 Dodgeball 20th May

The dodgeball event took place as usual this term – children behaved wonderfully. They had a great time.

Y5/6 Bikeability

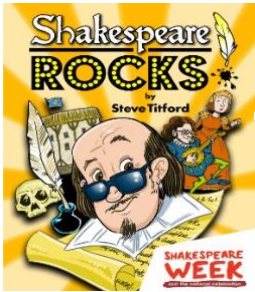
Children had the opportunity this year to take part in Bikeability – which is learning the skill of riding their bikes on the road. We believe that this is such an important skill for the children to learn.

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Shakespeare Rocks

A huge congratulations to all of our Key Stage 2 pupils for their fantastic performance of Shakespeare Rocks! The show was a tremendous success, showcasing amazing solo performances, outstanding acting from our talented lead actors, and wonderful singing and enthusiasm from the entire cast.

We were especially proud of the children who stepped into new roles at the last minute to cover for absent classmates. Their confidence, resilience and teamwork ensured the performance went ahead seamlessly. Despite performing and rehearsing in extremely hot weather, the children remained positive, professional and gave their all, demonstrating remarkable perseverance and commitment. Every child played their part in making the production such a memorable occasion, and we couldn't be prouder of them all.



Mish Mash Day Scores a Goal for Charity!

This year's **Mish Mash Day** was a fantastic celebration of fun, laughter and giving, all in support of our school charity. Children arrived dressed in the most wonderfully wacky and mixed-up outfits, with this year's football theme inspiring everything from football shirts paired with tutus to goalkeepers wearing capes and referees sporting crazy hats!

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of exciting football-themed activities. There was something for everyone to enjoy, including an Ice Cream Factory challenge, energetic pool noodle drumming, thrilling penalty shoot-outs, and the chance to design their own football shirts. The school was buzzing with excitement as children worked together, showed off their creativity and cheered each other on.

Most importantly, Mish Mash Day reminded us that by coming together, having fun and supporting one another, we can make a real difference. Thank you to all of our pupils, families and staff for embracing the spirit of the day and helping to raise money for such a worthwhile cause.

What a brilliant team effort—it was certainly a day to remember!

The weather has been so hot towards the end of this academic year but the children have coped so well. They really enjoyed it when we got the hose out at playtime to keep them cool.



A Proud Moment for Our Nursery Graduates

There were smiles all around as our wonderful Nursery children celebrated their very first graduation! Looking incredibly smart in their graduation gowns and caps, the children proudly marked the end of a very special chapter before beginning their exciting journey into Reception.

As part of the celebration, each child shared what they would like to be when they grow up. From firefighters, teachers and doctors to footballers, vets, dancers and even superheroes, it was a joy to hear their dreams and ambitions. Their confidence, enthusiasm and imagination made the ceremony even more memorable.

The graduation was a heartwarming occasion, filled with proud families, happy smiles and lots of applause. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that the children have achieved during their time in Nursery and the fantastic progress they have made.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated Nursery staff, who have gone the extra mile to organise this special event for the very first time. Their care, creativity and commitment ensured the children had a celebration they will always remember. We are incredibly grateful for all they do to give our youngest learners such a happy and inspiring start to their school journey.

Congratulations to all of our Nursery graduates—we are so proud of you and can't wait to see all that you achieve in the years ahead!



Ingmar Class Open Afternoon

Parents and children worked together to create a wire sculpture of a person from their designs. It was a challenging task that Mrs. Lees set, we really appreciate families on board to complete that piece of artwork.



KS2 Middleport Pottery

The KS2 children studied 'The Potteries' as one of their History units this year. It was a topic that the children really enjoyed both for their making of clay models and their trip to Middleport Pottery. This brought the history to life for the children, finding out about the pottery making process, learning about the importance of the canals and so on.

Loving God,

As another school year comes to an end, we thank You for the friendships made, the lessons learned and the memories shared.

Bless our families during the summer holidays. Fill their days with laughter, love and time together. Keep them safe as they travel, play and explore the beauty of Your world.

May this summer be a time of rest and renewal, where hearts are refreshed and spirits are lifted. Help us to show kindness, patience and gratitude in all that we do, and remind us that You are always with us wherever we go.

Watch over our children as they grow in confidence and joy and bring us all back together ready for another exciting school year.

We thank You for Your love, Your guidance and Your many blessings.

Amen.