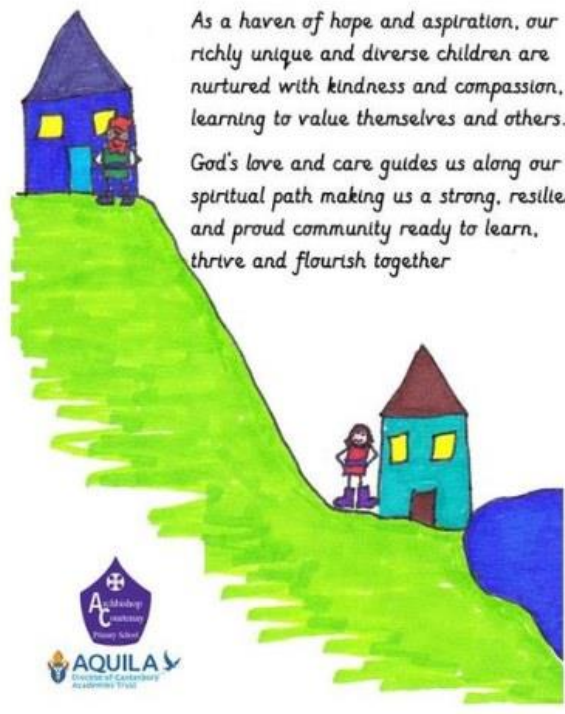




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -
Friday 21st November



As a haven of hope and aspiration, our richly unique and diverse children are nurtured with kindness and compassion, learning to value themselves and others.

God's love and care guides us along our spiritual path making us a strong, resilient and proud community ready to learn, thrive and flourish together

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Dear families,

As the colder weather sets in, please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a warm coat and is wrapped up appropriately for the chill. We also encourage children to bring a pair of wellies if they do not already have some at school. Our pupils really enjoy spending time on the field during breaks, but it can be quite soggy at this time of year. Each class has a dedicated welly rack where wellies can be safely stored.

This week has been a particularly exciting one at school, with many visitors coming to see our work in action. A group of teachers from other schools visited to observe our Early Years

Foundation Stage (EYFS) practice and were very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning.

Our Year 6 pupils are currently involved in a Religious Education research project in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church. A researcher visited us to observe their work and was truly blown away by the critical thinking and thoughtful discussions taking place. She described our school as incredible.

We were also delighted to welcome Helen Grant MP, who was very impressed with our school and the politeness of our children. She spent time speaking with me, Mrs Bond, and our Trust's CEO, Annie Wiles, about the challenges facing schools in the current climate and our aspirations for the future. Helen expressed her hope to collaborate with us to make the lives of our children even better.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a nurturing and inspiring environment for all our pupils.

Warm wishes

Sue Heather



Safeguarding - VR Headsets



With the growing popularity of Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, many children are now using this exciting technology at home. While VR can offer immersive and educational experiences, it is important to be aware of some safeguarding concerns to keep your child safe and well.

Physical Safety:

VR headsets fully immerse children in virtual environments, which can make them unaware of their real surroundings. This can lead to accidents such as bumping into furniture or tripping. We recommend creating a clear, safe space for your child to use VR and supervising their sessions to prevent injury.

Content Suitability:

VR content can be very intense and emotionally powerful. It is vital to ensure that the games or apps your child uses are age-appropriate and free from distressing or unsuitable material. Always check the content ratings and reviews before allowing your child to use any VR experience.

Screen Time and Health:

Extended use of VR can cause eye strain, dizziness, headaches, or nausea in some children. Limit VR sessions to short periods with regular breaks. Children with certain medical conditions, such as epilepsy or sensory sensitivities, should avoid VR or use it only with medical advice.

Online Safety and Privacy:

Many VR platforms collect personal data and may include online social features. Monitor your child's use to protect their privacy and guard against cyberbullying or inappropriate contact. Use parental controls where available and discuss safe online behaviour with your child.

Emotional Well-being:

VR experiences can evoke strong emotions. Talk with your child about how they feel during and after using VR. If they seem upset or anxious, encourage them to take a break and share their feelings with you.

Practical Tips for Safe VR Use at Home:

- Set time limits and encourage breaks during VR sessions.
- Choose age-appropriate VR content and review it regularly.
- Create a safe, clutter-free area for VR use.
- Supervise younger children or those new to VR.
- Discuss online safety and privacy with your child.
- Watch for signs of discomfort or distress and respond promptly.

We hope this guidance helps you support your child in enjoying VR technology safely at home. If you have any questions or concerns about VR or other digital technologies, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our children safe and happy.



Attendance

Attendance is everyone's business — but belonging is everyone's gift.



At ABC, we believe that attendance is about much more than just being present in school—it is about ensuring every child feels a genuine sense of belonging and is supported to thrive. We know that regular attendance is critical for children's learning, wellbeing, and future success. However, we also recognise that there are often valid and complex reasons behind a child's attendance pattern.

Our approach to attendance is rooted in nurture and understanding. We want to work *with* you and your child to overcome any barriers to coming to school, rather than intimidate or upset families. When concerns arise or attendance patterns suggest a risk of becoming serious, our intention is to offer support and partnership.

Through our experience, we have noticed several factors that can affect attendance, including:

- Taking holidays during term time
- Living a long distance from school
- Mental health challenges
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Tiredness and fatigue

To help address these, ABC offers a wide range of support tailored to individual needs, such as:

- Breakfast Club to provide a calm and welcoming start to the day
- Soft starts to ease children into their school day at their own pace
- Access to school nursing services for health and wellbeing support
- Nurture groups to build confidence and resilience

- Sensory provision for children with specific sensory needs
- Agreed adjustments to accommodate individual circumstances

We encourage open communication so that together we can find the best ways to support your child's attendance and ensure they feel safe, valued, and ready to learn every day.

Wrap Around Information



Wraparound:

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>

Breakfast (7:30am-8:30am) £4

Social Club (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3

Wraparound (3:15pm-6pm) £12

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

01444 523 335

Dates for Diary



Tuesday 25th November - Parents' Evening

Wednesday 26th November -Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th November - Wednesday 3rd December - Book Fayre

Thursday 27th November - Parents' Evening **SIMMONDS CLASS ONLY**

Friday 28th November - Own Clothes - Chocolates and Christmas Biscuits for Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 2nd December - EYFS Nativity to Parents @9:15am & 2:00pm

Wednesday 3rd December -EYFS visit to Pantomime

Thursday 4th December - Santa's Sleigh Visit to School

Friday 5th December - Christmas Fayre @2pm

Tuesday 9th December - KS1 Nativity @2pm

Thursday 11th December - KS1 Nativity @9:00am

Friday 12th December - Valley Park Pantomime

Friday 12th December - Christmas Discos

Tuesday 16th December - All Saints Church Service @9:30am

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Friday 19th December - Last Day of Term 2 - SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:30PM

Collective Worship



This week in collective worship, our *Worship Warriors* took the lead and delivered a thoughtful and engaging session for the whole school. They shared the story of **Solomon asking God for forgiveness**, helping us reflect on what it truly means to be **wise** and how wisdom can guide the choices we make every day. The children did a wonderful job retelling the story and encouraging everyone to think about how wisdom shows up in our own lives.

We also spent time exploring an important Bible verse:

Proverbs 12:25 — “Worry can rob you of happiness, but kind words will cheer you up.”

Together, we discussed how this message links to our daily life in school. We talked about:

- how worries can sometimes make our hearts feel heavy,
- the power of speaking kindly to one another, and
- how *kind words* can help lift someone’s spirits and make our school a happier and more caring place. The children shared wonderful examples of times when kind words helped them or their friends feel better. It was a lovely reminder that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Reception



What a chilly week it has been! ❄️

Thank you so much for sending your children in with their warm hats, gloves, and cosy layers. Because of this, we've been able to continue enjoying our outdoor learning environment, even in the frosty weather.

Phonics

This week we have been learning the sounds **ch**, **qu**, and **z**. The children have been working really hard on reading simple sentences, spotting the *tricky words*, and blending the phonemes to read new words.

Our new tricky words are: **go**, **no**, **to**, **into**.

These can be challenging, so please keep practising them at home—regular repetition makes such a big difference!

Understanding the World – Birthdays Around the World

Our theme this week has been **birthdays**. The children enjoyed exploring how people around the world celebrate birthdays, noticing both similarities and differences. They were fascinated to learn that every family and culture has its own special traditions. It was lovely hearing the children share their own birthday experiences too.

Drawing Club – Kipper's Birthday

In Drawing Club, our focus text was *Kipper's Birthday*. We talked about what Kipper enjoyed most about his big day and thought carefully about what present we might give him. The children made thoughtful choices—for example, “a red ball because he likes red”—and created some wonderful drawings to go with their ideas.

Maths

In maths, we have been learning about **one more** and **one less**.

- *One more* means we **count on**
- *One less* means we **count backwards**

The children practised this using numbers, objects, and games, and they are becoming much more confident in recognising how numbers change.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a warm and restful weekend!

Year 1 & 2



What a freezing cold week it has been! We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for remembering to send your children to school wrapped up warm in their coats, hats, and gloves. It's so important that they stay cosy while enjoying their time outdoors.

Maths

In the classroom, our children have been busy engaging in some fantastic practical lessons. In Attenborough Class, the children have been focusing on counting on from 20 and counting in tens. They've been using hands-on activities that really help to embed their understanding

of these concepts. It's wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explore numbers in a fun and interactive way! Meanwhile, Rowling Class has been revisiting fact families, diving into the world of addition and subtraction. The children are making great strides in recognising how numbers relate to one another, which is a crucial skill in their mathematical development. Their enthusiasm for learning is truly inspiring! Frank Class has also been hard at work, tackling missing number problems. They've been using various strategies to find the answers, and it's been delightful to watch them collaborate and support each other in their learning journey.

P.E

In P.E., the children have been honing their ball skills, focusing on throwing, catching, and dribbling. It's been a joy to see them develop their coordination and teamwork while having a blast! Physical activity is so important for their overall well-being, and we encourage everyone to keep active at home too.

History

In history, our young historians have been exploring what school life was like during the Victorian era. They've discovered that teachers were quite strict back then! The children have enjoyed comparing past and present educational experiences, and it's sparked some lively discussions about how much things have changed.

Special Notice

As we continue through this chilly season, let's keep encouraging our children to embrace their learning with enthusiasm and warmth. We also hope they have been singing the songs from the Nativity at home. Please rehearse lines with your children if they have a speaking part. Thank you for your ongoing support and for ensuring they are dressed appropriately for the weather.



What a great week we've had in LKS2 this week! Here is a snap shot of what we've been up to.

English: 📖

We have been busy writing similes for different emotions and considering how to apply these in poetic form. We started thinking about core emotions: Love, happiness, anger and loneliness and considering what these abstract nouns would look and feel like giving them a colour and a texture. We then had a go at placing them into poetry.

Maths: 🧮

We have started looking at multiplication and what arrays are and how commutative times tables are ($3 \times 5 = 5 \times 3$). We are looking at further developing our times tables knowledge and our speed and accuracy of recall.

RE: ✝️

This week we have further considered what the Trinity is and how water can be symbolic of this in its 3 states: Liquid, Gas and Solid and how these can represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We went on to consider how water is symbolic in baptism for Christians.

Art: 🎨

We have started our studies on still life and have used physical objects and i-pad technology to research and create still life images and compositions of our own. We have explored how light can be represented in images and how colour can be used to create different tones.

Hub reminders:

- Children must bring a coat to school EVERYDAY
- Children will need to wear a tracksuit for PE now the weather is colder
- Homework is set as follows: Spellings will be posted up on DOJO, Mathematics tasks will be set online.
- Homework club runs on Monday and Tuesday Lunchtimes 12.25-12.45pm in Shakespeare Class for LKS2 children to attend.

Year 5 & 6



🌟 Weekly Round-Up – What a Wonderful Third Week Back! 🌟

We've had another fantastic week full of creativity, enthusiasm and lots of brilliant learning. The children have continued to work incredibly hard and are really impressing us with their focus and effort! 😊🌟

📖 English

In English, we continued exploring *The Lost Happy Endings*. This week, we focused on **Jub and the witch**, describing both characters in detail. The children also worked on adding **dialogue** between them, thinking carefully about what each character might say. They especially loved **acting out the dramatic scene** where the witch meets Jub and steals the happy endings! 🗨️😈🌟

➗ Maths

In Maths, the children have been diving into **fractions**. They have been learning how to **add and subtract fractions, order them on a number line**, and explore **inverse operations** and **mixed fractions**. They've shown fantastic determination with this tricky topic! 📅✍️

💻 Computing

In Computing, the children have been busy **researching facts** so that they can begin designing and creating their **very own websites**. They are extremely excited about this project and can't wait to bring their pages to life! 🌐🌟

🎵 Music

In Music, the children have been learning about **gospel and spiritual music**. They listened to and discussed a range of songs before performing **"Why We Sing" by Kirk Franklin**. Their enthusiasm and voices filled the room! 🎵🙌

Thank you for all your support, and don't forget to book an appointment for Parents Evening next week.

The UPKS2 team.

The ABC Archie Awards





1 - This week our four Archie's have been really excited to be awarded. Well done to the following children:

KS1: Jennifer for always being polite and helpful

LKS2: Matilda for always showing the school values and being kind to adults and her peers

UKS2: Darcie-Ann for taking the time to think of others and take on board other opinions

I wonder... who will Archie go and visit next week?

Contact Us



We are here to help you so please never be afraid to get in touch

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