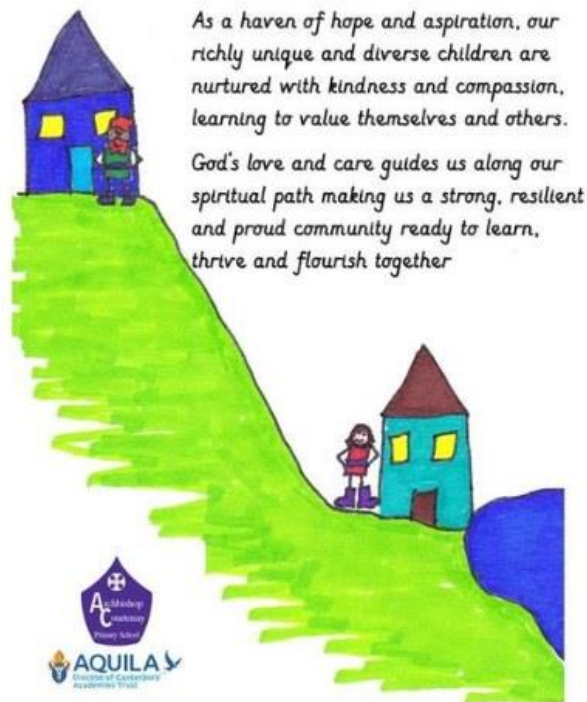




Friday 12th September

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School





Why Our School Vision Matters to You as Parents

Our school vision is the foundation of everything we do at The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust. It guides how we nurture your child, ensuring they grow in kindness, compassion, resilience, respect, friendship, and aspiration. This vision creates a safe and inspiring environment where every pupil feels valued and supported to achieve their best.

Rooted in Christian faith, our vision reflects God's love and care, helping pupils develop strong spiritual and moral values. It shapes our approach to teaching, behaviour, and community life, making sure your child is not only academically prepared but also emotionally and socially confident.

By living out this vision every day, we build a school community where diversity is celebrated, and every pupil's unique talents and needs are met. This commitment ensures that your child is equipped with the skills and values to thrive both now and in the future.

Choosing our school means joining a community dedicated to helping your child flourish academically, spiritually, and personally.

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Mrs Heather's Welcome



I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that the break is not too much of a distant memory! We have had a fantastic start to the new term. Our new Reception children have settled in beautifully, and it's wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces arriving on time each day – thank you for your continued support with punctuality.

Our new teachers have fitted in really well and are already making a positive impact across the school. I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Jewell is now in post as our SENCo. If you have any concerns or questions regarding special educational needs, please do not hesitate to speak with her.

We are excited to share that a brand-new school website is coming soon, which we hope will enhance communication and keep you well informed.

The children look absolutely beautiful in their uniforms. If you have any issues or need support with uniform, please feel free to contact Mrs Gooding who is always happy to help.

We are busy arranging a range of school trips for the year ahead. We are very mindful of the financial pressures on families and are working hard to keep costs as low as possible so that all pupils can participate.

On a different note, I want to share our approach to online safety and social media. While AI and digital tools are fantastic for saving time and enhancing learning, we are aware of the risks involved. Therefore, we have made the decision not to publish photographs of children on Facebook, this includes not adding the the newsletter with pictures (we will remove these aspects). We understand this may be disappointing for families with relatives living

further afield who enjoy seeing their grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc. but the safety and privacy of our pupils is our top priority. We will continue to share photos securely via DoJo.

A reminder if you need help or support please do get in touch. Senior Leaders are out the front in the morning so come and speak to us, we do not judge as we are all mums and grandmothers so appreciate the pressures first hand. If we can help we will. Also pop along to our ABC Café every Friday-it's good to get to know other parents too!

Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership in making our school a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Warmest wishes

Sue Heather

Headteacher

[Information for Parents](#)



Parking



We would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. This week, we have experienced significant congestion related to parking, which has caused traffic to back up from Eccleston Road to the main road. This situation is hazardous for everyone, and we ask for your careful attention to help us keep all our pupils and families safe.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the parking facilities available at our school, especially compared to many other schools that have little or no parking or limited stopping places. To help ease congestion, please remember that additional parking is available in the lower car park near the nursery if you are unable to find a space closer to the main entrance.

Starting Monday, senior leaders will be on duty during drop-off times to assist with a smooth flow of traffic. They will help ensure that you can drop your children safely and continue on your way promptly.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

WOW - the walk to school challenge



We are excited to share that our "Walk on Wednesday" initiative has officially started this week! This initiative encourages all pupils to walk to school every Wednesday, promoting healthy habits, environmental awareness, and a sense of community.

Benefits of Walking on Wednesday:

- **Health and Well-being:** Walking helps pupils stay active, supports physical fitness, and improves mental well-being.
- **Environmental Impact:** Reducing car journeys helps lower pollution and supports our commitment to sustainability.
- **Social Interaction:** Walking together fosters friendships and helps pupils develop social skills in a safe, supportive environment.
- **Safety and Independence:** Pupils gain confidence and independence as they navigate their journey to school.

Exciting Badge Collection:

To make this initiative even more motivating, pupils can collect up to 11 badges by consistently participating in Walk on Wednesday. Each badge represents a milestone in their commitment to walking, encouraging perseverance and celebrating their achievements.

We encourage all families to participate and support their children in making walking a regular part of their week. Let's work together to build a healthier, happier, and more connected school community.

Thank you for your support!

Opal Play



A reminder that all children require their own welly boots and a puddle suit to keep at school - so that they can use the outside space all year round.

Also we are continuing to collect items for our Opal Play so please bring in any unwanted items that we might find useful - if in doubt ask :)

We kindly remind you that the Opal play toys are intended for use by our pupils only. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all children, please do not allow toddlers or younger siblings to play in these areas.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and engaging environment for our pupils.

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

Pencil cases

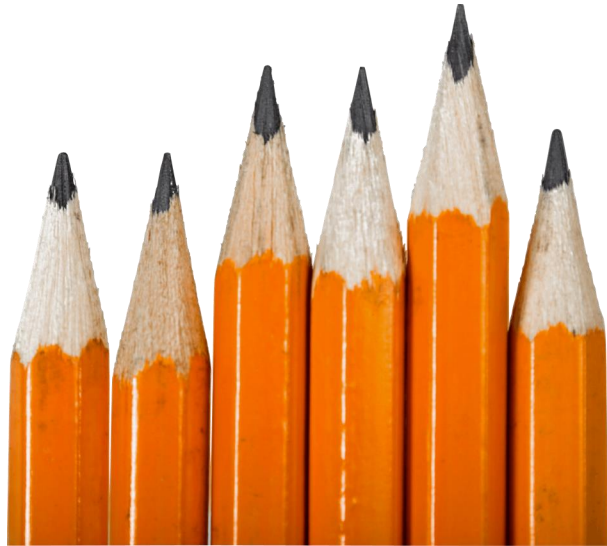


Thank you to all the parents who have provided pencil cases for their child at the start of term. They are all incredibly enthusiastic to show off their sparkling new stationary!

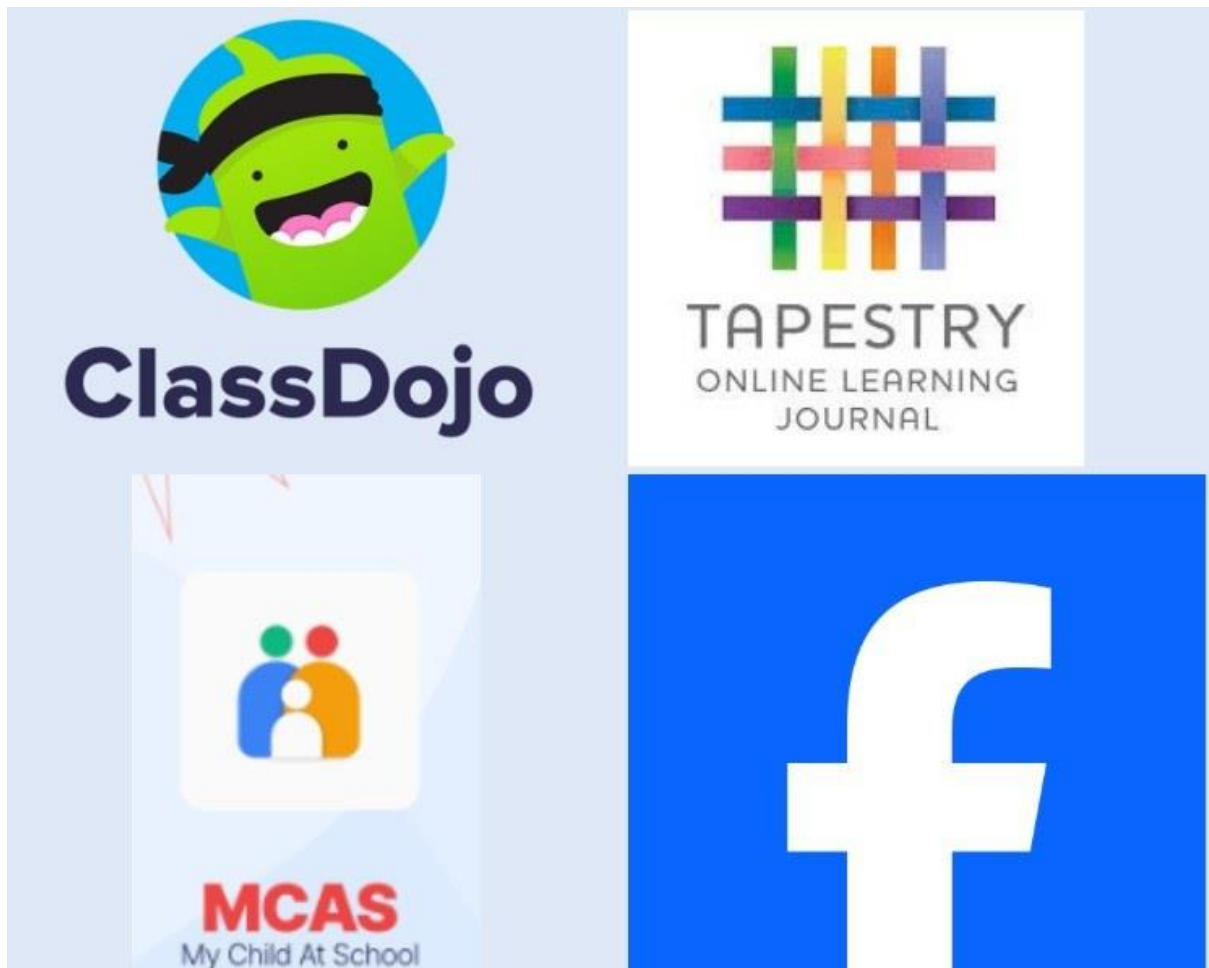
We have been asked to remind parents what the children should bring but rest assured that if your child needs any of these items and is unable to bring them from home, they will still have access to them at school.

Children will need:

- 30cm ruler
- Pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Glue stick
- Highlighter
- Blue biro



Have you got all the Communication APPS!



We strive to keep families fully informed and involved in school life. Effective communication is vital to ensure you have access to all the information you need to support your child's learning and wellbeing. To help you stay connected, please make sure you have access to our key communication platforms:

- Class DOJO – Keep up to date with your child’s learning, share messages with teachers, and celebrate achievements.
- Facebook – Follow our school page for news, events, and community updates.
- MCAS (My Child at School) – Access attendance records, pay for trips, and view important school communications.
- Tapestry (Reception only) – See your child’s learning journey and share observations from home.

These platforms are your window into school routines, events, and opportunities to ask questions or share information with teachers and other families. If you need any support accessing these systems, please contact the school office—we are here to help!

New Initiatives



We are delighted to share some exciting developments happening across our school to further enhance your child’s learning experience.

New Writing Scheme in KS1 and KS2

This term, we have introduced a new, carefully designed writing scheme in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The scheme focuses on building strong foundations in spelling, handwriting, and composition, ensuring that pupils develop the skills to articulate their ideas clearly and confidently in writing. We are very excited to see how the children respond and progress with this fresh approach.

'Lexia': Supporting Reading and Language Skills

We are also thrilled to launch a new technology tool called *Lexia*. Lexia is an interactive, personalised learning programme that supports pupils in developing essential reading and language skills. It offers targeted activities tailored to each child's needs, helping them improve fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary in an engaging and motivating way.

'3P' and EYFS & KS1 'Learning with Parents' Reading Log

To strengthen the home-school partnership, we are introducing *3P*, a platform that supports learning through clear explanations and resources. For our Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 families, we are launching a 'Learning with Parents' reading log. This tool encourages daily reading at home and helps you track and celebrate your child's reading journey together.

We understand that introducing three new initiatives for families at once might feel a little stressful, but we truly believe these programmes will have a positive impact on your children's learning. They will also provide you with valuable opportunities to engage more closely with your child's education.

You will receive detailed information and clear instructions on how to access and use these tools shortly. We encourage all families to engage with these initiatives to support your child's learning both at school and at home.

My Happy Minds - a free, science-backed tool for parents that supports their child's mental well-being and resilience by providing resources to continue the school-based curriculum at home. **The authentication code is: 139822.**

Please note: On Wednesday 17th September there is a '3P' parent workshop 8:50am & 2:30pm (20 minutes) - Hall

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our pupils learn, thrive, and flourish!

Dates for Diary



Tuesday 16th September - Year 1 - Year 6 visit to All Saints Church

Wednesday 17th September - '3P' parent workshop 8:50am - Hall

Monday 22nd September - Girls Football Tournament Gallagher Stadium - TBC

Friday 26th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd October - KS2 Author Visit

Thursday 9th October - Whole School Flu Immunisation

Friday 10th October - Harvest Festival

Monday 13th October - Year 5 and year 6 Football Tournament

Wednesday 15th October - individual School Photographs

Thursday 16th October - Restart a Heart Day

Friday 17th October - Last Day of Term 1

Monday 3rd November - First Day of Term 2

Please note we are currently planning school trips - these will be added in due course.

Collective Worship



This week in Collective Worship, we've been thinking all about new beginnings – starting a new school year, making new friends, and building strong foundations for the year ahead.

We talked about why we have rules, and how they help us to feel safe, happy, and respected. We linked this to the Bible verse Matthew 7:12 “*Do to others what you would have them do to you*” also known as the Golden Rule. The children shared some lovely ideas about kindness, fairness, and treating others with respect.

We also reflected on our school vision and values: *Resilience, Respect, Friendship, Compassion, and Aspiration* – and how these help us build our ‘house’ on strong foundations, just like in the story of the Two Builders. We’re learning that making good choices, being kind, and never giving up are what help us grow strong together.

We also had a special assembly from Miss Copley, who introduced us to ‘My Happy Minds’, a new programme we’ll be exploring this year to help us understand our emotions, build resilience, and celebrate what makes us unique. We even had our very first Happiness Heroes announced and presented with their special badges, well done to those children!

It’s been a lovely start to the year full of reflection, celebration, and joy. We’re excited to keep growing together as a school family!

Reception



What a fantastic start to the school year it's been! We'd like to say a big warm welcome to all our new children and families – it's been such a joy getting to know you and starting this exciting journey together.

We're so proud of how quickly the children have settled into the routines of school life. From lining up so beautifully to sitting together in the hall for lunchtime – they've done brilliantly! Carrying their trays, trying new foods (even those tricky vegetables!), and learning where everything goes – it's been lovely to see their growing independence and confidence.

It was also wonderful to meet so many of you during our home visits. Thank you for welcoming us into your homes or coming in to school – it really helped us to get to know your children and begin building those all-important links between home and school.

This week in class, the children have been taking part in their statutory baseline assessments with Mrs Eades and Miss Elphick. These include some simple Maths activities and Communication and Language tasks – all done in a fun, relaxed way so the children feel happy and confident. More information about the assessments has been shared on our Class Dojo Story, so do have a look when you can.

We've also been busy exploring our classroom and outdoor learning environment – there's been lots of fun in both the sunshine and the rain this week! Whether it's water play, building with blocks, or imaginative games, the children have been really engaged and curious.

Next week, we're excited to begin our Phonics learning! Our first sounds will be:

s, a, t, p

We'll be learning to say the sounds, spot them in words, and begin to blend them for reading.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to Class Dojo, Tapestry, and Learning with Parents. These are great ways to stay connected and see what your child is learning each week. If you haven't yet activated your account or need any help, please don't hesitate to speak to your class teacher – we're happy to help!

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend – we can't wait for more fun and learning next week!

Year 1 & 2



What an amazing start to the academic year it has been. We have been very proud of the way that the children have been coming in to school with eagerness to learn.

What an exciting week we've had during our Learning to Learn week! Our class dived into the enchanting story of *Cloud Boy* by Gregg Stobbs, which sparked wonderful discussions and imaginative thinking. The children really grasped the themes of the book, and it was heart-warming to see their creativity flourish.

In maths, we kicked off our new topic on place value, where the pupils took on challenges and played games to solidify their understanding. It's fascinating to witness their confidence grow as they tackle these concepts!

We also launched our new PSHE curriculum with *My Happy Mind*, where the children explored the wonders of their brains and how to cultivate a positive mindset.

The week culminated in a fabulous Arty Party workshop, where everyone had the chance to get creative and showcase their artistic talents. Here's to more adventures in learning ahead!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and we are looking forward to watching our lovely children tackle more exciting challenges next week.

Best Wishes

The KS1 Team

Year 3 & 4



Welcome back to the new academic year, we've had a fantastic start of to the Term! It was so wonderful to meet many of you this afternoon at our open class event.

Lower Key stage 2 have started our learning journey with our Learning to Learn weeks focusing our studies on exploring our school story of "The Wise and Foolish Builders", our vision and values. We have been busy exploring the themes of diversity and inclusion through our reading, writing and art work and what this looks like for everyone at ABC. The children have developed vocabulary and wisdom about the world they are growing up into and how our school is like a home from home and a haven of safety where as one pupil summarised *"Everyone is welcomed at ABC and made to feel part of a very special family of friends of different colour, culture and language"*

We have started our PE on MONDAY's where we are doing Netball and Gymnastics - remember from next week correct kit earns you a house point!

We have explored transport to school and are promoting walking and park and stride to help the children earn badges throughout the year.

We have baseline assessed the children for AR and will be assigning reading books to take home from next week - please can you read with your child for at least 15-20 minutes daily as this will help to improve their vocabulary, reading stamina and develop ideas for writing, and allow them access to the new Reading Eggs App.

Every child should have taken home this evening their letter and QR codes for Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds which can be accessed on any device, and their login details for LEXIA. Please note LEXIA can only be accessed on an i-Pad, laptop, computer and *not* a mobile phone.

Please can all children be sent into school with a wet weather Coat and a pair of welly boots for Opal play at break and lunchtimes. This week we have had a number of children in school without coats and they are missing out on the fun!

Year 5 & 6



What a fantastic start to the school year it has been for UKS2! The children have settled brilliantly into their new routines, showing enthusiasm, positivity, and a real eagerness to learn.

English

This week, we began exploring our class text *Cloud Boy*. Through this story, we are discussing important themes of inclusivity and diversity and thinking carefully about how these values

apply to our own lives and school community. We have focused on reading this week, have a look at some of the weird and wonderful places we have read a book this week.

Maths

In maths, we have launched straight into our place value learning. This is such an important area of maths, as it forms the backbone of many of the skills the children will be building upon throughout the year.

PSHE

We are very excited to have started our brand-new PSHE scheme: *My Happy Mind*. The children are learning about how their brains work, why they experience certain feelings, and strategies they can use to acknowledge and manage those emotions.

Swimming and PE

Our Year 5s enjoyed their very first swimming lesson this week! They had an amazing time in the pool and are already looking forward to returning each week to build their confidence and skills.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have embraced the start of term. It's going to be a fantastic year of growth, learning, and new experiences.

In PE we have started learning gymnastics and netball. The children have started the week learning all the basic skills and reminding themselves what they learnt last year and are ready to start learning new skills and have a brilliant games.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

The UKS2 Team

Contact Us



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

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