



CHRISTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date: 05/12/25

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Festivities have well and truly begun in school this week. The stage is up, the tinsel is hung, and the hall is sparkling in readiness for our much-anticipated Nativity next week. The children have been working incredibly hard, and we would like to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to all parents who have supported with costumes, rehearsing lines, and helping to build excitement at home. Your efforts make such a difference, and we can promise—you are in for a real treat!

On Tuesday 2nd December, Christow School Council proudly hosted their very first **Toy Swap**. We knew we had collected a generous number of donations, but even we were astonished by the sheer volume of toys and books that emerged from our only storage space—our school minibus! In total, more than 200 toys and a similar number of books were laid out, filling the entire school hall.

The atmosphere on the day was wonderful. As the children walked in, their faces lit up at the sight of rows and rows of “new-to-them” toys waiting to be explored. Knowing that everything was completely free helped create a warm, inclusive buzz, and we were delighted to welcome so many families through the doors.

A huge thank-you must also go to Mrs Hill and our fantastic PTFA, who provided delicious refreshments and organised a Christmas jumper swap alongside the Toy Swap, turning the occasion into a real community celebration.

We were touched by the comments shared by parents throughout the event. One parent said, “I really hope that this takes away the stigma surrounding gifting second-hand items.” Another remarked, “What a wonderful event. I hope it can be repeated next year. It was so lovely hearing the children talk about who they would gift their toys to.”

Events like this remind us what a special, caring school community we have. Thank you to everyone who donated, attended, or supported in any way. We look forward to many more opportunities to come together during this festive season.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend
Mrs Yeo and the Christow Team

Attendance

Reception	85.5%
Year 1	68.9 %
Year 2	89.4 %
Year 3	86.7 %
Year 4	100 %
Year 5	98.3 %
Year 6	94.4%

Well done Y4

School Overall Attendance for the year to date

94.7%

‘Good’ attendance is 97% or above.

Safeguarding Officers



Mrs Yeo Mrs Hill

If you have concerns about a child outside of school hours it is your responsibility to report it to

MASH 0345 155 1071

CHRISTOW STARS for the week ending 5th December 2025

Headteacher's Award for “Star of the Week”

Joe

Merryn

Josh



Piece of the Week

Haldon: Elowen

Hedgemoor: Archie

Kennick: Evie

Bowden: Rowan



Value of the Week:

Haldon: Rhuan

Hedgemoor: Tabi

Kennick: Florence

Bowden: Ophelia



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9th December	9.30am Nativity - Preschool Performance
Wednesday 10th December	9.30am and 2.00pm EY/ KS1 Nativity
Monday 15th December	2pm KS2 Carol Service at the Church
Tuesday 16th December	Bowden watching Teign School's Beauty and the Beast Performance
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation or a bottle for the bottle tombola
Thursday 18th December	3.15pm PTFA Christmas Fayre
Friday 19th December	End of term - 9am Governors Assembly
Monday 5th January	First day of the Spring term
Thursday 15th January	Primary School Application Deadline

Friday Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

Browse our **Preloved Uniform Sale** which runs every **Friday at pick-up time** in the **gazebo**. The sale is weather dependant, so the sale will not run when the weather is unsettled.

Suggested Donations:

- £2 per Christow School jumper
- £1 for other items

We accept **cash or card** – all proceeds to go the PTFA.

Grab a bargain & reduce waste.

Reminder—Preschool Late Collection Penalty

All children attending our preschool must be collected at the end of each session. Due to insurance issues we are unable to care for any child on the premises prior to 9.00am and after 3.00pm. Should any parent/carer be late in collecting their child then we are entitled to impose a penalty of **£15 per 1/4 hour late**. This fee is to cover extra costs incurred in caring for the child. All drop off and collection times are accurately recorded as a government requirement by the staff for reference.

If you any questions please contact the Mrs Fleming in the school office via email reception@christowprimary.org.uk or 01647 252542.



Christow Toy Swap



Back in early September, when the newly appointed members of the School Council met for the first time, one of our year 6 reps spoke passionately about the toy industry and how it is terribly wasteful. Did you know that 80% of toys end up in incinerators, just like in the Toy Story 3 climatic movie scene? Our year 6 rep really wanted to use his new School Council role to spread news of this. In the first instance, he proposed workshops to upcycle unwanted soft toys and so was born the '**Franken-Teddy Workshops**', run after school, which saw children making new teddies with parts of old ones taken apart and sewn together! These 'mash ups' excited many of our pupils and some have even turned this into a hobby at home! As a result, we have saved many soft toys from being doomed to incinerator waste.

The School Council, led by Mrs Hill, decided to take this theme of toy waste even further, agreeing that a 'Toy Swap' in time for Christmas would not only be the perfect way to encourage reuse of old and unwanted toys but would also help families out at this financially straining time. So we set about collecting toys from our Christow families before swapping them with another local school, Dunsford Primary School (who were collecting for their Christmas fair). This way, both schools would have new and unseen toys, and save children returning home with toys they had donated! The School Council led an assembly on how the 'Toy Swap' would work. Each child was to be given a token and in the spirit of Christmas, they could swap their token for a toy to be gifted to somebody else; a friend, sibling, or family member. Parents were to be allowed in 15 minutes early to shop for their children first.

So, on Tuesday 2nd December, Christow School Council hosted their first '**Toy Swap**'. We were astounded by how many toys we unloaded from our only storage space in our small school; our school minibus! There were in excess of 200 toys and an equal number of books, filling our whole school hall. There was a buzz of excitement as children walked into a hall full of unseen toys and better still, knowing that these toys would be free, encouraged more families to turn up. Our PTFA kindly put on wonderful refreshments and a Christmas jumper swap, making this a real event. One parent remarked, 'I really hope that this takes away the stigma surrounding gifting secondhand items,' whilst another said, 'What a wonderful event. I hope it can be repeated next year. It was so lovely hearing the children talk about who they would gift their toys to.'

To top it all off, the leftover toys have now gone to Whipton Barton Junior School in Exeter to be used for their school attendance shop and Christmas fair. Ultimate waste management!

Our small but mighty Christow team certainly did their bit to raise the profile of waste management, support families with money saving opportunities and spread some Christmas joy in the process!





Become a School Governor

We are looking for **at least two new volunteers** to join our Local Governing Board (LGB). Your skills, experience, and perspective—whatever they may be—can make a real difference. Sharing the workload helps ensure our school continues to thrive.

Over the last decade, the role of a Governor has evolved, especially as more schools have joined Multi Academy Trusts. For Christow, this shift has been transformative. Fourteen years ago, our school faced significant challenges: fewer than 50 pupils, limited resources, and a leadership structure stretched thin as the Headteacher and Governing Board juggled finances, premises, and HR alongside teaching and learning.

By joining with Rydon and Teign School to form a Multi Academy Trust, Christow gained access to specialist support in finance, HR, and estates. This allowed staff and Governors to focus on what matters most—high-quality education.

Today, our school is stronger, our pupil numbers have doubled, and our staff benefit from being part of a thriving partnership of 14 schools.

Modern governance is now centred on supporting the day-to-day life of the school and championing the success and wellbeing of every child. This includes:

- Monitoring safeguarding and behaviour
- Taking an interest in the curriculum
- Understanding how we support pupils with SEND
- Monitoring staff and pupil wellbeing
- Celebrating achievements and progress
- Helping with staff recruitment

Governors attend **two meetings per term** (up to two hours each) and carry out some preparation between meetings. We currently meet on a Tuesday.

Visits to school during the day are also valuable for understanding practice first-hand.

More information can be found on the school website: [Governors | Christow Community Primary School](https://christowprimary.org.uk/governors/)

If you want to contribute to the future of our school community, we would love to hear from you

Mike Wharton **Chair of Governors**

mike.wharton@educationsouthwest.org.uk

Amy Yeo **Headteacher**

reception@christowprimary.org.uk



A decorative border at the top features a string of colorful Christmas lights. The main title 'The Christow Christmas Jumper Chase' is in large red 3D letters. To the right, there are several colorful, knitted Christmas jumpers. At the bottom, there are illustrations of wrapped gifts in various patterns and colors.

A Christow Community Primary School PTFA fundraiser
Registered charity number: 1011399

The Christow Christmas Jumper Chase

Elf Jumpers have blown across Christow! Grab your map from the Christow Community Shop, follow the clues, and help the elves find Jingle Jim's BIG red Christmas jumper before Christmas Eve!

Cash Donations Welcome - Support the PTFA and make a difference!





Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born
between 1 September 2021
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from
15 November 2025 to the 15 January 2026

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing admissions@devon.gov.uk or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



Online ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT TRAINING: SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Free online training aimed at anyone who supports CHILDREN in Devon (excluding Torbay and Plymouth)

DATES OF TRAINING IN 2026

- Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 10am - 11:30am
- Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

BOOK NOW

<https://forms.office.com/e/SNCW7Szqqi>

Contact Us
01392 405705
rduh.oralhealtheducation@nhs.net
www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/dental

100% of attendees would recommend this course to others



Autumn Term 2025

September

Thu 4	First day of term
Wed 16	Bowden PE Impact Day
Fri 19	School Photos
Wed 24 - Fri 26	Bowden Residential

Tue 30

October

Fri 10 (1pm)	Scarecrow making afternoon
Fri 17 (2pm)	Harvest Festival at the church
Fri 17	PTFA Autumn Disco
Mon 27 - Fri 31	Half Term

November

Wed 5	Teign Valley Fireworks (TVCH)
Mon 17	Parents Evening
Wed 19	Parents Evening

December

Wed 10 (9.30am)	EY/KS1 Nativity (school hall)
Wed 10 (2pm)	KS2 Carol Service at the church
Mon 15 (2pm)	Christmas Dinner
Wed 17	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Thu 18 (3.15pm)	Governors Assembly
Fri 19 (9am)	Last day of term

Parent Forums will be held every half term (dates to be confirmed).

Our SENCO, Emily Risby, will be in school every other Monday.

Calendar Dates 2025/26

Christow Community Primary School

Spring Term 2026

January

Mon 5

First day of term

February

Fri 13

PTFA Friendship Disco
Half Term

March

Wed 4

Parents Evening

Thu 5

Parents Evening

Thu 5

World Book Day

April

Wed 1

PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Thurs 2 (9am)

Governors Assembly

Last day of term

April

Mon 20

First day of term

May

Mon 11 - Thu 14

Year 6 SATS

Mon 8

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Tues 9 (6pm)

Music Concert

Wed 24 (1.30pm)

Preschool Sports Day

Fri 26

Leavers Disco

June

Fri 3 (1pm)

Sports Day (TVCH)

Fri 10

PTFA Summer Fayre

Wed 15

KS2 Production (TVCH)

Fri 17 (9am)

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Fri 17 (2pm)

Governors' Assembly

Last day of term

Summer Term 2026

Baby & Toddler Every WEDNESDAY (all year)
Every WEDNESDAY (all year)
School Hall, 9am

We will endeavour to keep all dates for 2025/26 as scheduled, but if changes are needed parents will be informed.

