



# CHRISTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date: 28/11/25

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

From frosty mornings to sunny afternoons, this week has felt like the calm before the sparkle of Christmas festivities begins. It has been a lovely chance for the children to settle into routines and enjoy focused learning before the busy weeks ahead.

On Wednesday, Mr Farwell and I had the privilege of attending a SWIFT Initial Teacher Training conference, representing Christow in our role supporting aspiring new teachers. It was a genuine reminder of one of our school's great strengths: we are a community that not only nurtures our own pupils, but also plays an active part in developing the next generation of educators. The commitment, professionalism and warmth shown by our staff make Christow a school that others look to for inspiration and guidance—something we can all be proud of.

Thank you to the parents who are already supporting our drive for clear and calm learning environments by ensuring children are not bringing unnecessary distractions into school. This consistency makes a significant difference, particularly for pupils who rely on predictable structures. As Dr. Temple Grandin reminds us, "Structure helps children feel safe so they can learn and thrive."

We are also grateful to everyone who completed the Parent Survey in October. Your time and honesty are genuinely valued. In this newsletter, we have included the actions already taken in response to your feedback—your opinion matters, and your voice continues to help shape the direction of our school.

A quick reminder that school will be **closed on Monday** for staff training. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on **Tuesday**.

*Wishing you a wonderful weekend  
Mrs Yeo and the Christow Team*

### Attendance

Reception	92%
Year 1	87.6%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	92.3%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	77.1%

### Well done

**School Overall Attendance for the year to date**

**95.1%**

'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 28th November 2025

### Headteacher's Award for "Star of the Week"

Evie (Y1)

Poppy



### Piece of the Week

**Haldon:** Arney

**Hedgemoor:** Clem

**Kennick:** Rupert

**Bowden:** Jessie



### Value of the Week:

**Haldon:** Lois

**Hedgemoor:** Josh

**Kennick:** Iris

**Bowden:** Ariela

## Dates for your diary

<b>Monday 1st December</b>	INSET DAY - School and Preschool Closed
<b>Tuesday 2nd December</b>	3pm onwards Toy Swap
<b>Tuesday 9th December</b>	9.30am Nativity - Preschool Performance
<b>Wednesday 10th December</b>	9.30am and 2.00pm EY/ KS1 Nativity
<b>Monday 15th December</b>	2pm KS2 Carol Service at the Church
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Thursday 18th December</b>	3.15pm PTFA Christmas Fayre
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	9am Governors Assembly

## Friday Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

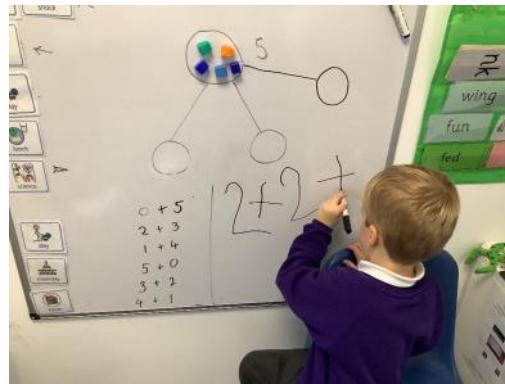
Browse our **Preloved Uniform Sale** every **Friday at pick-up time** in the **gazebo**.

### 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.



## Super Mathematicians

In our maths, we have been continuing with the theme of 'numbers are made up of smaller numbers' and we have been learning how to use a 'part-part whole model' to show this.

Today we used unifix cubes to help us find lots of different ways to make 5 and show this on the part-part whole model.

The 'extra spicy' challenge was to use a part-part-part whole model to make 5!

# Autumn Parent Survey 2025



## 1. Strong confidence in school leadership

Q9 received the **highest score in the entire survey** showing that parents overwhelmingly feel the school is **well led and managed**.

## 2. Behaviour recognised as a growing strength

Q7 ("This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved") showed the **biggest improvement** from the previous survey.

## 3. Parents feel their children are well cared for

Q4 ("My child is well looked after at this school") remained one of the highest-rated areas reflecting continued confidence in the school's pastoral care.

What Parents Said	Actions Taken by the School
More menu variety needed; bring back jacket potatoes; portions sometimes small.	Jacket potatoes added back to the menu; portion sizes and future menu variety being reviewed.
Would like more regular information about what children are learning.	Curriculum maps and Knowledge Organisers shared with parents at the start of each half term.
Requests for a platform to share learning and communicate more effectively after children leave reception.	Exploring an online platform to share learning (planned for January 2026).
Requests for more sports opportunities and consistent PE.	Working with the School Sports Partnership to provide additional sports opportunities as well as delivering 2.5 hours of PE learning a week.
Concerns about class size increases and pressures on staff.	Ongoing staffing review and strengthened communication (in progress).
More feedback about children's progress, especially early in the year.	Curriculum maps shared. Parent Meetings to be moved early in the Autumn term next year. Regular meet the teacher events/ Open Classrooms to be reinstated.
Clarity about changes, routines and expectations.	Implementing clearer whole-school communication systems.
Concerns about informal communication routes (e.g. WhatsApp).	School reinforcing that formal communication will come via official channels.
SEND support concerns.	SEND provision under review with strengthened communication.

**Positive feedback:** caring staff, strong community, happy children.

*We love Christow Primary! Both my children are very happy there and flourishing across the board."*

*"I am extremely pleased with the school, its staff, and the way my children are cared for."*

*"Always feel they go above and beyond to help"*

# 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](#)

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](mailto:mike.wharton@educationsouthwest.org.uk)

**Amy Yeo** **Headteacher**

[reception@christowprimary.org.uk](mailto:reception@christowprimary.org.uk)



# CHRISTOW TODDLER GROUP

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING



CHRISTOW  
SCHOOL  
HALL  
9-11AM

TEA/COFFEE & CAKE

BABIES FREE  
12 MONTHS PLUS £2.50



COME FOR A FUN  
SOCIAL MORNING WITH  
ACTIVITIES, SONGS AND  
STORIES FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES

Christow PTFA Presents

## Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 3-5pm

Christow Primary School

£30 Per Person

Includes Complimentary Glass of fizz

Don't miss out on a fun afternoon whilst  
supporting the school.

Please bring secateurs if you have them.

Everything else will be provided.

Spaces are limited Please contact Lisa  
07773848333 to book your place



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.



# 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  
World Book Day

Thu 5

#### April

Wed 1

PTFA Easter Egg Hunt  
Governors Assembly

Thurs 2

Last day of term

#### May

Mon 11 - Thu 14

Year 6 SATS  
Half Term

#### June

Mon 1

Year 4 Multiplication Check  
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Mon 8

Music Concert  
Preschool Sports Day

Tues 9 (6pm)

Wed 24 (1.30pm)

Fri 26

Leavers Disco

#### July

Fri 3 (1pm)

Sports Day (TVCH)  
PTFA Summer Fayre

Fri 10

KS2 Production (TVCH)  
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Wed 15

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly  
Governors' Assembly

Fri 17 (9am)

Last day of term

Fri 17

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.*

