

Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one help the other up.'
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Friday 17th May 2024

Dear Parents,

Well done Y6!

I want to start by saying well done to our Year 6s. You've had a really busy week with SATs and I know you've all put your best efforts into every paper. I know some of the papers had quite tricky questions but you all showed great resilience, having a go. Thank you to staff and parents for all your support leading up to, and during this week. Y6 we are proud of you.

Fun Run

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fun Run on Saturday – it was lovely weather too! Well done to everyone who participated – there were some very little legs that ran a long way! Thank you to Emma and FoCS for putting it all together – it was a lot of work that went into the preparation and running of the day.

Swimming

Speaking of hard work – the pool is up and running! Thank you to the pool committee for all the preparation that has gone into this and for your ongoing commitment to its maintenance. I know the children are very excited about using it today.

Attendance

Regular attendance is important for children to achieve their best. If children are absent from school, it not only affects their education but they miss out on the social side of school which affects their ability to make and keep friends and can dent their self-confidence to attempt new work and work alongside others. We appreciate that attendance can be affected by illness, particularly colds and tummy bugs. We encourage you to send your children into school wherever possible. However, if they have been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading.



IF YOUR CHILD IS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER,
IT CAN BE HARD TO KNOW IF YOU SHOULD SEND THEM TO SCHOOL OR NOT.

UNLESS THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE OF 38 DEGREES OR ABOVE, THEY'RE USUALLY GOOD TO GO.

SEARCH NHS SCHOOL ILLNESS GUIDANCE.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

HM Government NHS

Family and Community Learning

The Family and Community Learning team from Wiltshire council are putting on some great free and payable courses over the next few months. Courses for May and June include; 'Starting Secondary', 'Helping my child with anxiety and worry' and 'Supporting my Teen with Wellbeing'. A full timetable of events and booking links can be found on their website <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>

Have a lovely weekend, let's hope the sunshine continues.

Mrs H Saunders

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Well done to our inspiring mathletes who are continuing to work really hard. It's fantastic to see children's maths steadily improving as they continue to practice.

Bronze : Imogen W, Florence W

Silver : Theo, Jazmyne, Felix

Gold : George P, Anna

Platinum : Henry H, Ted E, Olivia, Otto

Emerald : Bodhi PH, Ted L, Vinnie, Hattie D

Diamond : Oliver H, Josiah, George R, Joseph,

Oliver CJ, Benjamin, Harry L, Christina

Epic : William J, Rufus, Leighton, Emily J, Alexis

M, Henry J, Jasper

Legend : Alexis G, Maddox



Churchfields Family Fun Run 2024

Churchfields very first family fun run was held at Atworth Recreation Ground on Saturday 11th May and what an amazing turn out we had.

100 people signed up to run and many more turned up to cheer on our runners. The sun was shining and everyone who attended had a fantastic afternoon. There is even talk of holding another one next year watch this space!

We are still waiting for a few more funds to come in, but hopefully the total amount raised will reach **£700**, which is absolutely fantastic!

Special thanks go to our sponsors, **The White Hart**, Atworth and **Aurora Dental and Implant Clinic**, Corsham. A huge thank you also, to **ASDA**, who supplied us with water, it was very much appreciated on such a hot day.

The Bouncy Castle, supplied by **Louma events**, provided a lot of fun for the children after the run and a big thank you to everyone who supplied prizes for our raffle, including **The Arc Climbing Centre** - Chippenham, **The Egg Theatre** - Bath, **Boomerang** – Melksham and **Mr B's Emporium Bookshop** – Bath and **The Bear Garage** – Atworth.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this happen, those of you who helped with the initial ideas and planning, everyone who helped set up and tidy up on the day and everyone who helped during the event. It wouldn't have happened without you. Also thanks go to Atworth Village Hall and especially to Richard Clark for all the help he provided.

Finally, A HUGE thank you to all our runners, who did so well on such a hot day. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.



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Term dates for 2023/2024

<p>Term 5: Monday 15 April – Friday 24 May</p> <p>Monday 06 May Bank holiday (school closed)</p>	<p>Term 6: Monday 03 June – Wednesday 24 July</p> <p>Wednesday 24 July - INSET DAY (school closed)</p>
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Term 5	
Friday 24 May	End of Term 5
Term 6	
Monday 03 June	Start of Term 6
Tuesday 04 June	Music Cluster event
Wednesday 06 June	R24 Meet the Teacher 5pm Atworth; 5:30pm MF
Monday 10 June	NSPCC visit
Tuesday 11 June	R24 Induction afternoon
Wednesday 12 June	Rotary club concert
Monday 17 June	Yr 6 leavers service Salisbury Cathedral
Tuesday 18 June	R24 induction afternoon
Wednesday 19 June	St Laurence Summer Festival
Tuesday 25 June	R24 Induction afternoon
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Wednesday 26 June	Year 5 Cluster day St Laurence
01 July-05 July	Sports week
Tuesday 02 July	Melksham Oak transition day
Tuesday 02 July	R24 Teddy Bear's picnic
Wednesday 03 July	Melksham Oak transition day
Thursday 04 July	Yr 6 induction day (1 of 2) St Laurence School
Friday 05 July	Sports Day afternoon
Thursday 11 July	Yr 6 induction day (2 of 2) St Laurence School
Tuesday 16 July	Move up morning
Friday 19 July	Provisional Sports Day
Friday 19 July	Pupil Reports go home
Monday 22 July	Leavers service St Michaels Church 1:15pm
Tuesday 23 July	Last day term 6
Wednesday 24 July	INSET DAY

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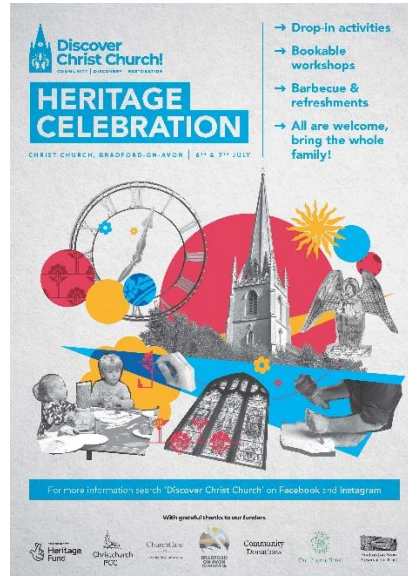
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Leaders for 4th (Tuesday) or 5th (Monday) Bradford on Avon Brownies and 3rd BoA Guides and Rangers will be stepping down in July 2024. There is a real need to keep these units open, to allow as many girls as possible to continue their Girlguiding journey with Brownies and Guides in Bradford on Avon (there are 49 girls on the Brownie waiting list alone).

We would be grateful if you could consider if you have time to contribute in some way. No previous experience is required and full training will be given. These are established units with experienced leaders, who will be able to offer a wealth of ideas and resources to anyone interested in taking the units on. It is also worth noting that volunteering regularly as a leader automatically puts your child at the top of the waiting list throughout their guiding journey.

If you think you might be interested, you can register your interest online via <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/> or email us at: boabrownies@gmail.com If you would like more information or an informal chat please get in touch. Without any offers some of these units will sadly close in July 2024.

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At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timesubbed routine for the child's school day, if required.

REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences of home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bainsman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.






Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

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