



# Newsletter

## Wk 6 - 13th February 2026

E-mail: [school@christthekingprimary.co.uk](mailto:school@christthekingprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.christthekingprimary.co.uk](http://www.christthekingprimary.co.uk)

### CTK Staffing Update:

Dear Families,

Following my newsletter last week about the new teaching team in Year 3, Mrs Hierro and Mrs Yemm who start job sharing after the half term holidays once Mrs Cannon starts her maternity leave. This change resulted in Miss Payne in Year 1 becoming the full time class teacher.

As Mrs Yemm is teaching Year 3, she will no longer be able to teach Year 5 on Fridays. I am delighted to share the news that on a Friday Mrs Johnson will be teaching the children in Year 5. Mrs Johnson already works in the class and knows the children really well. She is very much looking forward to teaching the class on Fridays.

Mrs Hierro will be teaching Monday and Tuesdays in Year 3 and will also be unable to continue to teach Year 2. Mrs Williams, will be teaching the children for PPA time for Mrs Windebank. Mrs Williams works in Year 2 and knows the children really well and is looking forward to teaching the class on a Tuesday afternoon.

We are so lucky at CTK, to have a strong team to enable our learners to thrive. Please do not hesitate to come and have a chat if you have any questions about the new arrangements after the half term holidays.

Kind Regards, Mary Mainwaring

### Safer Internet Day 2026 at CTK

Safer Internet Day 2026 this year had the theme of 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of Artificial intelligence (AI)'

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

This Safer Internet Day, the children will explore the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

Virtual AI friends are a risk for children and are spring up all over the internet. Search engines like Bing and Google have their own virtual AI friend plus Snapchat has My AI.

The National College has produced a guide for families to know about AI virtual friends (<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ai-virtual-friends>).

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS**

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.
- REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT**  
An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could potentially hinder the development of their real-life social skills.
- LACK OF SENSITIVITY**  
Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who is already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.
- UNINTENTIONAL BIAS**  
AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.
- COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS**  
Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.
- PRIVACY CONCERNS**  
Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is necessary to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used. For instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

- CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS**  
If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.
- CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**  
If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment, ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.
- FIND A BALANCE**  
Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.
- TAKE CONTROL**  
As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.
- RECOGNISE THE RISKS**  
It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

## Dates for term 4:



March 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Monday 2nd	EYFS	Story time at Thornbury Library—Supertato	10:30am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	World Book Day – Please come to school dressed as your favourite book character	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Explorer Dome in school with the Dome to explore Space and mark the start of Science Week.	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Lenten Trail at CTK	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	PTFA Mother's Day Shop	Pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Non School Uniform Day for the PTFA Summer Fair please bring in Tombola prizes,	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Easter Fair led by the Chaplaincy Team	1:00pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>		Castle School Year 10 Work Experience Week with students at CTK	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4	Year 3 and 4 Production – more information to follow	2:00pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4	Year 3 and 4 Production – more information to follow	6:30pm (children return to school at 6:00pm)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4	Years 3 and 4 School trip to the Bristol Beacon to watch a performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra	More information on timings to follow
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Years 1 to 6	All school led clubs finish for the term.	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Parent's Evening	3:40pm – 6:40pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Whole School	Holy week at CTK	

April 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Whole school	Parent's Evening	3:40pm – 6:40pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	End of Term Celebration assembly – all families welcome	9:30am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	End of term 4	3:15pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole School	Good Friday – Bank Holiday and school closed	
<b>Easter holidays</b> <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April –Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> <b>School re-opens for the start of term 5 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>			
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Start of term 5	8:45am



## Champion Swimmer at CTK!

Tom in Year 6 has competed in the Gloucester Swimming County Championships over the last few weekends. He qualified for thirteen events and won medals in ten (one gold, six silvers and three bronze). He has now qualified for South West Regionals which take place in April. This a wonderful achievement and we are all so proud of him!



Tom swims for Severnside Tritons in Thornbury and they would love to welcome new members to the club.

It is wonderful to share CTK pupil's achievements outside of school. Please email the school office at [school@christthekingprimary.co.uk](mailto:school@christthekingprimary.co.uk) if your child has achieved in events outside of CTK.

## World Book Day

On **Thursday 5th March** is World Book Day and this year it is also the National Year of Reading. Children are very welcome to come to school dressed as a book character or wear their home clothes for the day.

As a school, staff will share their favourite stories with classes and children.

The National Year of Reading focus for 2026 is "If you're into it, read into it". The campaign is aiming to reconnect reading with the things that already inspire us – from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It's reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

The National Year of Reading website <https://goallin.org.uk/get-involved/families/> has suggestions of how to get reading as a family and top tips.

