



Newsletter

Wk 3 - 23rd January 2026

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Road Safety Training at CTK:



Years 2, 4 and 6 had Road Safety Training last week led by the South Gloucestershire Road Safety Team. The sessions were brilliant and the children enjoyed learning about being safe.

The Year 2 children had a fantastic time playing a fun interactive game that had the children thinking and learning about the Green Cross Code. They also learnt about different types of transport and the safest place to cross a road.

Our Year 4 pupils learnt about being safe on and around the road especially when crossing the road, being safe on a bike and being safe in the car.

The Year 6 class looked at different hazards and dangers that we encounter as pedestrians and how this varies depending on time of day, time of year and location. They explored safe ways to cross roads and used maps to plot a safe walking route from our homes to school. The children were surprised to learn how many metres it takes a car to come to a safe stop when travelling at 30 miles per hour! All the children engaged so well and were a credit to CTK.



Making a difference:



Zara (Year 5) and Isa (Year 4) have been making a huge difference to others outside of our school in our community both locally and nationally.

Zara made a total of £150 for Dementia UK over Christmas, making and selling Christmas decorations. She has also been invited to attend the Dementia UK consultation/research meeting for young people, which she has been asked to help design and advise on resources for children coping with young onset dementia. This is a wonderful opportunity for Zara to make a difference nationally to young people.



Isa was out most evenings and weekends during the Christmas period with the Christmas Dubs charity which is linked to the Wallace and Gromit Appeal. She spent many evenings with a bucket collecting money for the appeal. The amount raised over the festive period was £62,000. Isa also was part of the Cruz Night which lit up the road outside the Bristol's Children Hospital for the children who are unable to go home for Christmas.



We are so proud of you both !

Thornbury Lions

The Thornbury Lions for many years have been supporting CTK. Pete Fish from the Thornbury Lions came into school with a donation from the charity to support families with the Year 6 annual residential camp. It makes a huge difference to our families. They have also supported CTK with the purchase of books through their books for school campaign. We are so grateful for the support Thornbury Lions give us and the money they raise through their bookshop in Thornbury.



Thornbury Council Workshop on Birds

Year 5 had a lovely time last week learning about birdwatching with a special workshop lead by the Climate and Nature Officer from Thornbury Town Council. They learnt about lots of different types of birds, observed which birds were on our playgrounds by using a worksheet to help identify them. They also voted on the best location to place a bird feeder in the woodland area to attract more birds to our school. They are going to continue to watch out for different types of birds that fly by our school and will also look after the bird feeders we have here.



Cricket Coaching



The Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation are providing free coaching to schools in the lead up to the Women's Cricket T20 World Cup which is being held in England and Wales in June. On Friday 30th January, we are having cricket coaching for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, it is a wonderful opportunity and a chance to try a new sport. Please could KS2 come to school in their PE kits on Friday 30th January. Following our chance to shine day, KS2 will be having a term of Cricket coaching during term 4.



Online Safety

At the start of February is our annual Internet Safer Day and leading up our special focus day each week we will be looking at how to be safe online or playing online games. Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place this year on the 10th February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

The first poster is advice for families about the use of YouTube. The poster and further advice can be found on the website <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>. YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. In the guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

Almost everyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 100 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as inappropriate, but it's up to the user to be logging into an account with a verified email address to consider an adult. Some users subscribe to content that may include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS
YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, often to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction in children of any age. It also shows popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION
YouTube's algorithms tend to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be hate speech. This can be difficult to notice. Fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface on YouTube. Impassioned minds all too easily remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE
For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional feature that prevents them from showing inappropriate material (such as drug use, alcohol, gambling, and tobacco) to unsecured viewers. To prevent content from being recommended to children, Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube must be turned on. An algorithm automatically recommends inappropriate content.

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's new YouTube Kids app for Android phones and iPhones. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under) and "kids" (ages 5 to 13). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS
YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as "private" or "unlisted" – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the "private" setting is used, it's less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
YouTube is a social media platform which allows users to connect with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can receive comments on their videos and messages from other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can be risky, as children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
YouTube is a trending platform and challenges, some of which are fun to participate in, can be very popular. These can be immensely entertaining and might seem harmless, but some challenges often tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm. Popular "salt and ice challenge" where users are asked to lick their own salt, or "ice bucket" where users are asked to pour water over their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS
The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scamming posts, often featuring links to their phishing links. Scammers may also be disguised as influencers, using their names and profile images, and may be offering prizes or gift cards. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT
YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for many children, and they will watch different content to that of their parents. You may want to keep an eye on how different content is affecting your child. If applicable, with content creators to understand what they're interested in, and outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere.

LIMIT SPENDING
Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you like to accept children purchasing content online, then it's important to set up parental controls. Many parents have discovered that their child's quick access to in-app purchases quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Advice for Parents & Educators

Dates for term 3 and 4:

January 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Thursday 22nd	Year 6	Year 6 visit to the Life Skills centre	pm
Friday 23rd	Whole School	Non –Uniform day for non-perishable items for the PTFA summer fair.	
Wednesday 28th	Year 6	Class Mass	11:00am
Friday 30th	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Cricket Coaching for each class—all children to wear PE to school.	

February 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Tuesday 10 th	Whole School	Internet Safety Day at CTK	All day
Tuesday 10 th	Year 5	Class Mass	11:00am
Friday 13 th	Whole School	End of term Celebration Assembly - all families welcome	9:30am
Friday 13 th	Whole School	End of term 3	3:15pm

Half – term holidays
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026
School re-opens for the start of term 4 on Monday 23rd February 2026.

Monday 23 rd	Whole School	Start of term 4	8:45am
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March 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Thursday 5 th	Whole School	World Book Day – Please come to school dressed as your favourite book character	
Friday 6 th	Whole School	Explorer Dome in school with the Dome to explore Space and mark the start of Science Week.	
Thursday 12 th	Whole School	Lenten Trail at CTK	
Friday 13th	Whole School	PTFA Mother's Day shop	Pm
Friday 20 th	Whole School	Non School Uniform Day for the PTFA Summer Fair please bring in Tombola prizes,	
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th		Castle School Year 10 Work Experience Week with students at CTK	
Tuesday 24 th	Years 3 and 4	Year 3 and 4 Production – more information to follow	2:00pm
Thursday 26 th	Years 3 and 4	Year 3 and 4 Production – more information to follow	6:30pm (children return to school at 6:00pm)
Friday 27 th	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
Friday 27th	Years 1 to 6	All school led clubs finish for the term.	
Monday 30 th March to Friday 3 rd April	Whole School	Holy week at CTK	



April 2026			
Date	Year Group	Event	Time
Wednesday 1 st	Whole school	Parent's Evening	3:40pm – 6:40pm
Thursday 2 nd	Whole School	End of Term Celebration assembly – all families welcome	9:30am
Thursday 2 nd	Whole School	End of term 4	3:15pm
Friday 3 rd	Whole School	Good Friday – bank holiday and school closed	

Easter holidays
Friday 3rd April –Friday 17th April 2026
School re-opens for the start of term 5 on Monday 20th April 2026



Monday 20 th	Whole school	Start of term 5	8:45am
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