



# CHURCHFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C Pattison BA (Hons)

**"Be the best you can be"**

Part of the Collective Vision Multi-Academy Trust

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We are now welcoming in October and have 3 weeks until our first half term. We have completed 19 school days since the start of the year, and I can't believe how much we have achieved in such a short space of time. Mr Skupham sent out the letter to remind you all about our behaviour policy in school and I must say it is lovely to see the children striving for blues linked to our values of RESPECT, RESILIENCE and RESPONSIBILITY and showing the key learning value of RECALL.

I had a lovely evening on Friday when I went to the rep theatre in Stoke to see the dance show 'Rock of Ages.' Thank you to Emily Phillips for letting me know about your performance – I was very proud to see you on the stage performing to some of my favourite songs – especially Guns and Roses – you were amazing!

It was lovely to see so many of our reception and nursery parents attending the phonics workshop on Friday. I hoped it helped to improve your knowledge of phonics and its importance. For the parents who were unable to attend, we will put the information onto the school website.

## Why are phonics important?

Our Reception and Nursery children are settling well into school life and have started their phonics journey. Phonics is the start of the reading journey and, as I say to many of you, reading is the most important skill that your children will need to learn to be successful in many areas of the curriculum. We know how important it is for parents and teachers to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the most effective and important ways in which you can help your child. Children should be encouraged to enjoy sharing books and read independently, as well as reading with an adult. This not only supports children's progression in reading, but leads to them seeing reading as a source of pleasure and interest.

Phonics is the start of the reading journey. The alphabet contains only 26 letters. Spoken English uses about 44 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 'e' or 'p') or a group of letters (e.g. 'sh' or 'air'). At Churchfields we follow a programme called Jolly Phonics. In Year 1 the children sit a phonics test which consists of 40 decodable words. They are split into 2 groups – real words and nonsense words. This test takes place in June and since 2012 when the test began, the pass mark has been 32 marks. However this could change at any time.

## Blending

To learn to read and spell children must be able to smoothly blend sounds together. Blending sounds fluidly helps to improve fluency when reading. Blending is more difficult to do with longer words so learning how to blend accurately at an early age is imperative. Showing your child how to blend is important. Model how to 'sound talk' sounds and blend them smoothly together without stopping at each individual sound. We use our fingers to support this. Remember some sounds (digraphs) are represented by two letters, such as ee or oi. Children should sound out the digraph not the individual letters (e.g. oi not o-i). Some words may also have trigraphs, three letters to represent one sound (.e.g. h-ear or p-air.).

## Segmenting to Spell

Even after your child has left year 1, phonics are still important as it is used to read unfamiliar words and also to help with spelling. Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds. E.g. ran r-a-n or temperature – t-e-m-p-e-r-a-t-ure

## Tricky words

Tricky words are words that cannot be 'sounded-out' but need to be learnt. They don't fit into usual spelling patterns.

Please support us in helping your child in developing their phonics knowledge and using them in their spelling / reading. If you need any advice or support on phonics, please contact Mrs Mawdsley our school phonics leader.

## REMINDER FROM LAST WEEK

It's about that time again when lots of people celebrate harvest. This year, Miss Brown's class supported by Mrs Hollingworth have asked for us to collect donations for the local food bank

We have asked staff in school, and are asking families who feel they are able to, to contribute donations of food and toiletries between **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

We request that any donations be items which can stay out without refrigeration, or long-lasting items such as:

- Tinned cold meat – ham, pork, corned beef, tinned items such as beans, spaghetti, vegetables etc.
- Tinned fruit
- Tea/coffee/sugar
- Cereals, porridge
- Soup, pasta, rice
- Tinned tomato/pasta sauces
- Long life milk & long-life juice (orange/apple etc)
- Sponge puddings, chocolate, sweets etc.
- Toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, tissues.
- Shampoo, shower gel, deodorants, shaving gel and foam, sanitary items, soap.



- Washing powder, tablets, pods, washing up liquid.

### **School Terms and Holiday Dates 2022 -2023**

As always, please avoid booking holidays in term-time. They can only be authorised if they are 'exceptional' circumstances. I have limited capacity to authorise holidays. Our registers are externally checked and there are strict guidelines in place with very little 'wiggle' room regarding authorisation.

#### **Autumn Term 2022**

Staff & Pupils Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Holiday:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Training day:** **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – School Closed**

Staff & Pupils Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Holiday:** **Monday 19 December – Monday 2 January**

#### **Spring Term 2023**

**Training day:** **Tuesday 3 January – School Closed**

Staff & Pupils Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Holiday:** Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

Staff & Pupils Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**Training day:** **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School Closed**

**Holiday:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14 April

#### **Summer Term 2023**

Staff & Pupils: Monday 17 April

**Holiday:** Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Staff & Pupils: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**Holiday:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

#### **Stars of the Week**

Nursery Isabella Elks for super talking this week

Reception Mrs Locker Jaxon Barrow for working hard all week in all his subjects!

Reception Mrs Nixon	Lily Gallimore for listening carefully to instructions and always trying her best
1B	Miley Morris for always living up to our school motto
1M	Tanisha Birks for being brave on Thursday
2M	Julia Cyprianska for always having an excellent attitude towards all of her learning
2R	Layla Mountford for always being the best that she can be
3HS	Poppy-Ann Shore for always being ready to learn
3RS	Charlie Pattison for showing great resilience with his learning
4B	Kayden Gallimore for impressing everyone with his attitude and progress
4S	Shiloh Richards for her positive attitude and working hard
5A	India Scott for always having a fantastic attitude to learning
5S	Isobel Woodcock for consistent hard work and a sensible attitude
6C	Tobias Lindsay-Cope for going above and beyond with his writing
6S	Zachary Beeston for an excellent standard of work at all times

### Head Teacher Awards for the Week

NUR	Olly Hollings for always joining in with all activities
RECEPTION	Daisy-May Dale for fantastic letter formation
Y1&2	Michelle Obioha for lovely manners (1M)
Y3&4	Beatrix Bailey for always being an excellent learner (4S)
Y5&6	Tayla Gorman for being a conscientious student (6S)

### **Attendance**

Years 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are all above the school target of 96%

Two year groups are on 98%

Keep your attendance up!

### **Team Points**

Week	Term, so far
R 1,524	R 2,747
<b>Y 1,673</b>	Y 3,013
G 1,527	<b>G 3,186</b>
B 1,579	B 2,854

Any general queries or if you are unsure who to contact – [office@cfp.school](mailto:office@cfp.school) or [headteacher@cfp.school](mailto:headteacher@cfp.school)

Thank you for your continued support,

Diane Beardsmore  
Headteacher