



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We wish you a holy, happy and healthy 2026. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with your family and friends.

We were delighted to welcome the children back to school on Monday for the start of the Lent Term. Although today has been affected by snowy weather, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead for the children.

Our Catholic Mission

We started our term with an assembly on The Epiphany. The children listened to the magnificent story of when the three wise men from the East arrived in Bethlehem to visit baby Jesus. We discussed what their special gifts reveal to us about who Jesus is. In a beautiful time of prayer, we helped the children visit baby Jesus in their hearts and to think about what gifts they can offer one another this term.

Parish links

Our school serves three parishes: Blessed Sacrament & St Peter's RC Church and Mother of God. The parish websites contain information about Mass times and other notices.

<https://www.westleicestercatholic.org/>

<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk/>

On Monday and Tuesday this week, our children in Years 2-4 attended Mass at Mother of God Church to celebrate the solemnity of the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord. It was a wonderful and prayerful start to the Lent term, bringing our school community together in faith. During his homily, Fr Hans spoke to the children about Jesus being our light and guide and reminded them that they too can be a light to others wherever they go—through their words, actions and the kindness they show each day. Thank you to Fr Hans and the parishioners at Mother of God for making us so welcome.

Staffing Update

Mrs Pickwell, Assistant Headteacher on the Junior Site and Year 3 teacher, will be starting her maternity leave today. From Monday 12th January, her class will be taught by Ms Brennan, an experienced teacher and senior leader who regularly provides cover across the school. She will work closely with the existing Year 3 team to ensure continuity of learning and to maintain the high standards of teaching and care expected at our school. We send Mrs Pickwell our love and prayers as she embarks on the wonderful journey of parenthood.



Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance for this academic year so far is **96.2%**. Well done everyone! Our school target is to have attendance above 97% and we will continue to monitor it closely this term.

Here is the current attendance for each class:

| Class | Attendance | Class | Attendance |
|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| F2 SL | 92.5% | 3KR | 96.6% |
| F2 HM | 91.3% | 3TP | 96.9% |
| F2 AG | 93.3% | 3GH | 97.5% |
| 1ER | 96.8% | 4HD | 98.1% |
| 1HF | 95.3% | 4GO | 98.1% |
| 1RH | 96.4% | 4MH | 97.6% |
| 2SN | 96% | 5TO | 95% |
| 2WB | 96% | 5WG | 96.6% |
| 2NT | 94.4% | 5AL | 97% |
| | | 6SB | 97.8% |
| | | 6LS | 97.9% |
| | | 6SF | 98.4% |

Thank you for all your support in getting the children to school on time ready for the day ahead. The children's learning begins as soon as they arrive at school.

Excellent attendance and punctuality to school are very important to ensure children achieve their very best. Please can you ensure that children are in school every day on time unless they are ill. I am aware that the vast majority of parents ensure that their children attend school regularly but, as it is the beginning of a new term, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Every day counts!

Please DO NOT book holidays in term time as this has a detrimental effect on your child's education. Children miss out on essential work, they find it hard to catch up and it can also affect their friendships. School policy is that family holidays will not be authorised and parents could be fined by the Local Authority. School is closed for 13 weeks during the year when family holidays can be taken.



CTK Experience - Extra Curriculum Clubs Programme

We try to offer our children a wide range of extra-curricular activities at Christ the King. They provide our children with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents, learn new skills and develop their confidence. The extra-curricular clubs are being arranged for this term. Some will run during lunchtime and others will be after school. Many clubs are free and some are £2.50 per session to cover costs.

The clubs will include: Indoor Multi-Sports with Mr T, Coding Club, Philosophy Club, Uno Club, Boomwhacker Club, Comic Club, Rosary Club, Easter Crafts and Homework Club. Please look out on Arbor for more details.

The CTK Experience

Aspirations, Missions and Futures Curriculum

Part of the CTK Experience is providing our children the opportunity to consider how they can use their God-given talents in their future careers and to raise their aspirations for their own futures.

Our EYFS children enjoyed a wonderful visit from two Police Officers this week, who came to talk to them about their important roles in keeping our community safe. The officers explained the different aspects of policing and showed the children some of the equipment they use every day. Georgia and Alex then invited the children to explore the Police van, try on a Police hat, and practise using special Police shields. The highlight of the visit was turning on the siren and blue lights, which caused great excitement. Thank you to Georgia and Alex for a fantastic and memorable afternoon.





Curriculum Booklets

At Christ the King we like to keep our parents informed about what the children are learning about in school. We aim to do this by:

- Welcome Curriculum Meetings at the start of the year
- Weekly Homework
- Parent Workshops
- Parent Evenings
- Parent Curriculum Booklets
- Termly RE newsletter

In response to parental feedback, the teachers will be sending out half termly curriculum booklets. The purpose of these booklets is to give you an overview of what your child will be learning about in all the subjects they will taught during the half term. You will receive a copy of the booklet by the end of the first week of every half term.

We hope you find the booklets a useful tool to support your children at home with their learning.

CTK are on Instagram

We are excited to announce that we have created a school Instagram account so we can share all of the amazing learning experiences we provide for our children at CTK with you at home! Please follow us: [Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy \(@ctkleicester\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

REMINDER..Primary School Applications.

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2026 do not forget to apply before the closing date which is **midnight Thursday 15th January 2026**. If you are applying to Christ the King, you have to apply directly to the school **and** complete the Local authority form online. The school form should be returned directly to the school by the closing date. You can view our admission policy on the website [here](#)

Christmas Rainbow Reader Bingo Competition

Please remember to bring in your Christmas Rainbow Reader Bingo card. Every child who returns a completed bingo card will be awarded 20 house points and be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win some new books! Miss Laycock and Mrs Featherstone will be holding the prize draw next week to select the winners.

Online Safety

This week our update provides tips and advice for parents about essential online safety. Please click [here](#). We hope you find it useful.



Wellbeing Top Tip for January

Developing positive relationships and connections with our children can be challenging at times when family life is busy and sometimes stressful, often juggling work commitments, school and home life. Here are some ideas for conversation starters that you can use to open a meaningful chat with your child. When children feel heard and their opinions valued, their self esteem rises.

- What made you feel happy today?
- What was the most difficult part of your day?
- Where's your happy place?
- What would your perfect day be like?
- Tell me something that you're looking forward to.
- Is there anything coming up that you are not looking forward to?
- How are you feeling about.....?
- Tell me about a memory that makes you smile.



Join the School Lottery at CTK

The CTK Parents' Association set up a School Lottery to help raise funds for the school and make a difference for our children. One player from our school wins a weekly prize and all players have the chance to win £25,000. It is only a £1 a week and, the more people who take part, the higher the prizes will be. Please click the link if you are interested in taking part: <http://bit.ly/ctk-pta>

Calling all Musicians

Do you play a musical instrument? We are looking for musicians to introduce their instrument to the children and play a short piece of music in our Wednesday morning singing assemblies. If you think you would be able to help by sharing your talent on either the infants or the juniors, please contact the office who will put you in touch with Mr Mason, our music coordinator. Thank you in advance for helping us to expand the experiences we can provide to our children.

Thought for the week

"It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

God bless,

Annie Carter and the CTK Team



Important Dates for the Term ahead...

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| Wednesday 14th January | EYFS Expectations Parent Meeting @ 9:00 –9:30am Infant Hall. All parents in EYFS welcome |
| Thursday 15th January | Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check Parent Workshop—Junior Site @ 2:30pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Wednesday 21st January | Inspire Workshops for Year 1 Parents on theme of Angels Infant Site @ 9:00am Parents and carers welcome |
| Thursday 22nd— Friday 23rd January | Year 4 Residential to Beaumanor Hall |
| Friday 23rd January | 1RH Poetry Recital - Infant Site @ 9:00am Parents and carers welcome |
| Tuesday 27th January | Year 6 Heights, Weights and Measures Programme |
| Wednesday 28th January | Reception Heights, Weights and Measures Programme |
| Wednesday 28th January | St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day |
| Thursday 29th January | Year 2 African Drumming Workshop |
| Friday 30th January | 1HF Poetry Recital - Infant Site @ 9:00am Parents and carers welcome |
| Wednesday 4th February | Parent Workshop: Using Knowledge Organisers Effectively - Infant Site @ 8:50am. Parents and carers welcome |
| Friday 6th February | Inspire Workshops for Year 6 Parents on theme of Saints Infant Site @9:00am Parents and carers welcome |
| Friday 6th February | NSPCC Number Day 2026 - children to wear clothing with numbers on |
| Friday 6th February | 1ER Poetry Recital - Infant Site @ 9:00am Parents and carers welcome |
| Friday 6th February | Monitoring Reports sent home ahead of Parents' Evening |
| Monday 9th - Friday 13th Feb | Children's Mental Health Week |
| Tuesday 10th February | Safer Internet Day |



Important Dates for the Term ahead continued...

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| Tuesday 10th February | Year 3 trip to King Richard III Visitor Centre |
| Tuesday 10th February | Parents' Evening 3:10pm—7:00pm (Junior Site) Parents' Evening 3:30pm—7:00pm (Infant Site) |
| Wednesday 11th February | Parents' Evening 3:10pm—5:00pm (Junior Site) Parents' Evening 3:30pm—5:00pm (Infant Site) |
| Friday 13th February | Lent Celebrations of the Word: Infant Site @ 9:00am Junior Site @ 2:15pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Friday 13th February | School closes for February half term |

HALF TERM

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 24th February | School reopens for Lent 2 Term |
| Friday 28th February | 3GH Poetry Recital - Junior Site @ 2:00pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Monday 2nd March | Year 1 and Year 5 Joint Mass - Junior Site @ 2:00pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day |
| Friday 6th March | 3TP Poetry Recital - Junior Site @ 2:00pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Wednesday 11th March | Mothers' Day Crafts for Reception - Infant Site @ 1:45pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Thursday 12th March | Mothers' Day Gift Sale |
| Wednesday 18th March | FIT Coffee Morning - Infant Site @ 9:00am TBC |
| Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March | Year 6 trips to De Montfort University |
| Friday 20th March | 3KR Poetry Recital - Junior Site @ 2:00pm Parents and carers welcome |
| Friday 20th —Saturday 21st March | Year 3 Sponsored Sleepover in school |



Important Dates for the Term ahead continued...

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 24th March | Year 4 Easter Performance - Junior Site @ 2:00pm TBC Parents and carers welcome *ticketed event* |
| Wednesday 25th March | Year 4 Easter Performance—Junior Site @ 9:00am TBC Parents and carers welcome *ticketed event* |
| Friday 27th March | Holy Week Celebrations of the Word TBC Infant Site @ 9:00am Junior Site @ 2:15pm |
| Friday 27th March | School closes for Easter holidays (normal time) |
| Monday 13th April | Children return to school |