



Learn, Aspire, Achieve

Churwell NEWS

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 1

October 2024

It has been a busy first half term for this academic year. School closes for half term on Friday 25th October and the children return to school on Tuesday 5th November. Staff will attend the RMAT Conference on Monday 4th November, where the focus is resilience. The staff team at Churwell are looking forward to meeting other RMAT colleagues.

In school the children have been busy with their learning; Year 4 have visited Murton Park to experience a day in the life of a Roman soldier and Year 6 visited Eden Camp last Friday to support their learning about the Home Front during WWII. Year 5 have been on a local walk identifying the legacy of Victorian history in our area. The Year 3 children have experienced a Stone Age theme day in the Forest School area and the children in Year 1 were thrilled to talk to some grandparents about childhoods in the past.

The children in Year 4 have made progress in their weekly swimming lessons, Year 3 have really enjoyed their start to learning the ukelele, Year 6 love Monday afternoons with Mme Santry from RMAT, who teaches them French and the Year 2 children have enjoyed their first half term of Forest Schools.

We have appointed our new Team Captains from Year 6 and we have new members of the School Council and Morley Cluster Council.

We have also been busy working with parents/carers. It was great to see so many of you at the year group Harvest Festivals and your generous food donations were taken to the Leeds East and South Foodbank. We have led phonics session for parents/carers in Reception and Year 1 and our SEND coffee afternoon was well attended by parents/carers wishing to find out more about the systems and processes around this area.

I told you we have been busy!

I am re-sending the dates for the rest of the Autumn Term – these are also on the school website calendar.

Training Days

The training days for this academic year are:

Monday 4th November

Friday 14th February 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Children should not attend on these days.

Harvest Donations

We had a wonderful message from the team at the Leeds East and South Foodbank:

We just wanted to say a quick thank you for your donation this harvest festival. Your donation of 208kg has provided 495 meals to the people we support, which is amazing!



That is equivalent to about one meal donated for every child that attends Churwell Primary School; which is fantastic! Thanks so much for your generous donations.

Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team in school is made up of myself, Mrs Tindale, Mrs Hutchinson and Mrs Seedhouse. Please be aware that the team will receive reports on any Domestic Violence incidents; these are reported via Morley Cluster or Leeds City Council. This allows us to support families and children who have been victims of domestic violence and helps form one element of our work on safeguarding in school.

Notification of a child's absence

Please can we remind parents/carers that if your child is ill and cannot attend school that they should notify the attendance team either by telephone or via ParentMail. Please do not send an email to the school office – for safeguarding purposes we can only accept a telephone call/message or a notification via Parentmail. Please can you be clear about the reason for your child's absence e.g. sickness, tonsillitis, flu, rather than just stating they are ill. Thank you for your support with this.

Come and Read Sessions

Our morning sessions are proving to be popular with parents/carers and children. It is lovely to see grown-ups and children engage in story time together. We really want to foster a love of reading from a very young age, but we also want this to continue through into the older years. Please do come to your child's year group session. These are on the following mornings from 8.35-8.50am:

Day	Year group
Monday	Year 4
Tuesday	*Nursery and Year 5
Wednesday	and Year 2
Thursday	**Reception and Year 1
Friday	Year 3 and Year 6

*Nursery starts on Tuesday 5th November

**Reception starts on Thursday 7th November (This is a change to the original day communicated at the start of the year).

Building works over the summer

You may have noticed our lovely new Reception playground and canopy. This work was completed in the summer holidays and we were able to fund this project by contributing profits from our All Stars Before and After School Club (BASC).

In addition, these profits subsidise at least one class trip, coach travel for school visits and other sporting events. It has been a real positive for Churwell to take on the running of our own before and after school provision as reinvestment of profits can benefit the children in a range of different ways.

Playground Pledges

Each year group has again agreed a Playground Pledge; this is where children agree on how they work together in the playground and how to use the space cooperatively to play the games and activities that they like. This supports children to play together during these breaks and sets out the positive behaviours they are all expected to follow.

Mindfulness and 'In the zone' check in

Children continue to access a mindfulness session and an 'In the zone check-in' after lunch each day. The 'In the Zone' check-in is an adult led session where children have a chance to voice any issues or concerns. An adult then leads a discussion on ways these issues may be managed or resolved. We have seen improvements in the children's shared understanding of these concerns, and it is so powerful when the children themselves make suggestions to each other about solutions.

Buddy Swop

The children have enjoyed their first buddy swop of the year. All children in KS2 are a Big Buddy to the younger children in school. This time the children met to find out about each other, they drew pictures of their buddy and found out the things that their buddy liked. Our corridor displays showcase the children's work. There is a buddy swop planned for each half term and forms part of our Wellbeing Wednesday.



School Development

Our whole school development priorities this year are:

- to improve Teacher knowledge in writing content and support children to make progress in writing.
- the use of writing audit information to support year groups to update/re-think identified areas of writing
- the use of research and best practice, supporting children to have a fluent handwriting style so that it is not a limiting factor in their written work
- to develop our assessment systems in school to ensure that they support Teachers to make accurate assessments – investment into 'Insight' to support assessment data input and data analysis

- to prepare for the Carnegie School Mental Health Award assessment
- to prepare for a smooth transition to RMAT

The Leeds Festival of Play

We are sharing the following information on behalf of Leeds City Council. The Festival of Play is a collection of playful activities taking place over the half-term and a full list of events can be seen by clicking on the following link: [Leeds Festival of Play | Leeds Inspired](#)

Parking around school

This continues to be an issue for both parents/carers and the local community. Please can I ask that you park safely and legally when you drop off and collect your children. The Parking Attendant has visited school recently and issued fines. Please be aware that the school are not responsible for these fines and that we trust these agencies issue penalties appropriately and when there has been illegal parking witnessed.

Can I also remind you that drop off on solid white lines, the yellow zig zag lines and blocking drop kerbs, that are allocated for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs, is not allowed.

Please remember to park safely and legally to keep all our children safe.

Dogs outside School

We understand that parents/carers walk with dogs when dropping off and picking children up from school. However, can we please politely request that dogs are supervised while outside the school gate, and not tethered to the railings and left alone. This will allow owners to manage their dog in the company of anxious children and adults. Your co-operation is appreciated.

It has been really lovely to meet our new Nursery and Reception children and parents/carers. The children have settled really well and it is great to see them busy and happy in both settings. It was lovely to see so many of you at the parents/carers consultation evenings this week. Please also look out for a parent/carer questionnaire that we will be sending out on Friday.

I wish you all a happy half-term and I hope that you can find some time to enjoy family activities, or just to be at home and rest! We look forward to seeing you all, and our children, on Tuesday 5th November, Monday 4th is a Training Day. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in learning

***Mrs Rupa Barson
Headteacher***