



CHRIST CHURCH CofE VC JUNIORS

Value - Engage - Inspire - Create

Head Teacher – Mrs Pippa Osborne

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back - we hope everyone had a lovely Christmas break and wish you all a very Happy New Year. We are so grateful for everyone's support in December – despite some challenges involving our library roof – we had a very successful and productive term. We would like to say a special thank you to the Friends of CCJ, who funded our amazing Explorer Dome Planetarium day and also helped with food and drink in our Upper Band Christmas Bazaar. The budding entrepreneurs in years 5 and 6 raised an incredible £1,433.87! Thank you also to all the parent volunteers who helped with our forest school sessions, road safety lessons, the Christmas Bazaar and our Christmas parties; your support continues to enrich the educational experiences on offer.

This term we will be learning all about the Seven Wonders of the World. Please see overleaf or have a look at the Upper Band page on our website for more information about our new topic. We have several trips planned this term – please see below for dates and return any trip letters as soon as possible.

Homework - A reminder that the following should be completed every week:

Reading - a reminder that children should be reading at home at least five times a week. We will be checking reading records every week this term to ensure that children are reading regularly and that they are having opportunities to discuss their reading with an adult. Our temporary library is up and running and children are now able to borrow books again. We have some exciting new plans for the relaunch of our library once repairs to the roof have been completed! At the end of this newsletter, there are some helpful prompts for questions that you can ask your child when reading. Thank you for your support in helping your child to make the best possible progress in reading.

Maths – your child should be logging onto DoodleMaths. We encourage at least 3 times and 100 stars a week. In addition to their daily questions, they may have Added Extras set by their teacher or automatically allocated by the app. Times tables should also be practised weekly using DoodleTables or Times Tables Rockstars.

Spellings – spellings are set every Tuesday and tested the following Monday. Lists will be sent home for the whole term this week and are also available on our website.

Dates to add to the diary

- Wednesday 23rd January – Y6 trip to Aerospace Bristol (Concorde)
- Tuesday 29th January – 5BM and 5AD (surnames A-R) – Unit DX Science Trip
- Thursday 14th February – last day of term
- Friday 15th February – INSET Day
- Monday 25th February – first day of term 4
- Tuesday 26th February – 5KW and 5AD (surnames S-Z) – Unit DX Science Trip

We look forward to another successful term and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

The Upper Band Team



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Our topic this term: What are the Seven Wonders of the World?

Well, it turns out there are actually quite a few! As we cover our topic, we will be exploring the seven natural wonders, the seven ancient wonders and the seven modern wonders of our world. Following on from our space topic last term, this term we will be investigating our own planet in much more detail. As part of our geography topic, we will be finding out where different continents, countries and cities are located, using atlases and resources such as Google Earth. We will be exploring differences between the physical and human characteristics of different regions of the earth and identifying the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Equator, the hemispheres, the tropics and the Arctic and Antarctic circles.

Art

As part of our topic, we will also be exploring the artistic wonders of the world, using drawing and painting to record observations and recreate work in the style of significant artists from different world regions. We will focus in particular on Chinese Brush Art and different styles of Aboriginal painting.

English

In the Upper Band this term, we will be reading *Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah. Set in China during the 1940s, this tale explores what life was like growing up in a large family in a very different culture. We will be continuing our focus on varying sentence lengths to build tension and using punctuation to add additional detail to our description. During the term, we will cover a variety of genres, including autobiographical writing, setting and character descriptions as well as non-chronological reports about the Seven Wonders of the World.

Maths

This term we will be continuing our focus on fractions, decimals and percentages. Year 5 will be comparing fractions with the same denominator, identifying equivalent fractions, converting between improper and mixed fractions and exploring how decimals and fractions relate to each other. In year 6, we will be using common factors to simplify fractions and using multiples to express fractions in the same denomination. We will also learn how to multiply fractions and divide proper fractions by whole numbers. Times tables are a huge part of the work we cover on fractions so please encourage your child to use *Times Table Rockstars* and *DoodleMaths* regularly at home.

Religious Education

Our focus this term will be on the Understanding Christianity Gospel unit. We will be exploring the meaning of Gospel and discovering how Jesus' life and teachings emphasise loving one's neighbour – particularly the weak and vulnerable – as part of loving God.

Computing

In computing, we will be using media to present information clearly and effectively. We will be using our new iPads to create short stop-frame animations about a traditional tale from another culture and also creating short non-fiction e-books to show off our learning about the Seven Wonders.

PE

Indoor PE this term will be team tactics and outdoor PE will be hockey. Please ask your child's teacher about which days they will need their PE kits or check our year group pages on the website. As the weather is forecast to be cold in January and February, it is really important that all children have appropriate clothing for their outdoor sessions.

Music

We will be learning all about jazz and its historical context, focussing on how history has shaped our music and tastes have changed and been influenced by migration around the world.



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Reading At Home

Although many children in the Upper Band are reading regularly, we have noticed that most children are completing their reading records themselves. Whilst this is a great way for your child to develop independent learning habits, it is also important that they are getting regular opportunities to discuss their reading with an adult. This term, we hope to see **at least 2 comments per week** in your child's reading record by an adult which show that your child has had a chance to discuss vocabulary, make a prediction about what might happen next, give their opinion of characters or summarise the key points of a book or chapter.



Useful questions to ask when reading:

Summary (retelling)

- Can you tell me what happened in this page/chapter?
- What was the most interesting bit? Why?

Retrieval (finding information)

- Where does it say..?
- Who/what/where/ when?

Inference (using evidence)

- Why does/why is...?
- How do you think that character is feeling?
- Why do you think that?
- What clues are there?
- How might you feel?

Word meanings

- What does this word mean?
- Have you heard it before?
- What could it mean?
- Can you read the whole sentence and work out the meaning?

Predicting

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think might happen next?
- What clues are there?

Enjoyment

- Which bit do you like best? Why?

Some more retrieval questions

- Where and when did the story take place?
- What word told you that?
- What did s/he/it look like?
- Who was s/he/it?
- Can you name the....?
- Where did s/he/it live?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- What did ... do/ask?
- What happened after/at...?
- How many....?
- Describe what happened at....
- Who spoke to?
- Where did ... go?
- Can you tell me why?
- Which is true or false.....?

Some more inference questions

- Why did that happen?
- How might they feel?
- Why do you think they...?
- If this was you – how would your friends react?
- How do we know that?
- If you were in _____'s shoes what would you do now?
- What do you think...?
- What was _____ thinking as he...? How do you know?