



Believe in Yourself

Newsletter

ISSUE

1/23

Head's News

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a wonderful start to the term, despite the very hot weather! The children have settled really well and we are excited about all of the opportunities ahead.

At CKJS we value respect and good manners and encourage the children to demonstrate these. We are going to have a focus on these values over the coming weeks and appreciate any support you can with encouraging this at home.

As this is our first full newsletter of the year, there is a lot of information included. Please read it carefully.

Next week we have our 'Meet the Teacher' evenings for year 4 to 6. This is an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and find out about expectations and routines as well as an opportunity to ask any questions you might have. On Friday, Year 3 parents are invited to return to the classroom with their child, see where they are sitting and also to ask any questions.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks. Please do catch myself, or one of our senior leaders, at Glynrosa gate in the morning or at the end of school, if you have any queries or concerns about your child – or ring/email Reception.

Have a lovely weekend.

Sue Selwood

School Trips 2023/2024

We are planning lots of visiting specialists and trips out of school this academic year.

To fund these visits and other events we ask parents/carers to contribute a voluntary financial donation. This covers all activities with the exception of residentials and we do hope that you feel able to support the school in this matter.

We would like to suggest an amount of £60 per child and this can be paid into your Parent Pay account.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium Funding then you do not need to make a payment as their trips will be covered for you.

We would encourage anyone who thinks they may be entitled to Free School Meals to visit the Gloucestershire County website and register as the funding will be of benefit to your child.

(Note that they do not need to have a Balcarras lunch.)

Please contact Reception should you have any queries.

Dates for your Diary

September

11th Swimming starts (see attached timetable)

12th Year 6 Meet the Teacher

12th A + B Football

12th FGB Meeting

13th Year 4 Meet the Teacher

14th Year 4 Trip to Caerleon

14th Year 5 Meet the Teacher

15th Year 3 'Open Classrooms'

All of the meetings and the Open Classrooms run from pick up time to 4pm.

18th – 22nd Y6 Bikeability Wk 1

19th Y3 Stone Age Visitor

20th School Photographer

23rd PTA Meeting All Welcome

25th – 29th Y6 Bikeability Wk 2

25th Clubs Start

26th Y4 Languages Event

Please keep an eye on the diary on the school website for other dates.

Parking: Please can we ask you are considerate if driving to school. **Turn off** your engines while waiting and park safely, avoiding bends, driveways and **do not park on the zig-zag**

Attendance at School

Good school attendance is vitally important to a child's education and future success and as a school we value and encourage high attendance.

We appreciate there are times when a child cannot attend because they are unwell – please let Reception know by leaving a message on the school phone before school.

Attendance is monitored and we will always inform you if your child's attendance figure becomes a concern.

The school is only allowed to authorise absence for exceptional circumstances. We are not allowed to authorise family holidays during term time and are directed by the DfE to fine parents for unauthorised absence if their child's attendance is low. Please see the attendance policy on our school website for more information.

Please can we request that you are honest if your child is absent due to a holiday – it puts them in a difficult position if they have to pretend they were ill, especially as their peers often know the real reason.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in keeping your child's attendance high.

Balcarras Lunches

All Year groups may now choose to have a Balcarras lunch each day. The process is as follows:

- Each morning the class teacher will ask who is going to Balcarras and whether they want a Main or Vegetarian meal.
- At the start of lunch the children assemble in the Y3/5 Playground or under the canopy outside Y3 if it is wet. They should take their **water bottle** with them and wear a **coat** if it is cold or wet.
- They will be walked over by CKJS staff and supervised at Balcarras.
- On return to CKJS they continue with their playtime.

The menus accompany this newsletter so that you can look at them with your child. Payments are made in ParentPay using the CKJS – Dinners option and we would recommend paying a lump sum in to avoid any deficit. Note that your child does not need to go every day!

CKJS PTA

The PTA are a great team who arrange activities and events for the children and fund raise for the school.

As a parent you are automatically a member of this wonderful group. They are always looking for volunteers to help with activities and events. If you might be able to offer some help, no matter how small, please use the QR code to register your interest, and a member of the PTA committee will be in touch.

“We are kicking off the year with some big changes to the PTA. We said a fond farewell to Fliss, Kate and Becca who've been fundraising for years - thank you ladies for all your hard work! We have a rookie team – Katie (Chair), Hollie (Treasurer) and Carla (Secretary). We would welcome anyone who would be happy to contribute to the PTA, be it the planning, running a stall for an hour or handing out squash at discos. If you would be interested in trying it out, please use the QR code to sign up. All help is much appreciated!”



[Helping the PTA](#)

Look out for forthcoming PTA news and events in our newsletters and on our CKJS PTA facebook page.

SPORTS KIT FOR PE AND GAMES LESSONS

We apologise if messages about this have been confusing. To clarify: Children need **one** kit which stays in school until half-term (unless it gets especially muddy).

It should contain:

House colour t-shirt

Shorts (plain black/navy/claret)

Jogging bottoms (plain black/navy/claret)

Sweatshirt (school or plain black/navy/claret)

Trainers and a pair of socks

Whatsapp Groups

We know many classes have set up 'Class Whatsapp' groups. If you would be prepared to be a contact person for the school, so we can contact you with any urgent messages the class might need, we would be very grateful. Please contact Reception if you would be interested in being a link person between the school and the class Whatsapp group.

A polite request

Please can we ask that if you would like to contact your child's teacher you use reception@ckjs.org.uk rather than their personal school email. This will ensure your message will get to the teacher in a timely manner.

Parents and Friends Prayer Group

The Parents and Friends prayer group will be meeting to pray for CKJS and CKIS on 18th September, from 7.30pm to 8.30. If you would like further details or if you would like to join the WhatsApp group which is for those who are able to pray for the life of the school, please contact Reception so we can put you in touch with the group leaders.

Gloucestershire Boys' Choir

Gloucestershire Boys' Choir are holding an Open Rehearsal on Sunday 24th September. The session will be led by, Ben Sawyer, who will take the boys through a series of singing games and songs in this fun and interactive session. There's no audition, just an enjoyment of singing and an ability to carry a tune!

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/dyWsVeVMZDdYnkto6>

Contact Us:

✉ reception@ckjs.org.uk ☎ 01242 526171

Website: www.ckjs.org.uk

Contact Details

It is essential that we have up to date contact details for both parents/carers and any other emergency contacts for your child.

If you think these may have changed make sure you inform Reception, preferably by email.

Allergies and medical information

It is essential that you inform us of any allergies that your child has. The best way to do this is to complete a Health Care Plan and these are available by clicking [here](#). Even if you completed one last year please can you resubmit.

Also please ensure that we have any medication your child may need whilst at school. Antibiotics usually can be spread out so that they do not need to be given at school.

Secondary Schools

Year 6 children will bring home a letter on Monday for making secondary school choices. Please make sure that your child gives you the letter as we do not have duplicates.

It is essential that you submit your choices by the deadline of midnight on 31 October 2023. Any applications received after this date may not be processed until 1 March 2024.

We advise Parents/Carers to check the individual secondary school websites for details of tours, open evenings or open days taking place this academic year.

Year 5 parents/carers who are considering grammar schools need to check their websites for details of registering for their entrance tests.

Over the summer Evie made fantastic paracord bracelets for her family and friends using skills learnt from Mr Brewer. Well done Evie!

