

Pucklechurch Newsletter

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven”
Matthew 5:16

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Issue 9: 14th November 2025

Contact: admin@pucklechurchprimary.org.uk

Website: www.pucklechurchprimary.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been, as always, a busy week in school. It was wonderful to welcome members of our community into school to mark this year’s Remembrance DAY. Capt. George Harill came into school to share his knowledge and experience with KS2. They did themselves proud by listening attentively and asking mature and insightful questions. Reverend Elaine also joined us for our Remembrance Day collective worship and remarked about how respectfully the children observed the 2 minute silence at 11am.

In contrast, the children also enjoyed activities to mark Children in Need Day – the joined the live Joe Wick active session at 9:30am and all classes came up with a ‘25 Challenge’ to link with the Children in Need theme of ‘Challenge yourself to 25’.

Thank you to you all for your donations especially if you donated via our online Parent Pay option and hope that this cashless alternative made things a little easier. If you haven’t donated yet, there’s still time to do so by clicking the link in the article below.

We were also visited on Thursday this week by our Local Authority together with Rob Cockle, the Executive Head at Wick Primary and Abbotswood Primary, who are continuing to support us through our period of transition. They have spoken to children, staff and governors and we’re excited to move forward together into this next chapter for Pucklechurch CE VC Primary.

Thank you to everyone also, who has supported our new Scholastic Book Club. Your child brought home a catalogue last week but there is still plenty of time to place an order. Go to [Pucklechurch Primary School - Scholastic Shop](#) to browse the latest books and order online. Please **do not** use the generic website link published in the catalogue as we will not receive our school rewards. See more details in the article below.

Thank you and have a good week.

Mrs Jones

Key Dates for Term 2

New dates will appear in red.

- 18th Nov – Flu Immunisation
- 18th Nov – Learning meeting Eve 3:30pm - 6pm
- 19th Nov - Learning meeting Eve 3:30pm - 6pm
- 2nd Dec – EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 2pm
- 3rd Dec - EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 9am
- 5th Dec - Whole School Theatre Trip
- 8th Dec – EYFS/KS1 Christmas dinner
- 9th Dec - Y3 and Y4 Christmas dinner
- 10th Dec – Y5 and Y6 Christmas dinner
- 10th Dec - KS2 Christmas Service at the church 1:30pm
- 11th December – PTA Christmas Present Sale
- 11th Dec – KS2 Christmas service at the church 1:30pm
- 19th Dec –Christmas Parties – EYFS/KS1 – AM
- KS2 - PM
- 19th December – End of term

Key Dates for Term 2

5th January 2026 – Term starts

Inset Days for 2025/26

- 30th January 2026
- 22nd May 2026
- 19th June 2026



Children in Need

Today we held our annual non-school uniform day to raise money for the Children in Need Pudsey appeal. The theme this year was ‘challenge yourself to 25’ so each class took part in a ‘25 challenge’ where they had to complete 25 ‘somethings’ We had a range of different ideas from 25 burpees, 25 Lego creations to 25 minutes silence! We also took part in a Joe Wicks activate challenge too.





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Thank you to everyone for your donations so far. There is still time to donate so if you haven't yet and still want to, you can also log onto your usual ParentPay account using this link <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=19432> where there is an option to make a donation to Children in Need 2025 as we recognise that we carry cash less and less.

The first page you will see when you click the above link looks like this:

* Denotes required fields

Payment details

* Amount

£

Gift Aid

I do not wish to contribute Gift Aid

I would like to contribute Gift Aid

Reason for payment

Donation

Reference or invoice number (if applicable)

As you can see, there is a space to type 'Reference or invoice number (if applicable)'. You do not need to enter anything in this space and should leave it blank.

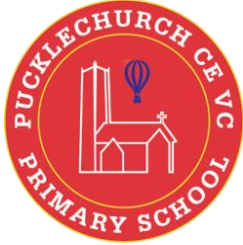
Breaktime Snacks

Currently the children are able to bring healthy snacks into school to eat at breaktime or opt for a piece of fruit/raw vegetable which is available every day at breaktime.

For children who have packed lunch, we have noticed an increase in children removing part of their packed lunch (in some cases, several items) from their lunchbox to consume at break time. We recognise that this may be happening without parents' knowledge so wanted to make you aware. It may help to package their break time snack in a different pot/bag to their lunch so that they are not tempted to eat the items you had packed for them for lunchtime.

The usual morning process is that children retain their snack in their drawer and that all packed lunchboxes are taken up to the hall so that they are ready for when the children need them at lunch time. **We ask that you please write your child's name on the outside of their lunchbox as sometimes children do accidentally pop their lunchbox into the wrong class's box in error when they have finished their lunch** which can cause stress at the end of the day when they go to pack their lunchbox to find it isn't there and they have to tour the other classes to locate it.

Several parents have also asked about when toast would be re-instated so wanted to address this. Initially, this was linked in the short-term to a broken toaster in the kitchen some time ago but then, when ABM became our catering provider, it wasn't re-instated. We are currently exploring potential cashless, pre-booked toast breaktime



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provision and will be sending out a quick parental survey to ascertain whether this would be a convenient option. We thank you for your patience while we ascertain demand and consider how best to proceed.

Lost Property/Spare Uniform

We know how frustrating it is if your child comes home without a coat/fleece/jumper repeatedly so make every effort to help items find their owners. We do our best to re-unite every child with lost, named items but if there is no name, it makes it so much harder. You will have noticed the gathering pile of items in our foyer. This will remain until 21st November and will then be removed. We will retain items which are suitable to keep as we always like to have clothes on hand for emergencies or to help out if families are in need.

If you have items to donate, we are accepting clean, items of current uniform (current school Logo only) that we can keep in school for emergencies or to donate to families in need.

If you have any old logo items, please do hang onto them and donate them for our next Bags to School collection.

Thank you!

Smartphone Free Childhood Parent drop-in

To continue their campaign for the 'Smartfree Childhood' movement, a group of our parents would like to hold an informal parent drop-in session at drop off on **Friday 28th November**. If you want to ask them questions, gather more information or simply offer solidarity, you'll find them by or in our main entrance on Friday 28th November around 8:40am – 9am.



If you want to know more about the movement, please click the link below.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/how-to-talk-to-other-parents>

Pucklechurch parents have also set up a virtual Smartphone Free WhatsApp Community. Here's the link:



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FTQstK9WwDD45Mi7I4M1CG>

Thank you for your continued support in promoting healthy mobile phone habits for our children.

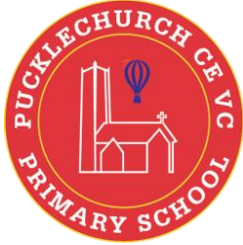
St Thomas a Becket Nativity

This Christmas, St Thomas a Becket Church will be having a Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 3pm. If your child is in years 4-6 and would like to take part, please see the attached letter and consent form from St Thomas a Becket for more information.



All of the below articles and notices have been shared in previous newsletters so that if you've missed it or want to check something again, you can catch up below.





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SGS Multi-sports After School Club

The multi-sports after school club that began last term will continue this term. If your child was signed up last term, they will be continuing this term. If your child no longer wants to attend please let Miss Southcott. The club starts at 3.15pm and finishes at 4.15pm every Monday after school.

Absence

Whenever your child is absent, we ask that you contact school to inform us whatever the reason. Each day, our office staff currently spend an increasing amount of time calling parents to chase the reason for absence. Please see below for a reminder of the process for each type of absence

Holidays

We should always be notified of holidays in advance so that we can record this internally. Please request a holiday form from the office which should be completed in advance of departure.

Illness

Please report your child's absence before the start of the school day. This can either be done via phone on 01179372579 and choosing option 1 or via our e-mail address absence@pucklechurchprimary.org.uk. If your child is absent for multiple days, please ensure that you still contact school each day of absence. If your child was sent home from school the previous day and their illness has continued, we do still need to hear from you each day of the continued absence.

Appointments

We do request that routine medical/dental appointments are booked outside of the school. If your child has a medical/dental appointment during

Crews

This week has seen the announcement of the 'Crews' which form our children's leadership team. The children have thought carefully about whether they want to be part of School Council, Diversity Crew, Equities Crew, Digi Crew, Sports Crew or Eco Crew. We have seen democracy in action when the children voted for who they wished to see as member of their School Council.

We recognise that these positions of responsibility are highly sought after roles and that there are often more candidates than there are places.

School Council have already been busy this week selling poppies for the British Royal Legion Poppy Appeal and Equities Crew will soon front our Children in Need Charity fundraising campaign.

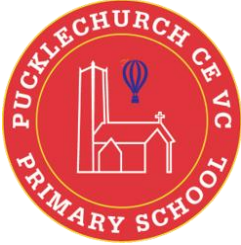
We know the children love these positions of leadership and we're always blown away with how they show initiative and feel empowered to advocate for change in our school community and beyond.

Congratulations to everyone who earned a well-deserved place in one of our crews. We look forward to seeing the difference you all make this year!

Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Your child has brought home a catalogue full of fantastic books to order.





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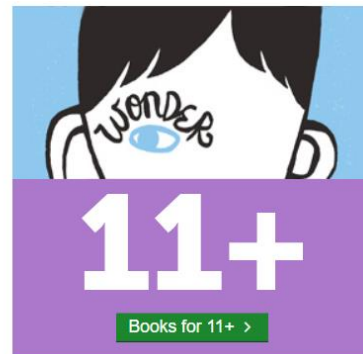
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Go to [Pucklechurch Primary School - Scholastic Shop](#) to browse the latest books and order online. Please **do not** use the generic website link published in the catalogue as we will not receive our school rewards.

For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your order online by **November 30th 2025**. Get **free P + P to school** and help us earn more free books by shopping now.



Reading at Pucklechurch

Part of our commitment to the education of the children is ensuring that we move with new legislation, research and guidance in order to ensure that the children's lessons align to statutory instruction and that teaching remains up-to-date using evidence based strategies.

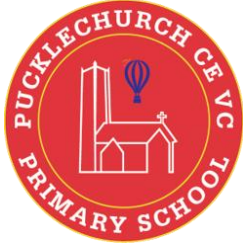
With this in mind, the Pucklechurch team spent part of the INSET day at the start of this term reviewing our approach to teaching reading.

All of our children's reading journey begins with phonics which is the way we teach children how to decode and make meaning of written language. Over the last few years, we have developed our phonics offer and continue to monitor its implementation.

Our focus at this term's INSET was based around developing reading fluency and we continued to use the Department for Education (DfE) document: [The reading framework](#) as well as evidence based research conducted by the [Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](#) to enhance how we teach reading beyond initial decoding.

The children will therefore notice a couple of changes to their reading lessons in years 2 upwards which we hope will support the development of children's fluency. We wanted to share these changes with parents too:

Current Practice	The change that will be made this term
Children are introduced to a new text at the start of each week and had the opportunity to read through it at the start of each lesson	<p>Children will still be introduced to a new text at the start of each week. However, instead of reading the text through at the start of each lesson, there will now be a specific reading lesson at the start of the week focussed solely on developing the fluency of reading the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher will introduce the text in context and pre-teach some key vocabulary to aid understanding The children will hear a model of how the text should sound from the teacher leading the session who will point out which words to emphasise, how to respond to the punctuation and share the appropriate speed to read The children will work in pairs to practise reading the text to build fluency and practise reading aloud. During this time, the teacher will either work with a specific group of children or 'drop in' to each pair to hear how they are doing



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session will end with a brief discussion about the text to begin the 'book talk' that will follow in the week to explore deeper understanding of the text.
<p>Children whose word decoding is behind that of their peers have a daily small group reading intervention session focussed on improving phonics</p> <p>Each week, all children have a small-group reading session. The teacher hears each child read aloud as part of a small group. This is recorded in the children's reading records</p>	<p>Small group reading will only take place for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children whose phonics knowledge is behind that of their peers (they will continue to have a daily phonics small-group intervention). children who have acquired the phonics skills they need but require lots of opportunities to develop their reading automaticity (ability to read most words 'at a glance') <p>Children whose reading fluency is already at the level where their decoding is so automatic that they are able to read with expression, tone and pace will no longer have small-group fluency sessions and will use this lesson for deeper reading comprehension based activities. This means that children whose reading aloud is considered fluent will read aloud to adults less frequently. They will still practise this skill and their teacher will still hear them read within whole class reading fluency lessons but the focus for them will be on making meaning from the text with comprehension activities to deepen understanding.</p> <p>School staff will continue to note in children's reading records when they have had either 1:1 reading with an adult or small-group reading.</p>

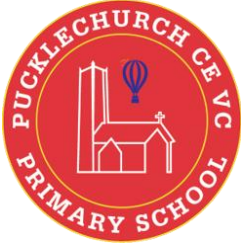
We are excited to see these changes come to life in class and will ensure that we monitor their implementation in our practice and will, of course, take the pupil and staff voice after this term in order to ascertain the impact and feedback accordingly.

Values Certificates

Every week, we award two children with a values certificate in our Celebration collective worship. They are children who have shown our value of the term and acted as a role model to others.

- Seacole SJ- Jacob and Ida
- Armstrong IE- Max and Lowanna
- Armstrong BM- Audrey and Parker
- Newton JB- Ella and Jacob
- Newton SD- Carter and Noah M
- King SM- Isla and Ollie
- King AS- Hettie and Bobby
- King AB- Annika and Eli

Well done to everyone that got a certificate this week!



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Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail Poster Competition

Please see the below poster for details of how to enter the annual Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail competition. Please note that entries can be handed in to the Post Office, the school main office and St Thomas a Becket church.

*** Competition ***

Design a **Scarecrow**
for the Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition and Trail
and win a £10 prize!

Enter by November 21st

All entries must:-

Have a name and contact details on the reverse,
(in pen so it doesn't show through the paper)

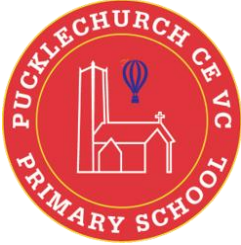
Be drawn with felt pen and have a good outline
so they stand out on a poster

**No Christmas Scarecrows please.
This is a **Spring** competition!**

Entries will be judged by the Scarecrow Competition
and Trail Committee, who reserve the right to:

- edit the winning entry
- to use the image in any future competition advertising

Contact 07986 803686 for more details



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Church Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will feature an entry from school. The children will work in school to decorate their tree which will be displayed proudly at St Thomas a Becket Church during the Christmas Tree Festival. We can't wait to get started!

St. Thomas à Becket - Pucklechurch

BS16 9RB

Christmas Tree Festival




Sat 29th November - Fri 5th December

Sat 10 - 4 Sun to Fri 2 - 4

A beautiful display of trees decorated by the
Pucklechurch pubs, clubs and organisations.

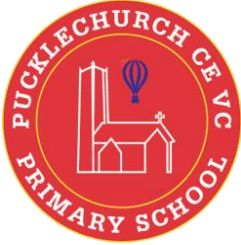
Their theme is:

'A Christmas Carol'

Sales Tables  Cakes  Refreshments



St Thomas a Becket Pucklechurch



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Arbor Details

In a bid to remain as paperless and efficient as possible, we will no longer be issuing a paper contact details check sheet or updating child contact details via our school office.

Instead, we invite all parents to access their online Arbor account to check and, where necessary, update the details we hold for your child/ren.

It is crucial that we hold up to date information for all children, particularly relating to medical information and next of kin. These are the details that we use to contact you in case of an emergency but also for e-mail correspondence such as newsletters etc. **Please ensure you check and edit your own details so that we always have the correct information to contact you on.**

Click on the link to see how to check and update your child's details on Arbor:

[Seeing and updating my child's information on the Parent Portal or Parent App – Arbor Help Centre](#)

Please be aware that, for security reasons, each parent can only access their own contact details so, even if shared details such as home address change, this may need to be changed for both parents by logging in separately.

Thank you for your co-operation in continuing to ensure the smooth and efficient running of our school office.



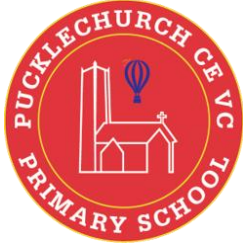
Flu Immunisations

School Flu Consent Form 2025/26

Sirona will be coming to Pucklechurch on 18th November for flu immunisations (nasal) for all children from Reception to Year 6. The link to give consent is below or alternatively scan the QR code below:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2025/consent?v=4>





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Parenting Courses

An increasing number of parents are requesting information about local parenting courses and workshops. Below are a selection of different offers from South Glos Parents and Carers that anyone is able to attend.

South Glos Parents and Carers are an organisation that are available in our community to give support to any parents and carers across South Glos who are navigating their child's SEND journey. Parents and carers can access their support in many different ways.



Drop ins

Parents can receive support and signposting from their peer support team every **Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 1.30pm (term time only)** at their Community Base in Kingswood.

[SGPC Community Base in Kingswood - Tuesdays and Thursdays](#)

Early Years Support

This is a dedicated session for parents of young children aged 0-5 years (including Reception year) to receive information and signposting from their peer support team and ask questions about your child's early development.

Children are welcome at the drop-in sessions, open every **Wednesday in the Patchway Children's Centre between 10am – 11.30am (term time only)**

[Early Years SEND support - Patchway Children's Centre](#)

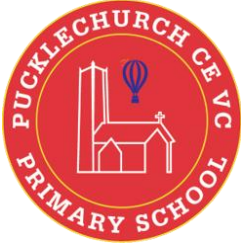
Workshops

South Glos Parents and Carers also run workshops on a range of different themes throughout the school year.

- Neurodiversity and Sleep (20 Nov)
- Understanding and Supporting Anxiety (10 Dec)

Click below to book a place on any of the workshops. **Most are online but occasionally they are face-to-face so always check the location.**

[Online workshops to empower you on your child's SEND journey](#)



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Spanish Activities at Home

Our Language provider (Language Angels) has made some resources available for children to do at home.

These include games and songs. Each class has a single login – you will see it in the children’s homework packs over the next couple of weeks. In a similar fashion to Timestables Rockstars, classes have been assigned modules that they have previously been taught. This is an optional homework activity, but we would love to see children engaging and continuing to practice the language skills they have developed.



We have also been made aware by Families Plus of a regular 6 week long program that parents can access with a referral. Parents are able to self-refer. Just scan the QR code for more details.

FREE Triple P and Stepping Stones Parenting Programmes



Parenting is one of the hardest jobs in the world - our free parenting courses are designed to support parents to be the best they can be

Our regular 6 week programmes will not tell you how to parent, but give you a toolbox of ideas to improve your confidence in:

"The staff are amazing! Friendly, great communication and make you feel at ease."

- Boundaries
- Routines
- Behaviour management techniques
- Looking after yourself as a parent



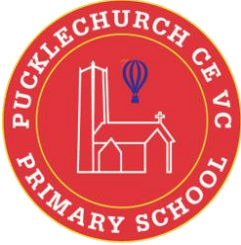
Our programmes are:

- Free to access
- For parents of children aged 0-12
- Run by professionals with SEN Experience
- Friendly and Non judgemental
- A chance to meet like minded people who understand your situation
- Flexible - run across the year, at different venues across South Gloucestershire, with day, evening and online options to attend

"We've seen a huge improvement in our confidence as parents. Since implementing strategies learned on the course, our family life is much calmer and happier."

For more information, get in touch via family.referrals@ccp.org.uk, or to book a place please scan the QR code





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Reverse Advent Calendar

It's almost November which means that it's time for the annual North Bristol Foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar.

Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting a range of ambient food and Christmas items ready to donate to the North Bristol food bank on 1st December in time for Christmas.

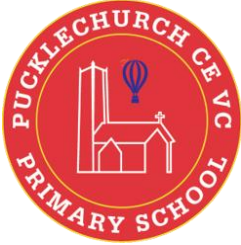
We're always overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our Pucklechurch families during this event but recognise that some families are not in a position to donate so please do not feel the pressure to do so.

If you feel you are able, please see the list below for the items that they would love to receive.

If you are able to donate 'Bags for Life' to help with the collection and distribution on the items, we would be grateful.



- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pasta sauce | Tinned peaches | Tinned pineapples | Toilet roll | Tinned potatoes |
| Egg noodles | Toothpaste | Washing detergent | VHT cow's milk | Squash |
| Washing up liquid | Christmas treat! (non-alcoholic) | Tinned custard | Savoury snacks | Curry sauce |
| Tinned peaches | Deodorant | Instant mash | Rice pudding | Microwave rice |
| Tinned sweetcorn | Fruit juice | Tinned tuna | Christmas treat! (non-alcoholic) | Thank you! |



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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Type equation here. **Parental Letter and Consent Form**

Nativity Service and Rehearsals 2025

St Thomas a Becket Church, Pucklechurch



Dear Parents and Carers,

Is your child in Y4 - Y11 at school? Would they like a speaking part in the St Thomas a Becket Nativity Play on December 24th 2025? The service starts at 3 pm. Your child will need to be at church from 1.45 pm – 4.15/30 pm that day.

We are holding rehearsals in church on Tuesdays in December between 4.30- 5.30 or 5.00-6.00 or 5.30 – 6.30 pm depending on the children's availability. The dates for these rehearsals will be:

2nd Dec, 9th Dec, 16th Dec and possibly the 23rd Dec if needed. The dress rehearsal will be at 1.45 pm on Dec 24th before the service at 3 pm.

This is a chance to gain confidence in performing and speaking in church, learn more about the Christmas story, to shine and contribute to the life of the village and the church.

A new play has been written especially for slightly older children to take part in this year. If you would like to see a copy before deciding, please email and ask Julie Gardner.

If your child would like to take part, please complete the form below and return it to Julie Gardner on julie@juliegardner.co.uk

Further info:

Leader of this activity: Julie Gardner

Assistants: Julie Gibbs and Joanne Fern

We are all currently enhanced DBS checked and have church safeguarding training. Julie Gardner is an ex-teacher and teaching assistant, currently working as a primary schools' chaplain two days a week in Downend. She has lots of experience with children. Julie Gibbs is our church vergier and a governor at Pucklechurch Primary School. Joanne Fern is our other church secretary and used to run the youth club at church with a previous vicar. We all visit Pucklechurch Primary School as part of church-school links, so your children may know us a little already.