

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, we hope you have enjoyed attending Parents' Evening and celebrating your child's achievements so far this year. We are, as always, immensely proud of how well they have settled into the new year and how they continue to embody our school vision of 'Aspire, Believe, Achieve'.

This week, we have focussed on building on good models of behaviour at lunchtimes. We have been proud of how the older children set a shining example for the younger children. It has been lovely to see exemplary table manners on display and seeing the children chat with their friends, clear away after themselves and generally show respectful behaviour in the lunch hall.



Thank you and have a good week.

Mrs Jones

Key Dates for Term 2

New dates will appear in red.

- 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 December – **Christmas Jumper Day**
- 11th Dec – KS2 Christmas service at the church 1:30pm
- 19th Dec –Christmas Parties – EYFS/KS1 – AM
- KS2 - PM
- 19th December – End of term

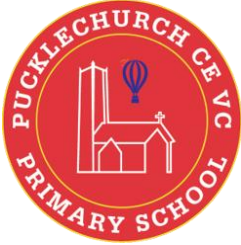
Key Dates for Term 2

5th January 2026 – Term starts

Inset Days for 2025/26

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





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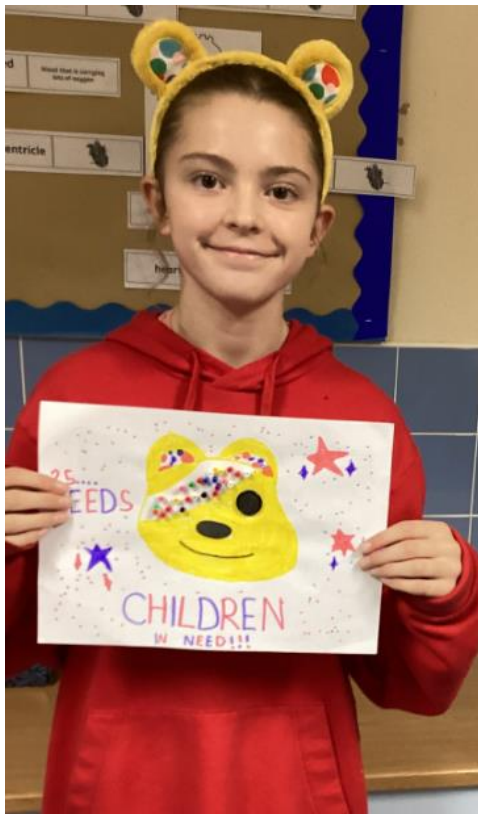
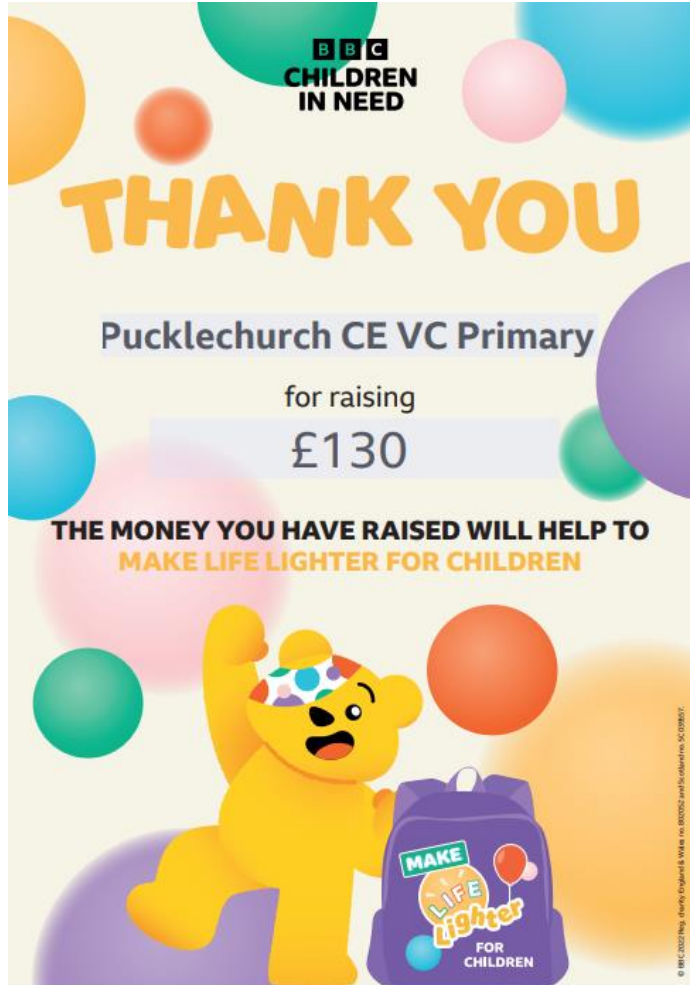
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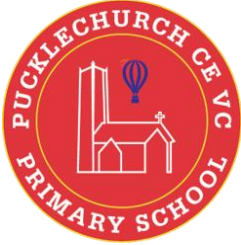
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Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Children in Need appeal. As a school we collected a total of £130 through cash and online donations through Parent Pay.





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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.



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 – Ronnie H and Ralph
- Armstrong IE – Louis-Jax and Elodie
- Armstrong BM – Nelly and Toby
- Newton JB – Bonnie and
- Newton SD – Carter and Noah
- King SM – Eren and Seth
- King AB – Henrietta and Jazmin
- King AS – Grace and Matilda

A big well done to our Values superstars this week!

Bikeability

We have been so impressed with our Year 6 Bikeability groups who braved the cold temperatures this week to venture out onto the streets of Pucklechurch (you may have seen them out and about on their bikes). They have been working towards their Level 1 and 2 Cycling Proficiency awards! They have listened carefully to the instructors and acted safely and responsibly at all times. Well done to you all! We're looking forward to rewarding you with your certificates and badges next week.



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.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

DROP-IN INFORMATION SESSION
Pucklechurch CoE Primary School

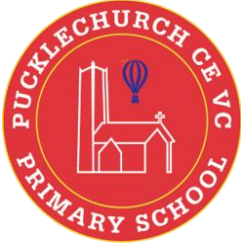
- Friday 28th November
- 8:40 - 9:10am
- Main Entrance Foyer

Please come to say hello, find out more, or share your thoughts with us....

No judgement, just open and honest conversations, where the overall aim is to support each other as parents, carers and educators, who all want the best for our children and families.

If you are unable to stop on the day please do join our schools SFC WhatsApp group using the QR code.

WEBSITE: SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG
Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement bringing families together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.



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Sporting Superstars

It's lovely to hear about children's achievements outside of school.

This week, we're pleased to share that Arnie, Year 5 represented the school last Sunday in the Western Area Schools Judo Championships in Bideford and he won gold! Well done Arnie! We're very proud of you.



It's a martial art double whammy this week as Connor, Year 1 achieved his yellow belt in kickboxing. Training 3 times a week shows real commitment and his hard work definitely paid off as he was graded an A and got 46/50 marks on his assessment!

Well done Connor!

We're very proud of you.



Flu Immunisations

This week most children received their flu vaccination in school. If your child did not receive their vaccination at school, there is the opportunity for community catch ups. If you would still like to book your child's vaccination in the community rather at school, please click the below link to book an appointment.

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

If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

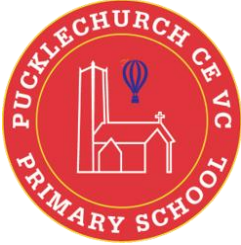


Spanish Activities at Home

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 a completely optional homework activity but we see in our Spanish lessons just how much children enjoy the Language Angels content and enjoy practising new vocabulary so we wanted to give those that wish to do so, the opportunity to continue to practise their language skills at home.





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School admin systems

Over the last few weeks we've reviewed the effectiveness of some of our admin processes such as donating to Children in Need, registering for Christmas Nativity/Church Service tickets and e-mail communications with teachers. We've had positive feedback from parents and staff who feel that by making these adjustments, these admin tasks have become more efficient. We do recognise that asking parents to send all e-mails to the admin inbox rather than directly to the teacher is a change in practice but please be assured that your queries, questions and concerns are all important to us. By running the admin inbox as a 'triage' for all e-mails, it means that anything that the office staff can address is done so promptly but if your e-mail requires a teacher or a member of SLT, it will be passed to them. E-mails sent directly to a member of staff's personal inbox (including SLT and office staff) will no longer be responded to. There is no need to cc them into the e-mail as, if it requires their attention, we assure you, our office staff will pass this to them for their response.

Thank you if you have engaged with these processes as they have undoubtedly contributed to making our school office run more smoothly.

We also thank everyone who continues to engage with Arbor to book learning meetings as well as pay and consent to school trips. Also, by taking ownership for updating your own contact details, you are helping us hugely!

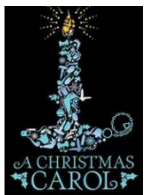
We recognise the issues that engaging with new technology and processes can sometimes create and know that some people have encountered problems with logging on to Arbor. Please do come into the office so that we can help resolve these issues so that things are smoother for you moving forward.

We continue to review and strengthen the way in which we make share and receive information, make bookings, take payments and gain permissions as well as general communication so that all of these systems are as efficient and stress-free for everyone as possible.



Christmas Tree Festival

This week, Julie Gibbs, one of our governors, came into school to work with Diversity Crew on our school entry for the St Thomas a Becket Christmas Tree Festival.



This week's session was an opportunity to introduce this project to the children and come up with initial ideas around the theme of 'A Christmas Carol'. We can't wait to see the finished tree which will be on display at St Thomas a Becket Church over the

festive season.



Christmas Theatre Trip

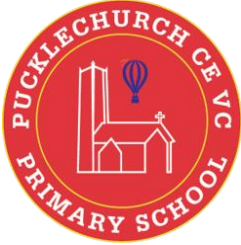
Our annual theatre trip to the WISE Campus's Christmas production of 'Enchanted' is getting closer and we're all getting excited!



There are still a large number of parents who have not given consent and made their payment for the trip via Arbor. The college have subsidised our ticket prices but we still require a parental contribution of **£14.57** in order to make this trip viable.

Please let us know if you require any support with payment.





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Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Activity Sessions

If your child is registered as eligible for free school meals, they are able to access **free** holiday activity sessions through the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme, delivered by Junior Adventures Group (JAG) in partnership with South Gloucestershire local authority this Winter Holidays.

See below for booking details:

Venues:

[Bradley Stoke Lifestyle Centre](#) - BS32 9BS

- Dates: 22nd & 23rd 2025 and 2nd Jan, 2026
- Times: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

[Kingswood Active Lifestyle Centre](#) – BS16 4HR

- Dates: 22nd & 23rd 2025 and 2nd Jan, 2026
- Times: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

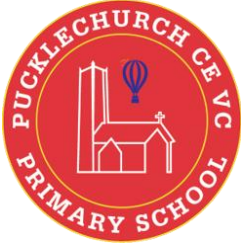
[Thornbury Active Lifestyle Centre](#) – BS35 3JB

- Dates: 22nd & 23rd 2025 and 2nd Jan, 2026
- Times: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Community Notices

Please see below a leaflet from Yate Shopping Centre about their festive storytime at the library.



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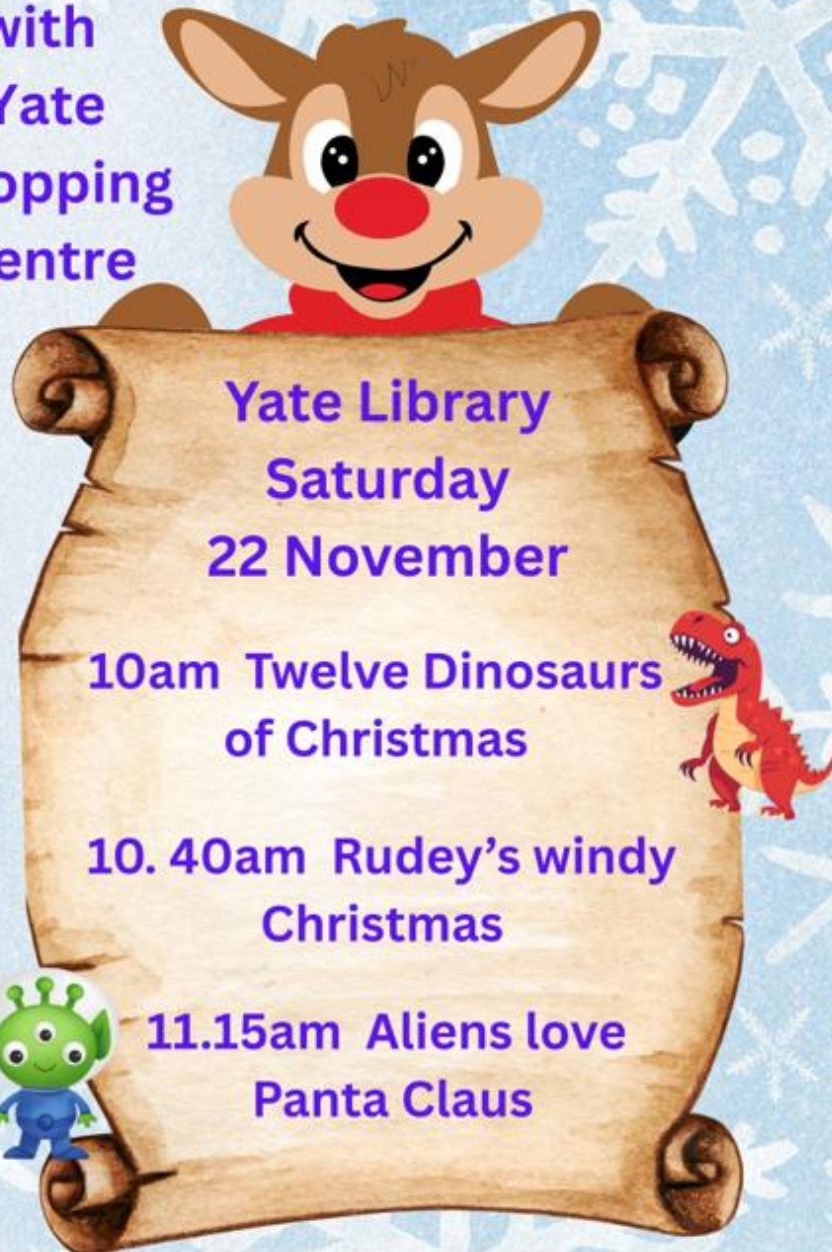
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Free Festive Storytimes

with
Yate
Shopping
Centre



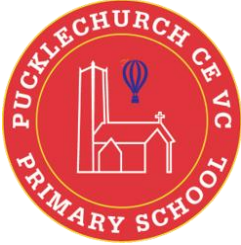
Yate Library
Saturday
22 November

10am Twelve Dinosaurs
of Christmas

10.40am Rudey's windy
Christmas

11.15am Aliens love
Panta Claus

Avon & Somerset Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC).



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Please see below for details of how you could become a Volunteer Cadet Leader for the South Gloucestershire Unit in Patchway.

My name is Sarah and I am the Programme Manager for the Avon & Somerset Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC). The VPC are young people aged 13-17 who come together to learn about careers in policing, support their community, and develop valuable life skills like communication and problem-solving, all within a fun and safe environment.

Our cadets are supported by adult Volunteer Cadet Leaders, and we are recruiting new leaders for our South Gloucestershire Unit (based in Patchway). Our leaders don't need to have policing experience or knowledge; we will provide all the necessary training and resources. Would you please be able to include the attached poster in your next bulletin or newsletter to parents and guardians?

For more information about this opportunity please visit our website - [Volunteer Police Cadet Leaders - South Gloucestershire, Bristol - Avon and Somerset Police](#)



Recruiting now for volunteer

CADET LEADERS

IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Do you have a **sense of adventure**?

Could you **make a difference** to a young person's life?

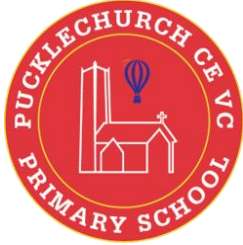
You don't need policing experience to volunteer. Our police cadets are supported by a fantastic team of volunteer adult leaders, who have different backgrounds and a diverse range of skills and experiences.

Based in Patchway or the surrounding area, they give a few hours of their time each week, to support our cadets as they learn about policing, participate in fun activities and attend community events.

Find out more or apply

If you're motivated, creative and looking for a new opportunity, scan the QR code to find out more or search 'Volunteering opportunities' on our website: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk





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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.

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.

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 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.

Absence

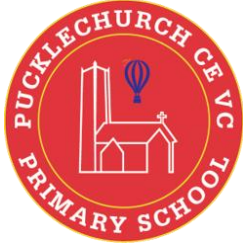
Whenever your child is absent, we ask that you contact school to inform us whatever the reason. Each day, our office staff currently spend an increasing amount of time calling parents to chase the reason for absence. Please see below for a reminder of the process for each type of absence

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



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home from school the previous day and their illness has continued, we do still near 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.



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.



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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.

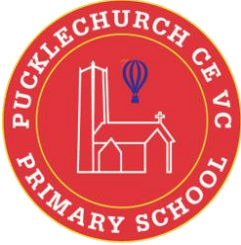
With this in mind, the Pucklechurch team spent part of the INSET day at the start of this term reviewing our approach to teaching reading.

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 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.
Children whose word decoding is behind that of their peers have a daily small group reading	<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).



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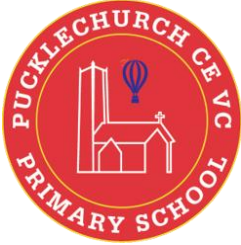
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<p>intervention session focussed on improving phonics</p> <p>Each week, all children have a small-group reading session. The teacher hears each child read aloud as part of a small group. This is recorded in the children's reading records</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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>
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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.

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.



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** 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

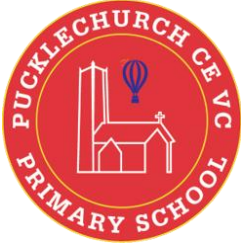


Church Christmas Tree Festival

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 à Becket Church during the Christmas Tree Festival. We can't wait to get started!

St. Thomas à Becket - Pucklechurch

BS16 9RB



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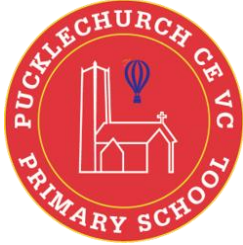


Arbor Details

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.





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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.

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](#)

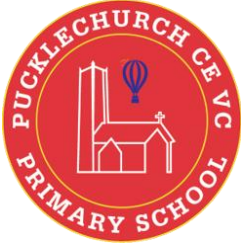
Workshops

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](#)



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

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

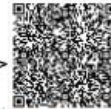


Our programmes are:

- 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



Reverse Advent Calendar

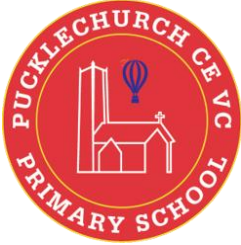
It's almost November which means that it's time for the annual North Bristol Foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar.

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.





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

Reverse
Advent Calendar!

Be the reason someone celebrates
Christmas without hunger

How does it work?
Fill a box or bag with one item each day throughout November, ticking them off as you go. Then at the end of the 24 days, drop it off at your local food bank donation point.

Thank you!

North Bristol & South Glos
Foodbank
Together with Trussard

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pasta sauce | Tinned peaches | Tinned pineapples | Toilet roll | Tinned potatoes |
| Egg noodles | Toothpaste | Washing detergent | UHT 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!