

October 2023

## Christ the King News

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome**

We are soon approaching half term. The children and teachers have all worked incredibly hard and we are grateful for your parental support. We recognise that you are your child's first educators, and we aim to support you as we work in partnership to enable every child to achieve their very best.

### **Baby News**

Congratulations to Mrs Riggs and her family, on the safe arrival of her twin baby girls, Laila and Isla. We are looking forward to meeting them both very soon.

Congratulations to Mrs Luford, who is expecting her first baby next Spring. This is such wonderful news, and we are all so delighted for her and her husband.

### **Staffing update**

This week we will be saying goodbye to Ms Ayton and thanking her for her service to Catholic education for the last 11 years at our school. Ms Ayton will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. Ms Ayton's passion for Science, Design Technology and the great outdoors have always shone through in the work that she has planned for her children. We wish Ms Ayton every success as she embarks on a new chapter in her teaching career at Jewel Academy.

I am very pleased to announce that we have appointed 3 teachers to fill our vacancies. Miss Samantha Wright, who will teach in Year 6. Miss Patricia Moreno, who will teach in Year 5. Both teachers will be visiting their classes this week and they will start after half term. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Monk who has stepped in to cover the Year 5 class until we were able to appoint. Mrs Monk has done an amazing job and I know the children will miss her very much. Mrs Monk will continue in her work as a supply teacher, and I am sure we will see her again throughout the year. Our final appointment is Miss Debbie Clothier, who will start with us in January, when we say a fond farewell to Miss Leslie.

Mr Gary Fox has just started as a casual maintenance caretaker. He is already making a very good start at tackling some long-awaited jobs.

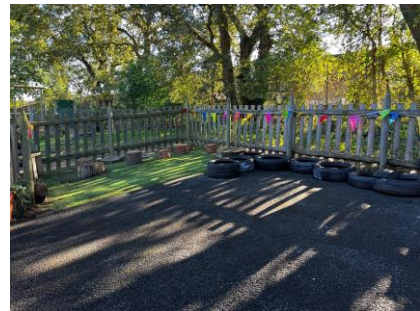
### **Applying for a place at Christ the King School**

BCP still manage our admissions, however, we still urge families to complete our school application forms which are available from our office or online. We have two remaining tour dates, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, both at 11.15am. These tours are a wonderful opportunity to see our school in action and speak to members of staff.

### **Year 1 Outside Area**

Thank you to our wonderful team of parents who have completely transformed the Year 1 outside area on Saturday, helped by a few little people too. Special thanks to: Mrs Abdulla, Malak's mum; Mrs Hamad, Basel's mum; Leanne and Dan, Ava's parents; Rache and Brendan, Gabby's parents; Hannah Butler, Abigail's mum; Rachel and Rob, Zec's parents: and Darren, Eloise's dad. The before and after pictures speak for themselves!



### **Safeguarding**

[How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/)

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### **1 Million Children Praying the Rosary**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, children may bring in their own rosary if they have one, and we will be joining people from all over the globe as we pray for peace and unity in the world.

 [One million children praying the rosary - ACN Campaign 2023](#) Please click this link.

This prayer initiative by AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED aims to rekindle faith in the power of prayer. The worldwide campaign is an invitation to remember the words of Our Lady of Fatima that the childlike and trusting prayer of the rosary can truly change the world, defeat evil and bring peace.

Praying the rosary together with children will strengthen unity in the Church and among peoples. We are all called to form one family across borders, united in prayer. Out of prayer grows love for God and neighbour. The rosary opens our hearts to concrete help for the persecuted, the needy and the poor in whom Christ himself suffers.

### **Parent Survey**

Please complete the short survey to help us improve parental engagement and the workshops we offer.

<https://forms.gle/7M5X8ETdeNxRB3jf9>

### **Catholic Social Teaching with CAFOD and Social Justice Conference**

All classes have worked with our local CAFOD representative on their Catholic Social Teaching Journey. Three pupils joined 30 other schools at the Social Justice Conference held earlier this term. Our Mini Vinnies, all 30 of them, are bursting with ideas for how they can make a difference to our school, our community and our world.

### **Key Dates**

**School Photos** - Tuesday 17th October 2023

**1 Million Children Praying the Rosary** - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Parent Consultations**, 3-6pm - Tuesday 17th October 2023

**PTFA Crazy Hair Day** - Thursday 19th October 2023

**Parent Consultations**, 3-6pm - Thursday 19th October 2023

**INSET** - School Closed - Friday 20th October 2023

### **Season of Creation**

Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> September as the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' in 2015. The 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 marked the start of this year's Season of Creation. The Season of Creation ended on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The children have embraced the theme for this year, ***"Let Peace and Justice Flow."***

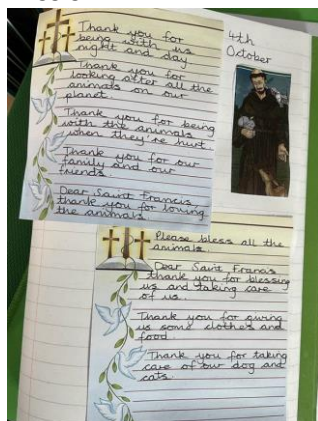
#### Plastic Paradiso

As part of our 'get to know you' activities in the first week of term, we had an Arts focus for Laudato Si and the Season of Creation. We were privileged to have Claire, a dancer from Pavilion Dance Southwest, join Year 2 and 3 to help them create a dance representing how we can help keep our oceans clean. The children designed their own recycled plastic fish puppets to use in the dance, and Claire choreographed the dance with the children in the school hall. We have now decorated our 'Creative Corridor' with lots of the children's artwork from this week.





Year 2 wrote prayers for St Francis of Assisi.



Year 2 with their work that they have created following their workshop on Catholic Social Teaching, with Bea Taylor.

### Let Us Pray

**We give thanks for:**

Our wonderful planet that nourishes and sustains us.

**We pray for:**

- New pupils and staff joining us this term, that they settle into our community.
- Our planet – that all Christians continue to pray and 'act' to save our world.
- War- torn countries, we pray that the leaders can find solutions to end the conflict.

**And finally,** I look forward to supporting you and your children in their learning journey this year and ensuring they build happy memories of their time in our school.

God Bless,

Melanie Lord  
Headteacher

