Autumn Term 1

News Magazine

October 2025





Principal's Message

Dear all,

What a wonderful start to the academic year this half term has been! There really has been such a fantastic atmosphere in school, with pupils in both phases truly embracing the CFS SHINE qualities. I have really enjoyed celebrating many R5 awards this half term – do have a look at the winners so far this year later on in this new magazine. We started the year with a relaunch of the CFS Way, with pupils reflecting on how they can all strive to be 'purple excellent' in everything they do. Our new jelly bean characters have proved very popular too! This week we have had Primary PPCs, and Secondary settling in reports going home. Do chat with your children over half term about their learning profiles in particular. Secondary pupils will now have received their first learning profiles in the new 1-4 format. All of the CFS colour posters, including the learning profiles, can be found at the bottom of this page: The CFS Way

Year 6 and Year 11 have particularly impressed us this half term. This is a challenging year for both cohorts, as they navigate the final steps towards the external assessments in the summer. But they have begun with a focused, determined and also very happy attitude, which is great to see.

And our new Year R and Year 7 cohorts have hit the ground running. It was a little strange to be referring to Year R as our future Class of 2037! But it is always so exciting to be welcoming our youngest learners at the start of, what will hopefully be, a 12 year journey here at CFS. And Year 7 have probably been the fastest year group ever to stop getting lost around the Secondary building, much of which has been down to the kindness of our older pupils helping them along the way. We already have many Year 7s embracing all that the school has to offer out of the classroom – with several signing up for this year's production for example. I think special mention should be made to Chloe Thomson and George Watts, who both truly shone at Open Evening. They joined me on stage all evening, talking about their experience of the school. No mean feat in front of three packed halls of parents and pupils; at just the age of 11, the way in which they spoke with confidence, clarity, warmth and enthusiasm was truly inspiring.

We have had a huge number of visitors on site this half term. With many of you coming in to see your children's school and work, through Primary Open Afternoons, the Year 7 Meet the Tutor event, and various other Secondary evenings. At the Open Evening at the start of the month, we were overwhelmed by the number of visitors – our busiest ever. CCF and Mr Carter did a sterling job of using every inch of the playgrounds for cars! This was then followed by a week of morning tours for prospective parents and pupils, and over the last few weeks I have also had the pleasure of showing potential Executive Principal candidates around both phases of the All Through School. Without question, throughout I have been so proud of the school, quite possibly the proudest I have ever been. And mainly because of the pupils – they have been welcoming, polite, articulate and kind to all of the visitors, true ambassadors of CFS. The feedback from all of these events and tours has been tremendous, with our 'happy, confident and inspiring pupils' being mentioned by visitors. Well done to the CFS pupil body.

In regard to the Executive Principal recruitment – this is currently in progress and the Governors and Trust will update you as soon as possible with any news.

Perhaps the biggest bump in the road this half term has been the transition to our new caterers, Aspens. Firstly I wanted to thank all parents and pupils for not only your patience, but also your very honest and constructive feedback. Through both the Parent and Pupil Ambassador groups, we have been able to feedback quickly and huge improvements have already been made. It is still a work in progress, but we are very grateful to how Aspens have responded. I also wanted to mention Mr Garner, Mr Hardwick, Shaun (our chef) and all of our wonderful catering staff, who are leading on this period of change.



Principal's Message

I also recognise how the traffic situation worsened again at the start of the year. This is often the case at the start of term, as new users get used to the system. Whilst things have settled, there are still many parents who are not arriving at the stated times at both drop off and pick up – the system does work but only if everyone adheres to it. Specifically, an increasing number of Primary parents (with no children in Secondary) are arriving very early in a morning and parking for prolonged periods of time. This significantly reduces the number of spaces for Secondary parents to drop off, slowing down the queue, which then has a knock on impact to Primary drop off. Please do follow the times as outlined.

This half term we made changes to our Medical and First Aid support in school. Whilst we no longer have a dedicated Medical Officer in school, please be assured that there are many first aiders on site to support pupils in both phases of the school. Mrs McCarthy - one of our Pastoral Officers – now oversees all medical plans and administration and we still have our dedicated medical space when pupils need attention in school. Mrs McCarthy is also the direct link with parents about specific medical needs – and she will ensure that all the relevant members of the pastoral and first aid team are aware of any relevant information. This does mean though, that we have said farewell to Natalie Lloyd - who has been the Medical Officer at CFS for the last six years. Natalie has been a dedicated, passionate and exceptionally hard working member of the team, and we are so grateful for her years of service here at CFS. We are very pleased that Natalie will be continuing to support the school as a CCF volunteer, so this is not goodbye completely, but I wanted to wish her every happiness and success in her future professional endeavours.

After the holiday we welcome several new members of staff:

Tilly McDermott – Learning Support Assistant
Holly Lever-Ivermee – Learning Support Assistant
Elisabeth Giakoumelou – Learning Support Assistant
Thomas Cowan – Learning Support Assistant
Molly Bow – Teacher of Science
Helen Jennings – Cover Supervisor

I am very much looking forward to welcoming them to the CFS Team.

I am also delighted to inform you that Stella Gibson (Learning Support Assistant) has taken on the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisor alongside her current role. You may also have seen that we are advertising for a new Exams Officer – I just wanted to reassure that David Collins (who has been with the school since its first year of opening) is thankfully not leaving us; David is reducing his hours slightly and so will be focusing on the other aspect of this role, which is overseeing our management information system, hence the current vacancy.

There is so much more I could mention about this half term, and all of the exciting things that have happened in school, but I know that the pupils and staff have shared a lot of these experiences with you in the following pages of this news magazine. Enjoy the read!

With autumn very firmly here (my favourite season!), I do hope you all have a restful, cosy and refreshing half term break. We will see pupils back on Monday 3rd November, which will be Week 1 timetable in Secondary.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Louise New

Executive Principal

EYFS

EYFS

A Wonderful Start to the Year in Reception!

What a fantastic beginning to the school year! Our Reception children have settled in beautifully and embraced every new experience with curiosity, confidence, and joy. It's been a pleasure to watch them form friendships, build routines, and developing new skills and confidence each day.

Forest School Adventures
We launched our outdoor learning with Forest School, and what an adventure it's been! The children are learning to be *Green Dragons* by understanding our fire circle safety rules. They've been busy exploring nature, building dens, and developing teamwork and resilience in the great outdoors.

Phonics Fun
This term, we've been learning all our single letter sounds and using this knowledge to begin our wonderful journey into reading and writing. Pupils are also tackling their very first tricky words—a big and important step on their reading journey!

Marvellous Maths Moments
In Maths, we've been busy comparing, sorting, and matching. Whether it's finding the odd one out or grouping objects by colour, shape, or size, the children are strengthening their early mathematical thinking in playful and meaningful ways.

Learning to Listen
This term, we've introduced our 'good listening' characters to help children become focused and thoughtful listeners. These characters have supported the children in following instructions, staying engaged during carpet time, and contributing confidently to class discussions.

We are incredibly proud of how much the children have already achieved in such a short time. Their enthusiasm and love of learning are shining through in everything they do. We can't wait to see all the adventures and discoveries the next half term will bring! **Miss Smith, Mrs Golby and Mrs DeWitt**











Key Stage 1

Year 1

What a busy and exciting first half term it's been for Year One! We started off with our very first school trip to Kingsham Oval, where we explored the human and physical features of our local area; it was such a fun way to bring our geography learning to life!

In English, we've been enjoying some brilliant books including *Oh George!, Shark in the Park***,** and *Funnybones***.** The children have been working hard to build sentences, remembering those all-important full stops, capital letters, and finger spaces. We even edited and published our very first pieces of writing - such a proud moment!

In Maths, we've been busy exploring numbers up to 10 during our place value topic, using lots of different resources and drawings to represent our ideas. We're now moving on to addition and subtraction, learning how to show our understanding using parts and wholes. In Art, we've been inspired by the colourful work of Romero Britto, and the children have loved creating their own vibrant masterpieces in his style. What a fantastic start to the year!

Mr Cook and Miss Sparshott





Year 2

Year 2 have had such a fun start to the year! We kicked things off with a real surprise - it seemed a dinosaur had visited our school over the holidays! This roaring discovery set the scene perfectly for our English work, where we've been practising our sentence skills and learning to add expanded noun phrases to make our writing more exciting. The children have produced some fantastic dinosaur 'wanted' posters and imaginative party invitations for The Lonely Beast. Our new topic, Globetrotters, began with a fascinating visit from RepTylers, where we met some amazing animals and learned all about their habitats. We've also been exploring different places around the world in Geography. In DT, the children loved discovering where different fruits are grown. They then planned, made, and evaluated their own delicious fruit kebabs, as well as practising their cutting, peeling, and constructing skills along the way.

We've been making the most of the sunshine during Forest School sessions too, where the children have enjoyed exploring and playing in the great outdoors. To top it all off, everyone had a brilliant time dressing up as rockstars for TTRS Day - a fun launch for our Times Tables Rock Stars challenge this year! The children are really enjoying playing TTRS at school, and we're encouraging them to keep up the practice at home too.

What a fantastic first half term for Year 2!

Mrs Bhutta and Mrs Grace

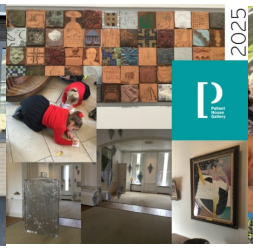



Key Stage 2

Year 3

What a busy and exciting half term it has been for Year 3. In English, we have been reading *The Day the Crayons Quit.* The children loved writing letters from classroom objects sharing their complaints. A favourite activity was when the chairs quit, and everyone had to write persuasive letters to convince them to return. In Art, we have been learning about Frida Kahlo. The children wrote biographies about her life and created colourful artwork inspired by her vibrant style. Their creativity has been fantastic. At Forest School, we explored the creatures living in our local area. We found mouse tracks and worm trails and even made our own ink using natural materials. Our visit to Pallant House Gallery was also a highlight, where the children enjoyed looking at a range of artwork and asking thoughtful questions. When we returned to the classroom, we created a range of quick responses to the work seen. We are very proud of all the children. Elm Class won the coveted AR Quizzing Trophy this half term and Willow Class are leading the Rollama gold rush challenge.

Miss Beadle and Mrs Ubsdell




Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic half term packed with creativity and discovery through their Stone Age topic. They began with an exciting Stone Age workshop, exploring ancient tools and ways of life, which really brought history to life. Inspired by this, the children wrote detailed instructions on how to make a Stone Age paintbrush, thinking carefully about materials and clear steps. Using their handmade brushes, they created impressive cave paintings, experimenting with natural colours and patterns to tell stories like early humans once did. Linking history and literacy, the class also produced their own non-fiction books for visitors to Stonehenge, filled with fascinating facts and illustrations. A special highlight was meeting author Eve Wersocki Morris during Bookfest, who shared her writing journey and inspired everyone to be creative storytellers. It's been a brilliant half term of hands-on learning, imagination, and enthusiasm. Well done, Year 4!

Miss H Morriss and Mr D White





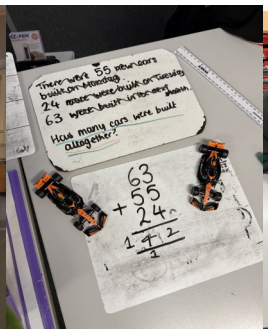

Key Stage 2

Year 5

Our half term has been full of exciting learning and new experiences! One of the highlights was our trip to the South Downs Planetarium, where we learned all about stars, planets, and galaxies. We sat beneath the huge dome and watched the night sky come to life - it felt like we were travelling through space! We had the chance to ask some questions to the experts and learn lots of facts about our solar system. Back at school, in Maths, we have been tackling multi-step problems with Tiny's Words – a new way for us to solve mathematical problems here at CFS! We solved problems by highlighting the important information and showing our working. We've been working hard in English, writing and recording podcast scripts inspired by our class book, The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge. We imagined what it would be like to make contact with aliens and 'put ourselves in the shoes' of our main character, Jamie. In Art, we have been developing our knowledge of colour theory and have created incredible space paintings using tints and tones. We also continued our swimming lessons at Westgate Leisure Centre, where everyone has been practising their strokes and building confidence in the water. It's been an amazing half term full of curiosity, creativity, and teamwork - we can't wait to see what's next!

Miss Bigg and Mr Wilson





Year 6

We are delighted to share what a fantastic start Year 6 have made to the new academic year. The children have returned to school with maturity, enthusiasm and a real eagerness to learn. It's also been wonderful to see them rising to the challenge of mock SATs and taking these in their stride.

Over the past few weeks, Year 6 have been immersed in a rich and thoughtful curriculum. In English, we have explored the powerful story *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, which follows the journey of a young refugee named Ahmet, originally from Syria. This inspired the children to write compelling diary entries from the perspective of a refugee, as well as informative texts about the Syrian conflict – both with great sensitivity and empathy.

We were privileged to welcome a representative from Sanctuary, a local Chichester charity supporting refugees. The children heard a moving first-hand account from a refugee who had fled his country due to religious persecution. It was an eye-opening experience that brought our learning to life and deepened our understanding of global issues.

In Maths, we began the term focusing on place value – a crucial foundation for all future learning. The children have shown great confidence and skill, and we are now beginning to explore division. Their resilience and positive attitudes towards problem-solving have been excellent to see.

Our topic this half term has been Asia, which has taken us on a fascinating journey across the continent. We've learnt about the geography of Asia, including key countries, capital cities, and the wide range of biomes it encompasses. We've also travelled back in time to study the Ancient Shang Dynasty, discovering the significance of the Yellow River and practising Shang ideograms – did you know they wrote on turtle shells and animal bones called oracle bones?

As part of our DT and cultural exploration, we also designed, planned and had great fun making (and tasting!) delicious spring rolls.





It's been a busy and brilliant half term, full of creativity, wonder and compassion. We are very proud of how Year 6 have risen to the challenges of their final year in Primary and look forward to what the next half term will bring.

Miss Stapleton and Mrs Wilson

Key Stage 3

Year 7

It has been brilliant to watch the Year 7s settle so well this first half term. It's always the most difficult part of transition but Miss Ireland and I are really impressed with the resilience of the Year 7's.

Our main focus over the last few weeks has been on our Culture of Kindness and SHINE behaviour for learning.

Each week in assembly Year 7 focus on a question to think and reflect upon. This half term's focus points: What am I proud of about myself in the first week of secondary? What has someone in my class achieved? Who inspires me? What will I focus on next week to support my own learning?

"I have been more confident about answering more questions and putting my hands up than when I was in Primary".

"I saw someone alone on the playground and I invited them to sit with me for lunch".

"I have joined a new club".

"I am going to challenge myself to do the extension tasks in lessons more."

"My Dad inspires me to work hard and always helps with my homework if I need some guidance."

Year 7 have also been working hard in tutor time to focus on; achievement points, lowest behaviour points and highest attendance. It has been brilliant to hand out weekly trophies to celebrate weekly achievements. Thank you to our wonderful Year 7 tutor team!

Miss Oxley and Miss Ireland

Year 8

This has really been a fantastic start for Year 8 — the Year 8 team and I are really proud of them all. We have seen a lot of R4s which is marvellous - let's hope that next term sees this number increase. Pupils have been involved in a whole range of after school activities which is lovely to see. It has been a long half term and everyone is tired - I do hope that everyone has a restful half term holiday ready for the build up to Christmas. Remember to be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing!

Ms Turnbull and Miss Ireland

Year 9

October half term has approached and Year 9 have signed off in a good position.

10 of the year group are in the top 20 of the whole school for reward points with 50 pupils occupying the top 100 spots!

We have had sporting success in both football, beating Chichester High School on their fortress of a ground, along with the Year 9 netball team showing real strength in depth to win their first tournament.

My job over the next 7 weeks is to get the pupils ready for the next part of their Journey which is …….Options. This will occur in January but pupils are encouraged to start thinking about what Year 10 looks like for them in terms of subjects they will choose.

Mr Tilling and Mrs Stanley

Key Stage 4

Year 10

It has been a real pleasure to send out so many emails celebrating excellent attendance, impressive achievements, and high reward points—let's keep that momentum going! These moments of recognition reflect the effort, focus, and positive attitudes that many of you are showing every day.

I encourage all Year 10 pupils to take a good look at their Autumn learning profiles and use them as a stepping stone for growth. Ask yourself: how hard would it really be to turn a 'sometimes' into a 'usually', or even a 'usually' into an 'always'? Small, consistent improvements can make a big difference. Let's rise to the challenge, Year 10—we know we're capable of great things, and this is our chance to prove it.

Ms Crebbin and Mrs Ashcroft

Year 11

A great start by Year 11 who are really starting to live by our Year group mantra –' If not now, when? - If not you, who? - You are the person most responsible for your grade!' - a message promoting our drive for high expectations and achievement along with personal responsibility. The impact of this can be seen in many pupils' progress in the latest reports with a renewed drive towards the best outcomes possible. Attendance at after school revision clubs is increasing as pupils realise that short term sacrifices will lead to long-term gains. As you read this during half term, Year 11 have just 4 school weeks until their mocks and 22 weeks until the GCSEs!

Please do check the Key Stage 4 area of the school website at https://sites.google.com/chichesterfreeschool.org.uk/cfsyear11website/home for updates - the mock timetable will be live over half term.

We have welcomed our new prefect team this term and also voted Leavers hoodie colours (airforce blue (7%), sky blue (9%), black (9%), baby pink (8%), burgundy 6%) & ash (6%)) which will be on sale soon. I have also decided on the theme song for the year group (to many pupils' disgust) so please do play them "High Hopes" by Panic! At The Disco as often as possible!

Prom points are being rapidly collected with the top pupils already being awarded over 25 points and on track to hit the 50 point target well ahead of schedule! Points are awarded weekly for attendance, behaviour and punctuality as well as bonus points for attending revision boosters for production exceptional work.

Mr Elliman

Maths

Primary

Over the past few weeks, children across the Primary phase have been diving deep into the world of *place value*! From exploring tens and ones in Year 2, to tackling millions and decimals in Year 6, our pupils have been developing a brilliant understanding of how numbers work.

It's been fantastic to see everyone using practical resources, games, and problem-solving activities to make sense of larger numbers. Whether it's building numbers with Base 10 blocks, comparing values on number lines, or challenging each other with mental maths, our classes have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity.

We also want to give a huge thank you to everyone who dressed up for **Times Tables Rock Stars Day**! The creativity, colour, and rock 'n' roll energy around the school was amazing. From glittery guitars to funky wigs and leather jackets, you all looked fantastic. It was brilliant to see everyone celebrating maths in such a fun way, and we hope you enjoyed the competition!

Congratulations to our winners of the day:

Sophie C and Freya P (Year 6) for the joint-best score of the day. The girls kindly donated their prize to another member of their class – what superstars!

Freddie R (Year 5) for the best Tiny costume design

Teddy J (Year 4) for the best rockstar costume of the day

Another big congratulations to the following children who have dominated the TTRS leader board this half term:

Noah B-B (Year 4)
Lawrence S (Year 4)
Grayson B (Year 4)
Joshua F (Year 4)
Seb P (Year 6)
Norman C (Year 6)

Mrs Wilson





Maths

Secondary

With the new term beginning Maths has done its usual and kept up the productivity. Fractions, ratios and proportion have begun in full force with Year 11 pupils knuckling down and starting their countdown to their GCSEs in the summer of 2026.

Year 7 have come in and are regularly seen undertaking real maths based problems to help settle them in to their learning Journey.

Year 8 are starting to look at decimals and standard form understanding how and when to use division and multiplication with them.

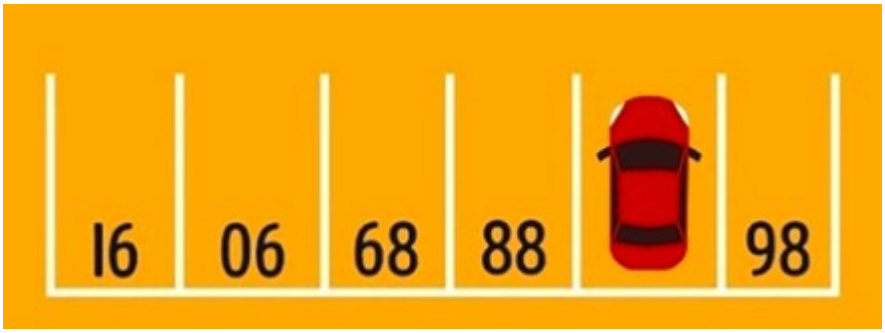
Year 9 have been looking at geometry, They have been undertaking nets, and properties of 3D shapes.

Year 10 started their GCSE journey and are making rapid progress in adjusting to their new classes.

Why not try this question:

1. If 1 = 3
2 = 3
3 = 5
4 = 4
5 = 4
Then, 6 = ?

2. What is the number of parking space covered by the car?



English

Primary

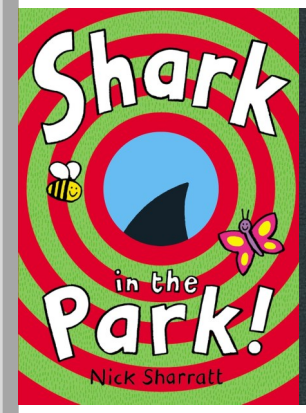
English in CFS Primary has had an inspiring start to the autumn term, with pupils across the school immersing themselves in high-quality texts that have sparked imagination and purpose in their reading and writing.

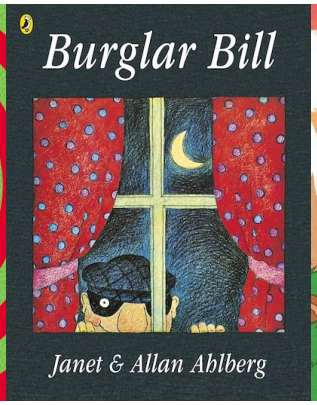
In Early Years, children have been busy mark making and beginning their exciting phonics journey, laying the foundations for confident reading and writing.

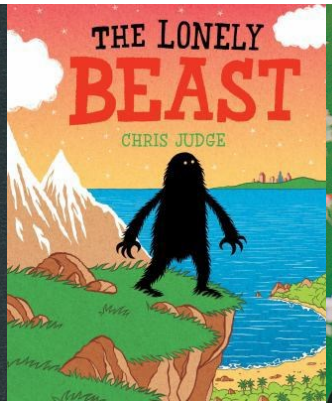
Year 1 pupils have been using their growing phonics knowledge in their writing while enjoying Shark in the Park and keeping their eyes peeled for Burglar Bill!

In Year 2, children have explored expanded noun phrases through the wonderful story The Lonely Beast.

Year 3 pupils have been hard at work persuading crayons and other classroom items not to quit, as well as writing detailed biographies of Frida Kahlo.





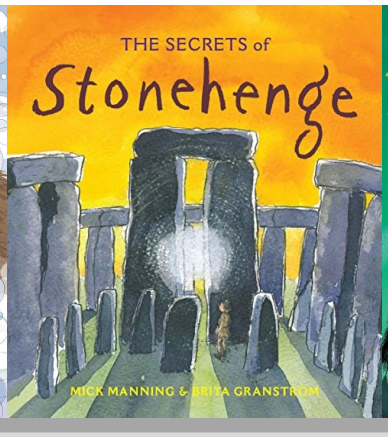


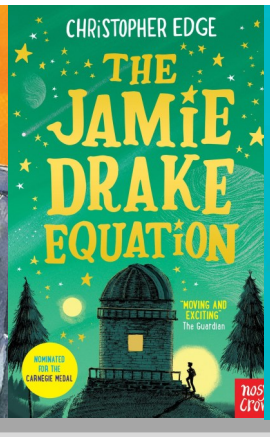


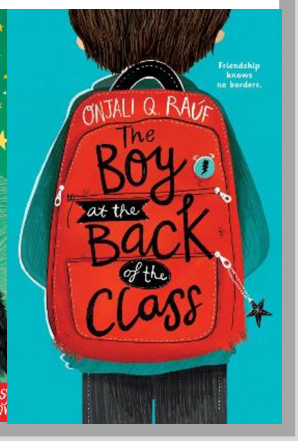
In Year 4, the hilarious How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth has inspired their writing, alongside fascinating non-chronological reports about the Secrets of Stonehenge.

Year 5 have delved into The Jamie Drake Equation, developing their speaking and writing skills by planning, scripting, and recording engaging podcasts. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been deeply moved by The Boy in the Back of the Class, producing thoughtful diaries, informative reports, and formal letters making use of the subjunctive form. Across the school, our teachers have worked hard to provide meaningful, creative writing opportunities rooted in rich, engaging texts. The children have truly loved bringing their ideas to life!









English

Secondary It has been a great start to the new academic year in the English department, culminating in a Year 11 trip to see a matinée performance of 'Lord of the Flies' at Chichester Festival Theatre. This was a new, modern production of the famous GCSE text and pupils and teachers alike were eager to see how this text would translate on to a local stage. We were so impressed with how our pupils engaged with the performance and how quickly they spotted the changes that were made to the original novel! Below are some reviews from our pupils. **Mrs Hill, English teacher**

'Lord of the Flies' is a production based on William Golding's allegorical novel written after the Second World War. In recent weeks as a school trip we attended the production as it is one of our English Literature texts.
There were positives to the production, such as the representations of evil being shown similarly to how they are described in the book. The acting from the young adults was accurate and intense throughout, gripping you to your seats while staying composed during the moments of applause and laughter from the audience. Last, but not least, another positive to take from the play is that it gave us a deeper understanding from not only a spoken view but also from a visual perspective that allowed us to comprehend the complex personalities of each character.
On the other hand, there were a few negatives to the play, one of which was the changes to certain details of the novel. These included Jack being classed as a prefect and not head boy and the fact that Jack killed the pig as soon as he got the chance with his hunters, but in the novel he gets scared when he first sees the pig. Another upsetting part to the production was the presentation of Piggy's death as in the novel we can see an explanation of Roger purposely pushing a boulder down the hill into Piggy which crushed him and left only his shattered glasses hanging from a skinny branch. Although clearly the play couldn't accurately depict this, they could have made more of an effort to show it was purely Roger, not a group of them.

In conclusion, there were many positive takeaways which we couldn't all mention in this review, otherwise you'll be reading for a lifetime. However, from reading the book previously there were a few unnecessary changes. If you have any chance of watching this play, we would 100 percent recommend it especially for a school trip to understand a deeper understanding of the book. **Review by Max H and Fergus M**







On 8th October, a small group of our Year 11 pupils at CFS had the opportunity to go and see the Lord Of The Flies production at Chichester Festival Theatre. After the first half, the pupils described the acting as "very imaginative" and "deeply immersive". The special effects created a different experience for everyone in the room and allowed for many different interpretations of the novel to be represented in the production. The performance included many stylised elements, such as the use of a microphone to represent the conch, as well as some other small differences to the source material, which was an interesting spin on some of the book's key themes.
However, this stylistic depiction also had its disadvantages. One component the pupils missed was the character Roger's original personality, as he was shown as being much more timid and more submissive in the performance than in the book. They didn't reference a scene from the novel, in which Roger throws pebbles at a younger child, foreshadowing when Roger kills Piggy with a boulder. The death of Piggy was also changed in the production, which potentially reduces the foreshadowing scene's significance. On the other hand, there were some comedic moments that the pupils recognised as an intellectual move to include the audience in the performance for example when the pig was being killed, the audience were laughing which was a way of the producers to make the spectators like the savages.
Overall, the acting was phenomenal, with each minute highly appreciated and very helpful for the pupils to understand the novel they study before their eyes. ***Review by Sam P, Serenity P and Livi P***

Science

Autumn Term Highlights: A Season of Discovery and Achievement!
As the leaves have turned golden this autumn, our school community has been buzzing with energy, curiosity, and success. It's been a fantastic term filled with exciting learning experiences, and our pupils have truly made the most of every opportunity!

Year 9: Shaping the Future Through STEM
Our Year 9 pupils took part in an inspiring **STEM Careers Day**, exploring the incredible world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. They discovered how classroom learning connects to real-world careers and even took part in hands-on challenges that tested their creativity and problem-solving skills. The day opened minds to future pathways and proved that innovation starts with curiosity!

Year 8: Powering Up with Renewable Energy
Meanwhile, Year 8 ventured out to a local **solar farm**, where they learned first-hand how renewable energy is transforming the way we power our world. The visit was preceded by an engaging workshop on generating electricity through sustainable sources — a perfect combination of science, teamwork, and forward thinking. Pupils came away not only with a deeper understanding of energy systems but also a strong sense of how they can help protect our planet for the future.

A Brilliant Term All Round
From science and sustainability to teamwork and ambition, this half term has been packed with opportunities to learn, grow, and shine. Congratulations to everyone who took part — you've made this autumn one to remember!

The Science Team











DT & Food Tech

Year 10 GCSE pupils have been exploring metals and the processes around working with different metals through their ring project this term. Taking inspiration from the Art Deco design movement, pupils are designing and making their own copper rings. This process has included design, planning, sizing, cutting, bending, soldering and hand finishing their prototype. Pupils are now moving onto working with copper clay to explore how they might embellish their final product over the coming weeks.







It's been a busy and exciting time in Key Stage 3 Food Preparation and Nutrition. Pupils have worked hard in the kitchen, learning new skills and building confidence through a wide range of practical cooking sessions. So far this term, they have prepared and cooked a variety of delicious dishes, including colourful fruit kebabs, sweet fork biscuits, fluffy cheese scones, freshly baked bread, and traditional Portuguese custard tarts. They've also explored savoury recipes such as stir fry, crispy cheese triangles, and cheese straws. It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm shine through as they develop a better understanding of food, nutrition, and cooking techniques.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their contributions for this year's food ingredients. It's not too late to make your payment if you haven't already done so, and this will enable us to ensure your child continues to have the opportunity to create a range of dishes.





MFL

MFL - A new September dawned brightly and another CFS World Language Week shone through. During this annual event we aim to celebrate the diversity of language around us and to explore what appeals to us all about language learning and where we would like it to take us. Pupils from across the school were warmly invited to the evening event where they explored a variety of language and culture activities.

Many thanks in particular to Mrs Agate and Miss Beadle for their support with this as well as the Wroblewska family and our fantastic student helpers. In assemblies we talked about what appeals to different people about language of all kinds, how to get more involved in school (International Film Club on Thursdays?) and at home and where good communication skills can take us long term.

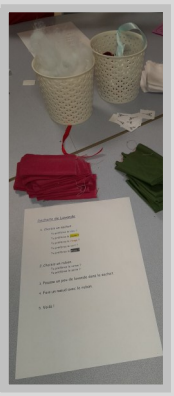
Who is interested in doing an early GCSE this year? Just come and chat to us.
Russian? Polish? Bengali? Persian? Portuguese?
Many languages are available and we can support with exam skills. In general it has been a good start to the year for our MFL classes and we're grateful for the good effort on homework and in class.

Ms Crebbin, Head of MFL









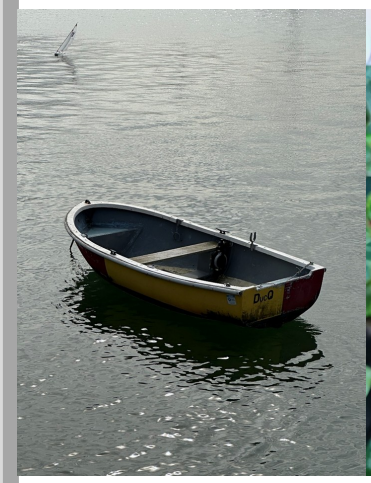
Media Studies

What an amazing start for the Year 10 Media Studies pupils.

In collaboration with Chichester Conservancy Centre and Paul Gonella, an independent professional photographer from Stone Island Ltd, our pupils engaged with their natural surroundings at Del Quay and experimented with new techniques relating to composition, symbolism and lighting.

There have been some outstanding photographs produced and these will be entered into the SHINE competition running next year. I am really excited to see what other hidden talents our pupils have going forward into their GCSE.

By Ms Edmans



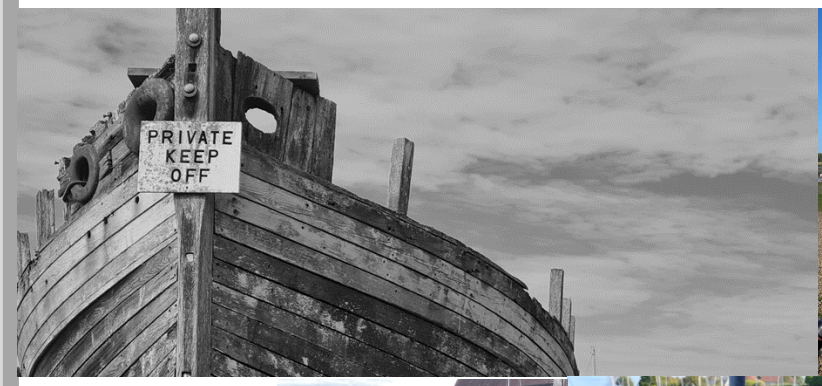
By Amy Tebbs



By Jacob Panton



By Madiha Srour





By Grace Partridge







Sport

PE This Half Term

This half term, pupils have been developing their basketball skills alongside a strong focus on health and fitness. Lessons have explored key theoretical elements through practical application — including components of fitness, fitness testing, and types of training. Pupils have shown great enthusiasm in linking classroom knowledge to real-world performance.

Fixtures and Events

It's been a brilliant half term for sport at CFS, with our Year 9 teams shining across football, netball, and Year 11s in table tennis.



Football – The Hornets Take Flight

The newly rebranded Year 9 Hornets made a buzzing start to their season with a 2–1 victory over CHS.

Freddie opened the scoring with a superb free kick before Max's pace down the wing set up Dantey for a calm finish to double the lead.

CHS fought back late on, but the Hornets' defence — William, captain Henry, and Riley — stood firm, and keeper Reece "the Wall" ensured the win. A fantastic team performance full of energy and determination.



Netball – Consistent and Clinical

The Year 9 girls' netball team impressed in their away match against Bourne Community College, claiming a 19–10 victory.

From the first centre pass, CFS controlled the tempo with sharp passing, solid defence, and accurate shooting.

Leiala was named Player of the Match for her consistency, vision, and composure.

Coach Sharon Nicholson praised the team for their "heart, discipline, and fantastic teamwork."



Table Tennis – Near-Perfect Record

Our KS4 Table Tennis team delivered an exceptional display, winning 19 out of 20 matches in their tournament.

After a narrow early defeat, the team — Ylan, Ted, Harry, and Thomas — bounced back with determination to win the rematch and finish in style.

Their skill, focus, and sportsmanship were evident throughout, making the school proud with their outstanding effort and teamwork.



Dodgeball Festival

7 pupils from Year 5 and 6 attended a Dodgeball Festival at Bourne Community College. It was a fun afternoon of improving their skills and learning the rules and ended with inter-school games. The CFS team thoroughly enjoyed this informative and inspiring event. The team played well together, and they came away with big smiles and a sense of achievement. Well done CFS dodgeball team!

Well Done, CFS Athletes!

A huge congratulations to all pupils who have represented the school this half term — your dedication, teamwork, and sporting spirit continue to set a fantastic example.

Mr G Dean

CCF & DofE

Summer Camp Adventure at Longmoor

Cadets from CFS and Great Ballard School recently took part in an action-packed Summer Camp at Longmoor Training Area, enjoying a week filled with challenge, teamwork, and adventure. The camp offered a fantastic opportunity for cadets to develop leadership skills, resilience, and confidence while taking part in a wide range of exciting activities.

From the thrill of paintball battles to the precision of range shooting, cadets tested their focus and tactical thinking. They also took part in an exhilarating ambush exercise — which even included a surprise ambush on Captain Cook himself! Training in a built-up area provided valuable experience in communication and cooperation under pressure, while outdoor pursuits like mountain biking, rock wall climbing, and paddleboarding encouraged endurance and determination.

Throughout the week, cadets demonstrated outstanding teamwork and enthusiasm, embracing every challenge with energy and positivity. The camp not only strengthened friendships between the two schools but also gave everyone a deeper appreciation for the skills and spirit of the cadet community. It was a memorable week of learning, laughter, and adventure that left everyone looking forward to the next opportunity to test their limits and grow together.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) programme at CFS continues to thrive, with pupils showing incredible dedication and enthusiasm as they work towards their awards. During the final week of the summer holidays, our Silver Award participants successfully completed their final expedition, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and determination as they navigated challenging routes and camped independently. Their hard work and positive spirit were a credit to the school, and the experience marked a fantastic conclusion to their DofE journey.

As the new academic year begins, we are delighted to welcome the next DofE cohort, who have already met to learn more about the programme and have begun setting their personal goals for each section – Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition. Pupils are choosing exciting and meaningful activities that will help them grow in confidence, develop new skills, and make a difference in their communities.

Expedition training is now underway, with participants learning essential navigation, campcraft, and teamwork skills in preparation for their practice and qualifying expeditions later in the year. The sense of adventure, community, and perseverance that DofE inspires is already shining through – setting the stage for another successful and rewarding year ahead.



Futures and Enrichment

We have had an amazing start to the academic year in Futures and Enrichment. Club attendance is at a record high for many of our activities; trips and experiences have already been in abundance with plenty more planned throughout the year including summer opportunities for residentials in Year's 5 & 6. We have our ski trip at the end of next half term to look forward to where Mr Phillips will be accompanying 50 pupils to Italy, and for some, their first experience of skiing. We will let you know how they get on in the first Spring edition of the magazine!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our external providers for the activities that they provide to our pupils. These providers sometimes fly under the radar in what they provide; our club timetable would not be so varied or full without them. They truly make a difference to our pupils and our school and we really appreciate their commitment. Rep-Tylers has brought the most amazing animals into school to meet the children, including 2 skunks and 2 meerkats!





Star Voices has continued to fill our corridors with the sound of music which we are sure has had such a positive affect in promoting singing activities such as the overwhelming response to Young Voices this year. All our dance clubs in Primary have been so successfully attended ensuring that the KS3 dance club was over subscribed this term and continues to feed into our ever-popular GCSE Dance option. Chichester Hockey Club joined us for a second day this year to run a secondary hockey club due to the success of last year so that many of our pupils can continue on their hockey journey. Karate has proven so successful in an after-school club that not only did they move their grading days from Southampton to here (double the amount last year) but they now also run an external club open to the public on a Thursday evening during term time too!

A personal thanks to Sharon, who not only volunteers to run our after-school netball and cricket teams, but she also runs the after-school riding club at Hunters Lodge Riding Centre. We saw our first win at a netball fixture ever with last year's Year 7 team not loosing a match and this term the winning streak has continued with both our Year 8 and Year 9 teams winning, The primary riding club was originally set up by Miss Emmett some 10 years ago and is one of our longest running clubs. Many of our pupils who ride, and especially those in the CFS Riding Team, have at some point learnt under the instruction of Sharon at Hunters Lodge. If your child is interested in horse riding, Hunters Lodge offer a 15-minute pony ride for £10 at the weekends so why not give it a go? And then they too might like to join the pony lessons on a Tuesday after school. If your child rides competitively and is keen to represent CFS in any discipline, please contact cemmett@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk. We would love to welcome some more riders from both phases of the school to the team.

Next term (January) sees the return of Magical Maths. Details will be published shortly after the half term break. We also have another new creative art club joining us too which is very exciting.

BOOKFEST 2025

On Wednesday 8th October Year 4 pupils were excited to welcome Eve Wersocki-Morris to CFS to discuss her book *Clem Fatale has been Betrayed*. Eve's visit was part of Children's BookFest, a Chichester based organisation that created "A festival where schools and authors come together to provide an interactive platform to inspire a love of books" and we were thrilled to once again be part of it.

All Year 4 pupils received their very own signed copy of the book! They also listened to Eve talk about her experiences at school and her inspiration behind writing the book. Eve was very keen to share her experience as a pupil at school and having Dyslexia. She told us a story of how a teacher once called her "the worst speller in the class" and yet now she is an author, encouraging the pupils to aspire big no matter what.

A particularly memorable part of her talk was when the Year 4 pupils were asked to create a soundscape of London in the 1950's. The Futures Hub was a symphony of honking cars, busses, paper boys and 'posh' people going about their day with lots of, "excuse me, pardon me".





CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST

FUNDRAISING

……. SAVE THE DATE …….. 5th November …….

Key fundraising dates for your diary for this next academic year:

5th November 2025: Bag2School donation collection
27th November 2025: Non-uniform day for primary pupils
5th December 2025: Christmas Fair
12th February 2026: Primary Discos
25th February 2026: Bag2School donation collection
27th February 2026: Sibling Photos
6th March 2026: Primary movie night
3rd June 2026: Bag2School donation collection
3rd July 2026: Summer Fair

School Houses

House Points Total from pupil reward points:

House Points have been awarded depending on each events criteria. Below are the current House Points awarded and congratulations to all the pupils who have taken part! From all of us, The House Champions, Presidents, Ambassadors and Heroes, have a wonderful break, rest, relax and come back after the holidays ready to go!

Aquila 22148 **Noctua 19858** **Pegasus 20273** **Phoenix 20328**

House Champions Update

It's been an exciting start to the year for our Houses! We've successfully elected our new House Ambassadors, House Presidents, and House Heroes — congratulations to all those who put themselves forward and to our new leaders for their enthusiasm and dedication.

This year is shaping up to be one of our busiest yet, with at least three house events running every half term! Keep an eye on the Secondary House notice board in the Science Corridor for all the latest information and upcoming competitions.

We'll also be celebrating key events throughout the year, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month, and Remembrance Day, among others. There will be a fantastic mix of sporting and non-sporting competitions, giving everyone the chance to get involved and earn valuable points for their House.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to our **Food for Thought House Event**— the generosity from parents and pupils has been incredible. The final totals are still being counted, but it's already clear that this has been one of our most successful collections yet.



This half term we have teamed up with Chichester food bank to provide food and other essential items to those in Chichester in need. The collection took place on Monday 14th October and the food bank highlighted it was our best donation yet with 846 items. It demonstrates the kindness, desire to help in the community and nurturing values we hold with high significance at CFS.

Let's keep the House spirit strong and make this our best year ever! **Mrs Bodington-Howard, Mr Dean & Mr Angell**







Principal's Award

This term, the following pupils have received the Principal's Award. They have earned an R5 and enjoyed a celebratory tea party. Well done to everyone!

Fyla Burningham	Year 1	for amazing work in Phonics
Alice Gaze	Year 2	for improved confidence in showing her wonderful personality
Woody Prior	Year 2	for representing his rugby club fantastically
Jack Richmond	Year 2	for showing great maturity in class, consistently following instructions and always being ready to learn
Ralph Lynn	Year 3	for working hard at reading
George Turner	Year 3	for settling in so well at CFS and working hard in maps
Spencer Yates	Year 3	for working hard at reading
Teddy James	Year 4	for representing CFS so well and engaging during Bookfest and doing extra Maths work at home
Scarlet Quick	Year 4	for showing kindness every day
Ethan Miller	Year 6	for great work recalling information about the Shang Dynasty
Seb Popham	Year 6	for completing extra times table work at home
Rose Uffindell	Year 5	for presenting her finds from her Night Vision camera beautifully to Eco Warriors
Nathan Barnetson	Year 7	for completing and winning a 20-mile, competitive hike with Scouts. Showing maturity and kindness helping others
Joe Brayson	Year 7	for constantly answering questions in English, an amazing poetry analysis and for receiving over 150 House Points and excellent representation as pupil ambassador.
Charlotte Johnson	Year 7	for completing additional and advanced Science homework
Chloe Thomson	Year 7	for a fantastic speech at Open Evening. Showing great maturity and confidence
Poppy Tiling	Year 7	for achieving 2nd place in a Sussex Gymnastics event
George Watts	Year 7	for a fantastic speech at Open Evening. Showing great maturity and confidence

Principal's Award

This term, the following pupils have received the Principal's Award. They have earned an R5 and enjoyed a celebratory tea party. Well done to everyone!

Amelia Angell	Year 9	for a fantastic speech in English, performing confidently in front of the class and for outstanding work for a charity
Xanthe Lyons	Year 9	for excellent OOBAT and going above and beyond in English
Dolly O'Sullivan	Year 9	for excellent OOBAT and for some incredible emoji coding
Grant Smith	Year 9	for MFL Star of the Week and a brilliant Mysteries project in RS
Sophie Wickham	Year 9	for excellent work, focus and contributions in English
Jonah Gilmore	Year 10	for outstanding work for the entire first topic
Grace Partridge	Year 10	for an excellent speech as homework and delivered in class
Isla Harley	Year 11	for consistently outstanding work in Geography
Fergus Miller	Year 11	for always making excellent class contributions
Rhys Walsh	Year 11	for showing great kindness and supporting a friend and for stepping in to support English at Open Evening

November

Dates that are in red are either new events published since the first calendar was circulated, or dates that have had to move.

Monday 3 – Friday 7 November	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 3 – Friday 7 November	Poppy Display – House Ambassadors	All
Monday 3 – Friday 7 November	Movember	
Monday 3 – Friday 7 November	National Bullying Prevention	All
Wednesday 5 November	Bag2School collection	All
Wednesday 5 November 0930	Prospective Reception admissions tour	
Thursday 6 November 1700	Online parent meeting for RSE content	6 parents
Thursday 6 November 1700 – 2000	Pupil Progress Consultation evening (virtual)	11
Thursday 6 November	Diwali workshop in school	4
Friday 7 November	Fort Nelson Trip	6
Friday 7 November	Roman Dress Up Day	3
Friday 7 November	Novium workshop in school	1
Friday 7 November	House Ambassadors meeting	All
Sunday 9 November	CCF Chichester City Remembrance Parade	CCF
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	Poppy Display – House Ambassadors	All
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	Anti Bullying Week	All
Monday 10 November	Odd Socks Day	All
Tuesday 11 November	RSHE workshops	6
Tuesday 11 November 1115	Remembrance Parade	All
Wednesday 12 November	RSHE workshops	6
Thursday 13 November	RSHE workshops	6
Thursday 13 November 0930	Prospective Reception admissions tour	
Friday 14 November	Children in Need – Non uniform day	All
Friday 14 November	Christmas card deadline for parents	Primary
Monday 17 – Friday 21 November	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 17 – Friday 21 November	Primary travelling books	Primary
Tuesday 18 November	Science Museum trip to London	7
Wednesday 19 November 1700 – 2000	Pupil Progress Consultation evening (virtual)	9
Wednesday 19 November 0930	Prospective Reception admissions tour	
Wednesday 19 November	Autumn Primary maths challenge	Primary
Thursday 20 November	Height and weight checks	6
Thursday 20 November	TTL Speaker	Secondary
Thursday 20 November 1600 – 1830	Young Chefs	Secondary
Friday 21 November	Fishbourne Roman Palace trip	3

December

Dates that are in red are either new events published since the first calendar was circulated, or dates that have had to move.

Monday 24 – Friday 28 November	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 24 – Friday 28 November	Christmas Fair Collections	All
Monday 24 – Friday 28 November	Culture of Kindness Fortnight	All
Monday 24 – Tuesday 25 November	Art Mock exams	11
Tuesday 25 November	Walk to post box to post Christmas letters	EYFS & 1
Wednesday 26 November	Flu vaccinations	All
Wednesday 26 November 1900	Frantic Assembly, Southampton MAST	10 & 11
Thursday 27 November	Non – uniform day (cash donations)	Primary
Thursday 27 November 0930	Prospective Reception admissions tour	
Thursday 27 November	Teen Tech trip, Amex Stadium	9
Friday 28 November – INSET DAY		
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	Mock exams	11
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	Christmas Fair Collections	All
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	Culture of Kindness Fortnight	All
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	Reverse Advent Calendar	Primary
Monday 1 December	First Aid sessions	8
Monday 1 December 1400- 1445	Christmas Performance	EYFS
Tuesday 2 December	First Aid sessions	8
Tuesday 2 December 1400 - 1445	Christmas Performance	EYFS
Wednesday 3 December 0930	Prospective Reception admissions tour	
Wednesday 3 December 1800 – 1900	Christmas Carol Concert	All
Thursday 4 December	Lille Market Trip	Secondary
Friday 5 December 1630 – 1800 CHRISTMAS FAIR (REDUCED CLUBS)		
Monday 8 – Friday 12 December	House event – Football, Mario Kart, Quiz, photography	All
Monday 8 – Friday 12 December	Mock exams	11
Monday 8 – Friday 12 December	PE residential	10
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas production dress rehearsal	KS1
Thursday 11 December 1045	Christmas production to parents	KS1 & parents
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)	All
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Lunch	All
Friday 12 December 1330	Christmas production to parents	KS1 & parents
Friday 12 December	Lunchtime concert	All
Friday 12 December	Conduct League parties	Secondary
END OF AUTUMN TERM – NORMAL SCHOOL FINISH		
SKI TRIP 14 – 20 DECEMBER		