



Churchfields Infants' School

Weekly Newsletter

Growing Together: Every Day In Every Way

Autumn Term, Issue 3
18th September 2026

Value of the
month
Friendship

Year 1 and The Pet Potato

Year 1 have been enjoying the story The Pet Potato in their English lessons. This week, they each welcomed a pet potato of their own! The children have given their potatoes names, created unique personalities with likes and dislikes, and have loved taking care of them during the school day. Some very lucky potatoes even joined us outside! To capture all the fun, the children have been keeping a diary of their pet potato's adventures. See more fun potato adventures on our website, [here!](#)

Philosophy Friday

Have a go at this question at home with a grown-up!

Would you rather swim in a tank of jellyfish or lay down in a tank of eels?

Why?

DIARY DATES:

Curriculum Briefings
available from 28th
September

Flu Vaccinations
28th September

Big Read
2nd October- Not
Nursery
(2:45-3:15pm)

School Photos
7th October

Parent Consultations
w/b 12th/19th October
To be confirmed

Half Term
26th October - 30th
October

INSET Day
2nd November



Attendance Bear

The Attendance for the week is as follows:

- 1st** Panda 99%
- 2nd** Octopus, Giraffe & Jaguar 98%
- 3rd** Starfish 97%

Well done everyone!



Rosh Hashanah

As part of our learning about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year festival, Year 1 and Year 2 children attended an assembly to find out how Jewish families celebrate. They learned about the tradition of eating apples dipped in honey to bring a sweet New Year. Reception children enjoyed tasting them too, and thought they were delicious!



Curriculum Briefings

At this time of year, we host our popular Curriculum Workshops which are delivered by the teachers in your child's year group. Workshops give you the opportunity to discover more about our curriculum, how you can support your child at home with their learning and also find out further information about our routines and procedures. The workshops are a fundamental part of our partnerships with families and help you to support your child's learning so they thrive at school.

Previously, we hosted live workshops. Over the last couple of years, we have noticed that fewer families join the workshops live and an increase in the numbers who watch the recordings. Following careful consideration and reflection, we will change how we deliver these sessions. The workshops will now be named 'Curriculum Briefings'. Please do not worry as the content will not change too much and still provide all the information you need.

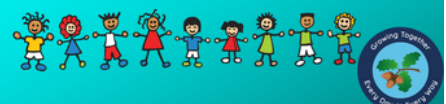
Staff are busy preparing and recording presentations that will be shared with you to watch from Monday 28th September. You will then be able to watch the session in your own time. We will also send the slides used in the presentation.

One of the benefits from presenting is that families are able to ask questions. We have noted that in recent sessions, these were limited in number.

If there is anything in particular that you wish us to cover, please complete the Microsoft Form, [here](#). Please remember that the presentation focus will be around general topics for the whole year group. If you have a question that is personal to your child, we will be hosting individual consultation meetings in October or if urgent, please contact your child's teacher.



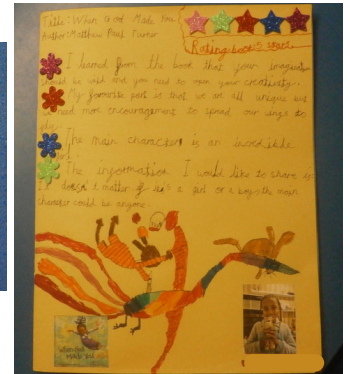
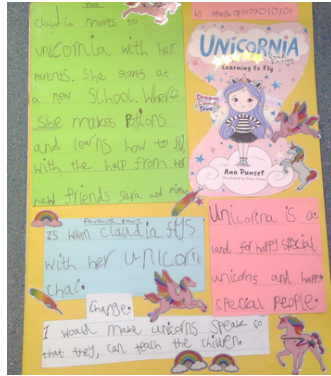
Welcome to our
Year 1
Autumn Briefing



Reading Scrapbooks

At Churchfields Infants' we are always thinking of ways to encourage a love of reading. Our Reading Review Scrapbooks go home with a child each week creating a wonderful opportunity to share favourite books and receive recommendations from peers and other teachers.

Please make sure that this is the children's work. Of course, support them where needed but this is something that they can then share in class and be really proud of.



We are looking forward to reading more of their lovely reviews.

Ode to our Lending Library

As you know, at Churchfields we love reading and getting lost in a good book. Have you seen our lending library? Please come and take a look. What could be better than discovering a new plot? How exciting this is! We hope you want to read the lot!

We would love for you to borrow one or two books at a time, Please make a quick decision so others don't have to wait in line. Do you like non fiction? Or are stories more up your street? We have so many to choose from, so many books for you to complete!

Did you know we also have books for adults to explore? We just hope you love reading as much as us and don't see it as a chore! Once you've enjoyed the story be sure to return it, Find somewhere upon the shelves for it to sit.

We ask for donations of books that are nearly new, If we all club together I'm sure we can get more than a few. Do share your recommendations, What was your favourite book?

What an exciting opportunity for us all, Now come inside and take a look!



Gruffalo Granny

There was a real buzz around school last week with the release of Julia Donaldson's new book. Each class was given their own copy which was read to them and is now in the 'Friday Books box'. We also have a copy for our school library.

We can't wait to see all the children enjoying this wonderful story together!

NEW!!



Weekly Maths Challenge

Have a go at one of the below challenges. If you'd like to share any pictures of your child/ren completing these, please send them to the school admin email address. We'd love to feature some of these on next week's newsletter!

Reception:

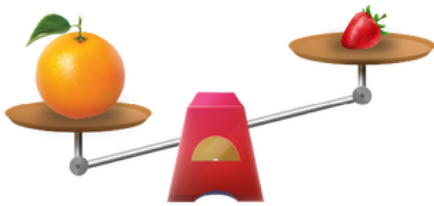
Play the game of 'Beetle' by taking turns to throw a die. If you throw a 1, you may draw a body; 2 is for the head; 3 is for two antennae; 4 is for six legs; 5 for the eyes and 6 will give your beetle a tail. First one to finish is the winner. Who will be first to complete a beetle? When you have won, you can add a nose and mouth!



Years 1 and 2:

Find some fruit or vegetables (such as an apple or potato or similar).

1. Find 3 different ones – which one do you think will be the heaviest?
2. Now hold them in your hand one at a time – were you right?
3. Can you find 3 things which you think will be lighter than a potato?
4. Can you find 3 things which are heavier?
5. Find your 5 favourite toys – can you put them in order, lightest to heaviest?



E-Safety Tip of the Week!



Safe Searching

There is so much online that we would not want our child to view and even an innocent search can result in inappropriate content being seen. To make our child's online world safer, we would firstly recommend switching on Safesearch settings for the search engine your child uses. However, as not all search engines allow you to 'lock' Safesearch on (so users may be able to simply turn it off), we would encourage you to apply further parental controls.

For some search engines, for example Google, you can set up a Family management account, which will ensure that Safesearch settings cannot be switched off. We would recommend using a family management account (either Google or Microsoft) so even if your child is using a search engine that cannot be locked, there will at least be an additional level of content filtering provided.

In addition to the above, make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on your home broadband (and any consoles/ devices/ apps/ websites that your child uses/accesses) for example, to restrict access to explicit websites or access to websites that are not suitable for children. Please remember that no filtering/ parental control is 100% safe, so it is important that you talk to your child about how they can stay safe online and that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they need to.

CEOP have produced an article exploring what you could do if your child sees something inappropriate online: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/what-to-do-if-your-child-has-seen-something-inappropriate-online/>

NSPCC

Phone:

0208 505 0386



Website:

www.churchfieldsinfant.com

**internet
matters.org**

Be Internet Legends.

E-mail:

admin@churchfieldsinfants.redbridge.sch.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE



London Borough of

Redbridge



IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR FAMILIES

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, Free School Meal eligibility is expanding to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings.

All children in reception or Years 1 or 2 are entitled to universal free school meals.

From September 2026, children attending a full-time state-funded nursery class, as well as children in Year 3 and above, will be eligible for free school meals if they live in a household receiving Universal Credit.

All children in receipt of free school meals will now be rechecked annually. You may be required to provide further information to your school on request.



To Qualify

To qualify for free school meals, you must get one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Asylum seeker support (Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of New Style Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with No Recourse to Public Funds

Children aged between 16 and 18 who are getting Universal Credit in their own name can also get free school meals.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you should still let the school know if you get any of the qualifying benefits, as the school can get extra funding called pupil premium.

This supports the education of your child.



How to apply

Contact your school, where you will be asked for the following information:

- Your National Insurance number
- Your surname
- Your date of birth
- Asylum seekers documentation (if applicable)

Your school will then check eligibility.

What happens next



Once checked your school will confirm if you are eligible and when your child's free school meals will start.

Other help you can get

- your child may be able to get help with travel costs
- you may be able to get support with a Council Tax Reduction
- cost of living advice



FIND OUT MORE

For more information on who can get free school meals see GOV.UK visit www.redbridge.gov.uk search Free School Meals or scan the QR code



Welfare Benefits Team

Helping families access the financial support they are entitled to

Are you worried about money?

Struggling with bills, rent, Council Tax or benefit forms? We can help you check what support may be available.

Free | confidential | impartial support



How we can help

- Money and benefit checks
- Benefit entitlement checks
- Universal Credit advice
- Council Tax Reduction
- Housing costs and rent support

Disability benefits: PIP, DLA for children and Attendance Allowance.

Family support

- Free School Meals
- Healthy Start Scheme
- Carer's Allowance advice
- Cost of Living support

Could your family be missing out on financial support?

Ask for a free benefit check

When to contact us

- Struggling with bills, rent or Council Tax.
- Income reduced or out of work.
- Caring for someone or there is a disability or health condition in the family.
- Separated from a partner.
- Unsure what help is available.

Other support we can signpost to

- **Money worries**
 - Debt advice
 - Energy advice
- **Practical help**
 - Food support
 - Community support
- **Housing help**
 - Housing advice
 - Local support services

Get help early
we will check what support may be available

Working with schools: Schools can signpost families to us or make referrals with the family's agreement.

CONTACT US

Free advice on benefits and financial support

Phone: **020 8708 4180** | Email: welfare.benefits@redbridge.gov.uk

Website: costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/welfare-benefits-advice/

HELPING

YOU

in tough times