

ST COLUMBA C OF E AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an Action-Packed First Half Term!

Our first half term of the 2025/2026 academic year has been full of energy and excitement. We've welcomed many new families to St Columba and continue to grow as a school community. Please do share how great our school is with your family and friends, the more children we have on roll, the more funding we receive, which goes directly back into supporting your children's learning and experiences.

Oak Class and I enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Al Mahdi Centre to support our RE learning about Islam, while Beech Class explored the Wetlands and Willow Class discovered more about our local area on their walk.

Across the school, every class took part in a special Makaton session, learning how communication can be expressed through signs and symbols, and Key Stage 1 were visited by the NHS dental service to learn all about keeping our teeth healthy.

We are also incredibly proud that our whole-school attendance continues to remain significantly above the national average, sitting in the top 1% Nationally. This reflects how much our children love coming to school and how strongly our families value education. Thank you for your continued support, it really makes a difference.

Our staff have truly embraced our 2025 "Every Minute Counts" ethos, ensuring that learning never stops. Even during the power outage, Year 6 completed their SATs practice papers, and Miss Woodhouse continued phonics teaching out on the playground while waiting for parents.

The dedication, positivity, and teamwork of both our pupils and staff make St Columba a truly exceptional place to learn, grow, and thrive.

As we look forward to next half term, it promises to be filled with learning, fun and festivity. Please keep an eye on the Dates for Your Diary page and your emails for further information.

Mrs Viola
Head Teacher

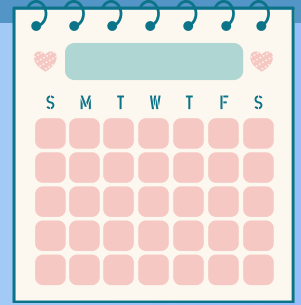


Dates for your Diary



November

- 5th - Maths information session 2:30pm
- 7th - Crazy Hair Day
- 10th - 12th - Parents Evening
- 21st - Be Bright Be Seen
- 26th - Coffee Afternoon
- 28th - Christmas Fair 3:30-5:30pm



December

- 11th Christmas Jumper and Lunch
- 15th - Carols on the cross - 4.30pm
- 17th - KS1 Nativity
- 18th - Whole School Pantomime trip
- 19th - INSET DAY
- 22nd - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

January

- 5th - Return to School
- 28th - Coffee Afternoon

February

16th - 20th - HALF TERM

March

- 11th - Mothers Day Shop
- 23rd - Easter Service 9:30
- 27th - Easter Egg Hunt (Children Only)
- 30th EASTER HOLIDAYS

April

- 13th - Return to School
- 29th - Supporting children with anxiety workshop
- 30th - SATs Parents information

May

- 11th -14th - SATs week
- 22nd - INSET DAY
- 25th - 29th - HALF TERM

June

- 1st - INSET DAY
- 19th - Sports Day

July

- 20th - Leavers Service
- 22nd - LAST DAY OF TERM

INSET DAYS

2025/26

3rd September 2025

4th September 2025

19th December 2025

22nd May 2026

1st June 2026

SAVE THE DATE

HAZEL CLASS



Our Year R and Year 1 children have had a fantastic first half term full of learning and new adventures. We have loved taking part in Forest School, exploring the outdoors and building our confidence through play and teamwork. Year 1 pupils also joined in with a local traffic survey, helping us learn more about the world around us and how to stay safe in our community. In class, we have been developing our understanding of number through practical activities and games, and we are working really hard on our early writing skills. We are so proud of how well the children have settled into school life and the wonderful progress they are already making. There's been plenty of singing, dancing, and laughter throughout the day – we have had so much fun!



WILLOW CLASS



This half term, Willow class have been using a variety of media to create maps of our walk to the church. We explored 3D relief, abstract stained glass and printing. Here are some examples of our prints we created by carving into polystyrene tiles and rolling with ink. It was a messy but fun activity!



Willow class have also been exploring the features of the local area. They had a sneaky stop at the playground during their local walk.



BEECH CLASS



Beech class have had an amazing half term with their topic 'Rushing Rivers'. We have learnt about how rivers are formed, why we need them and the water cycle. To support our learning we visited Arundel Wetlands and followed Ava around the site to discover all about the wetlands. In addition, we had a visitor from Water Aid who showed us how to use a 'tippy tap' when we don't have piped water. Recently, the mental health team have been in to teach us about the structure of our brain and how we can help ourselves. We are all now looking forward to a rest before coming back refreshed ready for more learning!



OAK CLASS



We went to Al Mahdi Mosque to learn more about Islam and the Mosque, as it relates to our current RE topic of Islam - Belonging.

We had a little play on their playground and then explored the different rooms in the Mosque and sat in their classrooms where young Muslims go on the weekend to learn more about their faith. We learnt further about the 5 pillars of Islam from the Imam, which linked to our learning and we were very excited to share our knowledge!

We had a look at different versions of the Qu'ran, and learnt that Muslims read it right to left, instead of left to right.

The Imam showed us how Muslims pray, and we had a go ourselves!

