



# Churchfields News



Churchfields Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4QY Tel: 020 86505247

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## Dates for your Diary:

- **Year 2 Open Classroom:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2.45pm
- **Year 1 Rowan Class assembly:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2.45pm in Main Hall
- **Secondary School Information Evening for Years 3, 4 and 5:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm – 7.30pm, Main Hall
- **Inclusion Coffee Morning:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 9am
- **Year 3 Open Classroom:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2.45pm
- **Year 4 Open Classroom:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2.45pm
- **Year 5 Open Classroom:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2.45pm
- **Reception Palm Class Assembly:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2.45pm in Main Hall
- **Year 2 Trip to River Thames:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June
- **Year 5 Trip to Dulwich College:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June
- **Headteacher's Coffee Morning and Tour:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 9am
- **Reception Beech Class Assembly:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2.45pm in Main Hall
- **Class Photographs:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July
- **Instrument and Choir Performance to Families:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 6.30pm in Main Hall
- **Headteacher's Coffee Morning and Tour:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 9am
- **ARC Coffee Morning:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 9am
- **Year 6 Production Performances to Families:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2pm and 7pm in Main Hall
- **ARC Leavers Party:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm
- **Year 6 Residential to Cuffley:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July
- **Nursery and Reception 2025 Teddy Bears' Picnic:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July on school field
- **Nursery to Year 5 Parent/Carer Evening:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 3.45pm
- **PTA AGM Meeting:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm at school
- **Year 6 Parent/Carer Evening:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2.30 – 5pm
- **Year 6 Leavers' Assembly:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 9.30am
- **Last day of Summer Term 2: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – school closes at 1.30pm.**  
**After School Club from 1.30pm – 4pm**

## Do you need childcare in the holidays?

We are partnering with Youngstars Holiday Camps again to offer childcare on site during the holidays.

They offer a mix of activities (sports, arts and crafts) for 4 – 11 year olds.

Reception children can now stay for a full day if needed.

They accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax Free Childcare and Student Finance.

[Click here for more details and how to book](#)



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Dear Churchfields Families,

Another amazing **sports day** this morning for our children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Thank you to all of the family members and friends who came along to support the children. On Sunday we were again blessed with perfect weather for the **PTA Colour Run** which was so much fun for children and the brave adult runners.

We welcomed the parents and carers of children joining us in **Nursery and Reception** in September last night and home visits for Reception are about to begin. On Tuesday we will be holding an information evening about **secondary schools** for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4, and 5. Although secondary school may seem like a long way off, we do recommend that you start to look around secondary schools before Year 6 as most secondary schools will only give you a tour in September/early October each year. Please do come along if you are interested to learn more about the application process and also meet some of the schools that Churchfields children go to.

Finally, we continue to support the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign, along with many other local schools. The risks and harms of early use of smartphones (before age 14) are becoming more well-known and the campaign helps parents and carers support each other to choose to stay smartphone free until age 14. We have found that **Year 4** children start to think that they will get a smartphone in Year 5 and would especially encourage Year 4 families to join together to delay this. There is some information below from the campaign and you can sign the pledge [here](#) (it's not legally binding, it's to give encouragement to other families that their children won't be the only ones without a smartphone!).

I hope you have a relaxing weekend,

Sarah Atherton  
Headteacher



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## About Smartphones



*When we first started giving smartphones to children, little was known about them.*

*Now, there is growing evidence linking smartphones with [an array of harms](#). Smartphones are correlated with anxiety, depression and loneliness as well as sharing extreme content and unwanted communication.*

*Research shows that smartphones affect academic performance (even when only used at home) and high proportions of children show signs of behavioural addiction to their devices.*

*This [powerful short film](#) gives a good summary of the problem and [this talk](#) from the Psychologist Jonathan Haidt gives a detailed rundown of the evidence and is a powerful watch.*

*Underpinning all these harms is a quiet issue that is potentially most significant of all. Smartphones are experience blockers, distracting children from engaging in real life. This leaves little time for real world activities or relationships that teach us the essential life-skills needed for a healthy transition to adulthood.*

*It's unsurprising that research shows that the younger a child receives a smartphone, [the worse their mental health](#) is affected. And yet, the age children get their first smartphone is younger and younger; in the UK, 20% of 4 year olds own a device.*

*Many parents don't want to buy their child a smartphone but feel they have no choice because everyone else is. No parent wants to isolate their child in this way. The solution lies in better regulation of the tech industry, but legislation will take years to come into force - time this generation of children don't have. For now, our collective action at school and at home is our best option.*

*We strongly encourage parents to resist the pressure from your children and their peers, and hold off giving your children smartphones until **at least the end of year 9**.*

*There are many non-internet phones now available offering apps for maps and location, music, messaging and other useful tools. If we all work together, social pressure will be removed, and no child should feel left out.*

### **Did you know?**

*The average UK 12-year-old spends [29 hours a week](#) – equivalent to a part-time job – on their smartphone.*





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## Churchfields Come Dancing Auditions

Come along at lunchtime next week to audition for the finals of Churchfields Come Dancing organised by children in Year 5.

No costumes are needed, just your talent!

Monday – Year 1

Tuesday – Year 2 and Y3 Sumac

Thursday – Year 4 and Y3 Poplar

Friday – Year 5

## In assembly this week – International Day of Play

On Wednesday it was the second UN day of play, celebrating the benefits of play and also understanding how some children can't play because of poverty, war or lack of safe space around the world.

We have been recruiting new pupil play leaders to support everyone to have a happy and safe playtime – we have been inundated with applications!

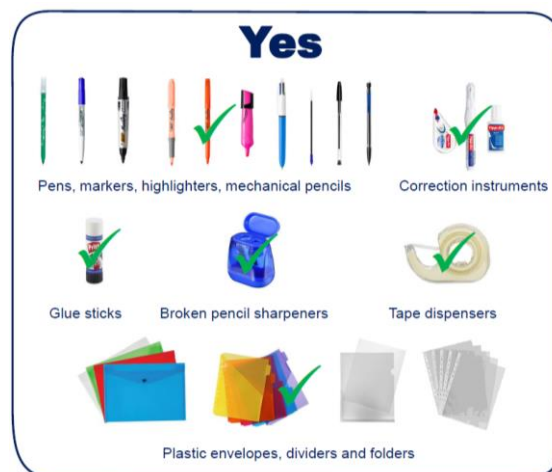


## Recycle and Reuse from Eco-Council

Our eco-councillors have started a new drive to reduce waste.

They have organised re-usable cups for each class in case anyone has forgotten their water bottle instead of a disposable one.

They have also set up recycling points for old stationery. If you have any at home that you would like to recycle (no crayons, pencils, chalk or laminated paper), send them in and we will do it for you!



## Term Dates

Last day of term: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – **school closes at 1.30pm. After School Club from 1.30-4pm.**

### Autumn Term 2025

Inset Days: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - school closed to children

First Day of Autumn 1: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Last day of Autumn Term 1: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Autumn Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Inset Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – school closed to children

First Day of Autumn 2: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Last day of Autumn Term 2: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Holidays: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### Spring Term 2026

Inset Day: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – school closed to children

First Day of Spring 1: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

The complete term dates for 2025-26 year are [on our website](#).

Our number one priority is to ensure that all children and adults are safe. If you are worried about something or if you are worried about someone else, you can talk to ANYONE who works for the school.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of EVERYONE.  
Childline: 0800 1111