



## CJS NEWS

Weekly news from Christchurch Junior School

Issue 14 —Friday 17 December 2021



### THE BEST FOR ALL—THE BEST FROM ALL

Dear Parents / Carers

We made it! You have smiled, supported and encouraged your children across the end of term finish line—thank you for everything you have done. The last two weeks in particular, have been complex. However, the pupils, staff and parents of CJS have excelled, demonstrating the most incredible resilience. There has been a lot of excitement around school as well: children were able to enjoy the Christmas Fair and online pantomime (thank you PTFA!), they have celebrated together and continued learning right through this final week.

Please keep yourselves as safe as possible this holiday and we look forward to seeing you refreshed on **Tuesday 4 January**. Keep in mind that many of you will be likely to mix in a variety of groups over Christmas and New Year and therefore it would be amazing, if you feel able, to LFD test children before they return. This will give our school community the best opportunity for a happy and healthy start to 2022!

**Have an amazing Christmas holiday: relax, enjoy spending time with your wonderful children and be very merry!**

#### ATTENDANCE RACE

The winners of the attendance race for w/c 13 December 2021

Year 3	3AB	95.7%
Year 4	4CC	95.5%
Year 5	5KL	95.4%
Year 6	6AM	94.1%

*SR Fuller*

#### ASSEMBLY

In assembly on Monday, Mr Fuller talked to the children about determination and resilience. Amongst a range of examples, information was shared about how well children are doing when it comes to improving their scores on Times Tables Rock Stars and Reading Plus. The children are generally doing a fabulous job of this, showing brilliant determination to improve. To close the assembly, the children were shown the following (slightly grainy!) clip which highlights resilience at its best. It also sums up the way many of us have felt as we have closed in on the end of term! [The Crawl - Sian Welch & Wendy Ingraham \(1997\) - YouTube](#)

#### CELEBRATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

DFA—Dance for All—Many of our pupils performed fantastically at the DFA Street dance show at the O2 last weekend—congratulations! It is amazing for these children to get up onto such a big stage, with a huge audience, and perform their dance routine. Many of the students had not ever performed on a stage before. We are very proud of them and how confident they were. Well done to them all.

#### CAROL CONCERTS

Thank you to those who were able to join us at the Year 3 sing-a-long. The children's singing was beautiful and we are delighted with the way in which they have settled in at CJS. A link to our whole school recorded Carol Concert was sent to parents/carers last week. The recording can also be found on our school website: [Assemblies – Christchurch Junior School \(cjsdorset.org\)](#)

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

There is a new variant of COVID-19 - Omicron - which is highly infectious and spreading fast. Every adult in the country now needs to get a Covid-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine are not enough to give the level of protection against infection we all need. Boosters give you the best possible protection against the virus and should significantly reduce your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.

#### END OF TERM REPORTS

Yesterday you will have received your child's end of term report. This can be accessed online through the Arbor app. If you have any difficulties opening the report or interpreting the information, please ask and we will be happy to support you.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Saturday 18 December 2021—Monday 3 January 2022

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Friday 18 February 2022

Saturday 19 February—Sunday 27 February 2022

Saturday 9 April—Sunday 24 April

Christmas Holidays

Children return to school

INSET—staff training—no pupils in school

Half Term

Easter Half Term

The poster features a central yellow shield with a blue background. Inside the shield, at the top, are three sports balls: an orange basketball, a black and white soccer ball, and a green tennis ball. Below the balls, the text reads "MR LINE'S SPORTS" in large black letters, followed by "SATURDAY CLUB" in smaller black letters, and a black star at the bottom. Below the shield, the text "CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL" is written in large black letters, followed by "SATURDAY MORNINGS 9:00 TO 10:30AM" and "8 JANUARY TO 12 FEBRUARY (6 WEEKS)" in smaller black letters. Below this, the price "£30" is listed. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code inside a black-bordered white box with the text "SCAN ME" in white below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow irregular shape containing an illustration of two children playing handball, with the text "HANDBALL CLUB" in large black letters below the illustration.

## **A COVID-19 UPDATE FROM JULIA COLEMAN ON BEHALF OF BCP LOCAL AUTHORITY**

*BCP and Dorset schools have had a tough term. The bulk of rising cases have been in school age pupils and the staff who work with them and we have seen 2 distinct and difficult phases. In half term one, we saw high case rates in pupils at about 100 per week across schools all PCR confirmed. This was challenging for pupils and families and there were outbreaks that needed managing down and even a few cases of year group closures to create a firewall to protect others.*

*However most schools managed with on site isolation of outbreaks and the relatively few staff cases were manageable with support staff or cover. Since October half term, we have seen as many cases per day as we have had in a week. Although case rates remain high in pupils of most year groups, the educational workforce has suffered from Covid, Covid isolations and other illnesses which has left many schools stretched. Schools have seen 15-20% staff absence-some have seen far higher rates.*

*We know that some of you will have been very disappointed that schools have needed to have virtual nativities/postponed residential/ or to have switched to remote learning for a class; we do not take these decisions lightly.*

*These measures have always been taken in consultation and support from the BCP team dealing with Covid and Public Health Dorset. They are also made in light of extra guidance for BCP and Dorset only in England, where we can take more enhanced measures until the end of this term at least.*

*Despite the excellent work of parents, pupils and staff, cases continue to rise in schools and latterly in the community. Whilst we cannot go into specific details, as well as cases in pupils, we have also seen both Covid and other illnesses taking their toll on staffing. Staff absence in BCP and Dorset is 4 times the national average. There are many other schools facing these sorts of decisions at the moment and we understand your disappointment if it happens at your child's school.*

*There is much that you can do to support our community over Christmas and the New Year.*

### **What you can do:**

- *Keep testing habits going in families over the holidays and awareness of hand washing etc after shopping trips*
- *Be vigilant for symptoms and do not send children into school after the holidays with any Covid, fever or headachy symptoms*
- *Seek PCR tests for family well-being if you get symptoms or are asked to do so*
- *Encourage adherence to changing guidelines*
- *Follow guidance from track and trace who are following up on Omicron and/or guidance on Day 2 testing and test for return if you are holidaying abroad-current guidance is you cannot return until negative tests are back*
- *Be aware that we often have to respond to cases and changes in policy very quickly.*

### **What we will try to do**

- *Prioritise keeping children in school for learning as much and as safely possible*
- *Be aware of outbreaks and be transparent about when and why we need to change things*
- *Discuss alternatives with PH and BCP when staff numbers are down or cases are rising*

*We can assure you we explore all other avenues before we postpone an event or switch to remote learning. Please stay in touch about symptoms and we will access support for you at the start of term.*

*If you need to take time off in the holidays or in term times, there is support for families still available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme> with isolation periods.*

**Thank you and warm regards**

**Julia Coleman.**

**Service Manager School & Provider Standards & Support 0-19 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)**

# JANUARY ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

BOOK ONLINE: [WWW.FORTHELOVEOFARTCLASSES.CO.UK](http://WWW.FORTHELOVEOFARTCLASSES.CO.UK)  
MORE DETAILS: [INFO@FORTHELOVEOFARTCLASSES.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@FORTHELOVEOFARTCLASSES.CO.UK)



**6 WEEK COURSES- STARTING IN THE NEW YEAR**

Highcliffe | Wednesday 5-6pm & Thursday 5:30-6:30pm

Milford on Sea | Saturdays 11:30am-12:30 pm