



### What's inside this term's newsletter?

- Personal development opportunities across the school
- Performances & Productions
- What's been going on in Early Years; Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

## Term 2 Newsletter

**Our vision is to be an exceptional school where children flourish**

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support throughout this term. It has been wonderful to have so many of you join us for our performances and productions- this has certainly made for a very festive end of term!

We hope that you have had chance to read our recent Ofsted report. We are incredibly proud of our children and loved that the inspector picked up on so many aspects of school life that makes Charlton special: 'Pupils' happiness, coupled with strong attitudes to learning, permeates lessons.'

We want to thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best possible education for our children. Thank you for being part of our school community.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

With very best wishes,

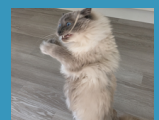
Sam Campbell and the Charlton Team

This term's attendance:  
**96.2%**  
 School and Trust target:  
 96%



### Ogden Trust Photography Competition

Congratulations to our finalists: Nate, Lennon, Alivia and Lucie who submitted photographs with the theme of 'movement'. You can see one of our finalist's submissions here!



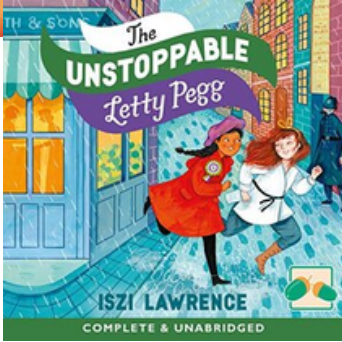
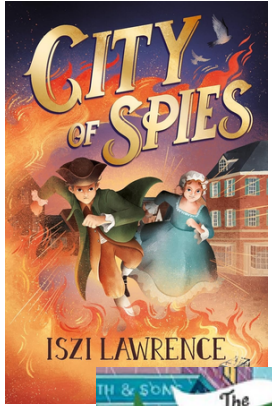
# PCSO Sue Haynes visit



On Friday 23rd November, Year 1 and Year 3 were joined by PCSO Sue Haynes.

In Year 1, the children spent the session learning about what police do and they watched a short story about a Police Officer called Ben who patrols his town and helps people.

In Year 3, the children also heard a story about PC Ben, but the focus of the session was to show the children that it's ok to be different. The children explored differences through a story and then some work using Venn diagrams.



## Wantage Literary Festival

On 6th November, Year 6 headed to The Beacon to take part in Wantage Literary Festival. During the morning, they met author and podcaster, Iszi Lawrence, who enthused them about her books! Since the visit, these books have been like hot cakes in our library and are scarcely seen on the shelves!

## Y2 theatre trip

As a rights respecting school, we are committed to promoting education experiences which develop a child's understanding (Article 29). This term, we arranged for Year 2 to visit The Watermill Theatre, Newbury to see a performance of Pinocchio.



## Y4 visit to the Catholic church

This term, Year 4 visited the Catholic faith to help them with their current RE unit: Does the Christmas narrative need Mary? During the visit the children were able to ask and answer questions relating to their current learning, and then apply this once back in school.

## Y5 Minispeaks competition

Year 5 took part in a public speaking competition this term. Children were asked to write and present a persuasive speech on a topic of their choice. After presenting to their classes, the next round was to present to the year group. One candidate was then selected to go through to the Trust final, representing Charlton!

## Year 3 local history walk

To kick-start Y3's history unit, everyone took part in a walk around Wantage to see some of the landmarks, buildings and significant clues to Wantage's past.



# Human Rights Day

On 9th December, Mrs Garbutt and the Rights Champions led an assembly focusing on Human Rights Day. At Charlton, we always raise awareness for this annual event, and link this closely to the work that we do as a Rights Respecting School.

Our Rights Champions talked to the whole school about the United Nations Rights of the Child and also shared some key terminology:

1. Rights holders – that's all children all over the world. Every child has rights.
2. Duty bearers – those are the adults responsible for making sure your rights are protected.

Duty bearers include parents, grandparents, teachers, teaching assistants, police officers, doctors etc.



## Y5 and the Christmas Food Bank

This term Year 5's writing unit has focused on the book 'The Great Food Bank Heist' by Onjali Q. Raúf. As well as developing their narrative writing skills, children have also been learning about persuasive devices, creating persuasive texts to encourage people to support the food bank. Earlier in the term, Year 5 had a visit from a representative from the local food bank and have since been working with Mrs Wolton to encourage as many people from our school community to make donations to the food bank to support this important cause over the Christmas period.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this.

## School Council

This term, our School Councillors from Year 3 - Year 6 launched anti-bullying week via whole school assembly. The councillors were incredible, and many had spent time over the half term break looking over their lines!



Over the next few weeks, School Councillors from Years 3-5 will be forming a judging panel for The Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize. Our judging panel will read 6 STEM books, giving their feedback on each before submitting their final recommendation to The Royal Society.



# Productions & Performances

This term, we have had many performances and productions!

- Reception have performed some Christmas songs to their families, as well as to Acorns and Year 1.
- Year 1 have performed to children across the school and also to families.
- Year 2 performed in Holy Trinity church to families.
- Years 3-6 visited Wantage Parish Church, with each class/year group sharing a short performance to their families too.



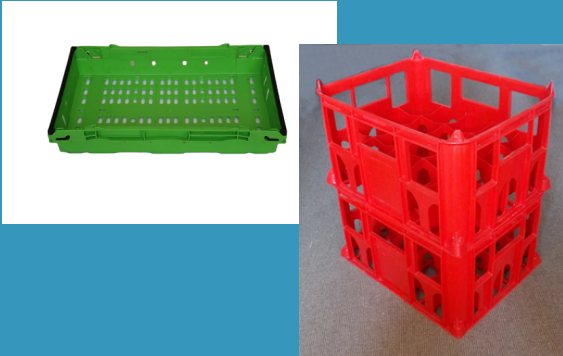
Our iRockers have also performed to their families. We have six bands, comprising of children who take the lead on vocals, guitar, keyboard and drums. Each band rehearses weekly and we have loved having the chance to see them perform! If your child is interested in taking part in iRock, please see the leaflet attached to the newsletter.

Thank you so much for joining us for these performances. We hope that you enjoyed seeing the children perform. Thank you to all of the staff who have worked hard to help the children to rehearse and to facilitate these opportunities during a very busy term!

# Can you help?

Our recent Ofsted inspection highlighted our 'unique playground experience' at lunchtimes. At lunchtime, our outside space comprises of numerous 'zones' which children can move freely between. This term's zones have included dance zone, writing zone, obstacle zone, skipping zone, construction zone, craft zone, basketball zone and ball skills zone.

We are always looking for items to support our children at lunchtimes...some of which you may be able to help us with! If you have any of the following items that you would be willing to donate to us, we would be incredibly grateful!



supermarket/milk crates



toy cars



tarpaulin



drain pipes and plastic tubing



scooters & helmets



tyres



pots, pans, baking trays, utensils



pegs

## Early Years

**Acorns:** The Acorns children have had a busy term. We started Forest Fun this term and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning in the forest environment as well as enjoying the hot chocolate!

We welcomed a pair of cheeky elves to Acorns, which the children named Elfie and Jingle. Elfie and Jingle brought plenty of Christmas magic to Acorns while we decorated our trees and made crowns to wear for our Christmas songs. This term's weather has given us many opportunities to explore ice and snow, and although we had to make our own snow, there was plenty of ice! This enabled us to complete a range of activities, including activities on how to break the ice to rescue the arctic animals which were trapped inside, which we did by safely using our hammers to break the ice and set the animals free!

**Reception:** This term, Reception have been learning about 'Celebrations'. We have enjoyed looking at photos of events which families celebrate at home. We have also focused specifically on the Hindu festival of Diwali and the Christian festival of Christmas. We have read stories, listened to music, made crafts and explored dancing and music linked with both festivals. We visited the local church and learnt about what Christians might do to celebrate Christmas in church. We have also explored the ways in which people in the UK celebrate Christmas that aren't specifically Christian e.g. decorating Christmas trees, wrapping and giving presents, writing and giving Christmas cards and enjoying Christmas stories and music. The children have worked hard to learn the songs for our Christmas performance and they were incredibly brave and resilient when they got up in front of lots of adults to sing. We are very proud of them!

## Key Stage 1

**Year 1:** The children have had a fantastic and action-packed term! After a visit from Frank the Elf, they wrote letters back to the elves, sharing how they have been demonstrating the school values. We're keeping our fingers crossed for a reply from the big man himself – Father Christmas!

The role-play shed was transformed into a Christmas post office, where the children eagerly put their new letter-writing skills to the test. It has been a hive of activity!

The children have worked incredibly hard since the start of term to put on an AMAZING Christmas performance. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing it!

In maths, we've been learning to add and subtract, and we've just explored 2D and 3D shapes. In art, the children have been experimenting with layering and overlapping techniques. Using natural materials, they built stunning sculptures inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy.

What an incredible term it has been! We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

**Year 2:** In school, we've been diving into the beautiful book Journey by Aaron Becker. This wordless story has inspired us to use our imaginations, write letters, and create our own exciting adventures. It's been lovely to see the children exploring their creativity and coming up with fantastic ideas.

Our trip to the Watermill Theatre to see Pinocchio was absolutely magical! The show was full of amazing performances and wonderful storytelling, bringing the classic tale to life in such a fun and engaging way. The children showed our Charlton values so excellently, and were a pleasure to take out.

As we head into the holiday season, we'd like to wish all our families a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. We hope you enjoy special moments together and have a relaxing, happy time. See you in the new year!

# Key Stage 2

**Year 3:** It's been another great term in Year 3! In English, the children have been writing stories and letters based on 'The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon', focusing on the use of different sentence structures and conjunctions. They've done a brilliant job! Both classes have been persevering with addition and subtraction in Maths, learning to use the formal column method and how to represent exchanges. Next up, multiplication and division! The children have enjoyed our unit on light in Science. A highlight for all was using the UV beads to see the effect of UV light! We were so proud of the children's Christmas singing in the church - they put in lots of practice and we think they were brilliant!

**Year 4:** Year 4 have had a very busy term! We have loved our adventures in the forest with Miss Biles, and have learnt how to tie various knots, built dens, maintained the forest and made fires.

In science, we began our 'teeth and digestion' unit by being teeth detectives and exploring real animal skulls to see if the shape of the teeth could tell us about the animals' diet. We then went on to explore the human digestive system with Weetabix, bananas and tights, acting as the intestines! In Design & Technology, the children have been busy designing their own wrap which they will make and eat in a celebration Classroom Cafe event. This term, we have even managed to fit in a trip to the Catholic Church to explore Mary's role in the Christmas narrative.

We have had a fantastic term and have been really proud of how hard the children have worked . Well done Year 4!

**Year 5:** Year 5 have had an exciting term. In English, the children have explored the critical role food banks play in supporting our community. They used their persuasive writing skills to create powerful adverts, encouraging people to donate and make a difference—a project that fostered empathy and real-world awareness. PE has been a highlight, with the children developing their gymnastic skills, showcasing strength and agility. In art, the children were inspired by the works of Bob Pattison. They learned about his unique approach to layering composition and created their own stunning pieces, experimenting with tone, shade and tint to produce vibrant artwork that they were proud to share. Geography lessons took the class on a journey around the world. They explored how countries are connected through trade and why these links are vital for economies and communities. This global perspective sparked curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around them. The children have been budding physicists carrying out hands-on investigations to explore the forces impacting our everyday lives. From designing and testing parachutes to understand air resistance, to experimenting with friction and gravity, the classroom has been buzzing with discovery and excitement.

**Year 6:** This term got off to a really exciting start when the children attended a talk as part of the Wantage Literary Festival from the author Iszi Laurence! She was really engaging and the children loved it, so much so that Mrs Campbell got lots of requests to get her books for the library! This term has also seen all the children complete their swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre, where they have all tried really hard to improve their swimming level and represented Charlton impeccably. You may also have noticed that the children have bought home their amazing door stops, the outcome of their DT project. They have worked really hard and showed excellent perseverance and imagination in creating these. In English, with a link to our History work on World War 2, the children have been reading Letters from a Lighthouse. They have produced some factual and well thought out persuasive letters, from the perspective of the government encouraging people to evacuate their children to the countryside.

# Children's sickness and diarrhoea


From time to time, children are sick either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away from school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.

If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and your child may not appear to be ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases, and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.

Further information can be found here: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)



To see what we've bought for your child, how to get disco tickets and to feedback on how you'd like to fundraise in the future sign up to the mailing list now 

<https://www.charltonpta.org/mailling-list>



JOIN THE FUN

# There are spaces in bands at your school



iRock

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There was an iRock concert at your child's school today!

**What is iRock?** At iRock, children experience the thrill of being in a band! Led by our passionate and professional Band Coaches, our weekly in-school band sessions are open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6.

**Music for all.** iRock aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every child feels they belong. Each week, children develop their musical skills, confidence, and teamwork as they work towards exam-free music qualifications – celebrating progress without the pressure of formal exams.

**Feel like a rockstar!** The excitement culminates every term in a live concert where children perform as a band for their families and peers. These performances are more than just a showcase—they're an opportunity for children to build self-esteem, enhance their confidence, and experience the joy of accomplishment.

iRock isn't just about music; it's about helping children thrive cognitively, socially, and academically through the power of music.

**Key information:**

- **No experience needed** and all instruments are provided
- Parents/guardians can access our **online portal** for updates, pictures and videos
- Hassle-free **monthly subscription** that can be cancelled at any time with a **first lesson money-back guarantee**.

Head to <https://www.irockschool.com/enrol> to check availability and start your child's iRock journey!

Joshua Franklin  
Founder  
iRock School of Music

Choose from..



GUITAR



VOCALS



KEYS



DRUMS

CLICK HERE

**ENROL NOW**

**Enrol Online**

[www.irockschool.com/enrol](https://www.irockschool.com/enrol)

**We're here to help!**

Call Us: 0330 174 2655

Email Us: [info@irockschool.com](mailto:info@irockschool.com)

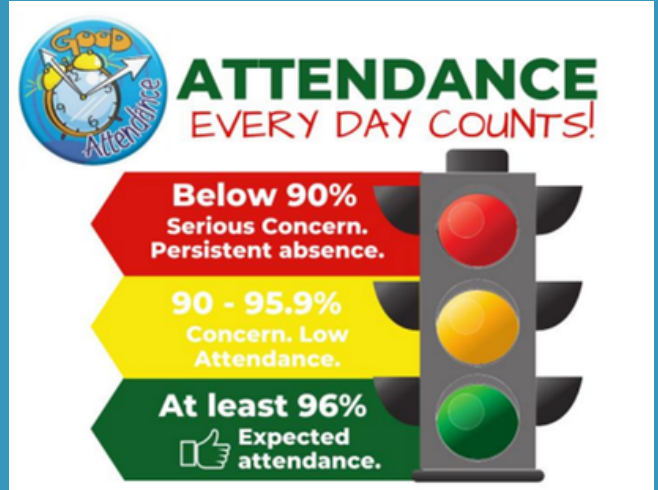
# Attendance

We are really pleased to share that attendance for this term has been 96.2%, and attendance for the school year so far is 96%.

As a school, we monitor and track attendance on a weekly basis and will make contact if we are concerned about your child's attendance so that we can work together to remove any barriers which may be preventing your child from accessing the education they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance.

If you have any concerns about attendance, please do come and talk with us. A member of staff is always available before and after school, or email the school office to find a convenient time to meet.



Let's keep this going for all the people who are going through a tough time.

For anyone who needs some support right now. ❤️

CALM - 0800585858  
Mind - 03001233393  
No Panic - 08449674848  
Bereavement - 08088081677  
PAPYRUS - 08000684141  
Samaritans - 116 123  
SHOUT - 85258  
Abuse - 080820005000  
Refuge - 08082000247  
shout text 85258



# Community help and support

## Christmas Lifelines and Support Networks



Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258

The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on 0800 1111



Find a food bank <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

### Worried about a child or young person?

Local children social care: <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>. If you think a child or young person is at risk or being abused or neglected, contact the children's social care team at their local council. If you do not know where they live, contact your local council's team, the NSPCC or the Police for advice.