It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II late on Thursday.

The whole school joined together for an act of remembrance and celebration on Friday morning, which included a moment of quiet reflection, and finished with the school singing 'Sing' which was produced by Gary Barlow with the Commonwealth Band and the Military Wives Choir. The children behaved impeccably.

During the assembly, nearly every child raised their hand to state that they had personally visited Windsor Castle at some point, and so many have family members who had met her. Living where we do, there are so many personal connections and stories being shared.

This week there will be other opportunities for the children to reflect and to learn about the events of this unique time. As one BBC commentator phrased it this weekend, "We are learning the traditions we forgot we had."

Believe, Achieve, Succeed.

Period of National Mourning

During the period of National Mourning school will remain open and children should continue to attend.

On Monday 19th September school will be **closed** to observe the bank holiday on the day of the State Funeral.

School will reopen as normal on Tuesday 20th September.

Supporting your child

As a school, we had a whole staff bereavement training session during July 2022. All staff are equipped to talk to children about loss, and children may talk to adults in school if they are feeling overwhelmed. We are aware that current events are bringing to the fore painful personal memories for some children. If the current news is affecting your child you may find the following resources helpful:

Advice if you're upset with the news

Child bereavement UK

Christ Church car park

Christ Church are very kind to let us use their car parking facilities most of the time. They have asked that we remind parents of these simle guidelines around the use of their private car park.

To keep everyone safe, please can all users of the car park follow these simple rules:

- ·Cars are only to be parked in marked bays please do not leave them elsewhere in the car park
- ·Cars should drive at no more than 5mph when in the car park
- ·Bays marked for disabled users should only be parked in by those with a blue badge
- •There will be times when we have to close the car park or reserve spaces for church events please do not try to move cones or signs if they are out

Thank you for your cooperation – we hope you all have a great year.

Drop off and pick up

Carrington Junior and Infant School have different start and finish times to allow for as much staggering as possible. However, there will always be a tremendous number of people needing to access the school sites at a similar time. Due to existing childcare arrangements, there will not be any further changes to start and finish times this year.

Please can parents avoid congregating to talk on pavements after children have been dropped off. Prior to gates opening, please can parents move as close to school and the library as possible, in order to ensure pavements are also clear.

Thank you all for your help in making drop off and pick up times run as smoothly as possible.

Changing for PE

The decision to allow children to arrive at school in their PE kits was taken to aid children with adapting to new routines at the start of the year, and limited split changing facilities at times when only one class has PE timetabled, as well as maximising curriculum time for all subjects.

We will be reviewing the current arrangement on a termly basis, as the children become more settled into school routines.

Dates to remember: (September)

Tuesday 13th September—**Meet the teacher** 3:30pm-4:00pm after school in classrooms— visit your child's class after school to see where they learn and to say a brief hello to the teacher. (N.B. for 5S this will take place on Thursday 15th September)

Wednesday 14th September—**Meet the teacher**— 8:15am-8:30am before school in classrooms— visit your child's class before school to see where they learn and to say a brief hello to the teacher.

Monday 19th September - Closed bank holiday - State Funeral

Wednesday 21st September – Individual photos (all day)

Tuesday 27nd September (9am)- Year 3/4 reading breakfast— visit the school hall for a brief talk about reading, and a chance to explore some of the books with your child. Tea, coffee and pastries available.

Thursday 29th September (9am)- Year 5/6 reading breakfast-visit the school hall for a brief talk about reading, and a chance to explore some of the books with your child. Tea, coffee and pastries available.