



Christ Church School

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December 2017
Newsletter 4

Christmas!

Dear parents and carers,

This has been a very busy term at Christ Church School and we seem to have managed to squeeze in even more than usual from Buckingham Palace trips, creative history workshops and swapping friendship bracelets to our 'try something new week' with its circus skills, printing and chocolate, our Listening Project, UNICEF Outright day and our self-portraits exhibition! I hope parents have enjoyed hearing about and getting involved in our activities this term – the children have certainly joined in with everything with their usual enthusiasm!

We are now busy preparing for all our usual Christmas activities and events. Please do come to the KS1 nativity, KS2 carol singing, school carol service and end of term service if you can – all the dates and details are listed below. I'm also well aware that we ask a lot from parents at this time of year with costumes, shared lunch donations, present sale gifts (among many other things!) to bring in to school and that this can sometimes be a bit confusing for new families. Please do ask me or class teachers if you are not sure how you should or could be helping. We are really grateful for all the help that parents provide – all of our Christmas activities make this a very special time of year for the children in school. Thank you.

With very best wishes for Christmas, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Parking around school – please respect our neighbours

The school has recently received a number of complaints from local residents about parking around the school site and, in particular, in Hampstead Square. Please respect our neighbours and do not park over their driveways or leave engines on while you are waiting before or after school. Let's hope this gentle reminder can solve these issues with a small number of parents – before our neighbours resort to Camden's parking enforcement team!

Confirmation service in Church this Sunday

This Sunday, 3rd December, the Bishop of Edmonton is coming to Christ Church to lead the confirmation service. A small group of our current and former pupils are being confirmed and our school choir is singing, along with the church choir. It would be great to see school families in church to support those being confirmed.

Whole school listening project

We have all been focusing on listening over the last few weeks in school taking part in lots of games and activities to develop active listening skills. Some highlights have included

- reading the wonderfully creative writing that children produced after listening to pieces of music
- an assembly guessing the animals for each piece of music in Saint-Saens' 'Carnival of the Animals'
- every class talking about how important it is to listen to each other to support well-being and mental health and
- listening to the different voices of grandparents, uncles and aunts reading stories in class

It was great to see so many parents at the 'Listening to your child' workshop and that it received such positive feedback. If you couldn't make it the handouts are available from the office and we will try to run this workshop again in future years.

Class teachers nominated children who really responded to our Listening Project to receive an audio book to take home: well done to Rachel (Rec), Ana (Y1), Lily (Y2), Jesse (Y3), Nicolas (Y4), Zachary (Y5) and Christina (Y6) for their super listening skills!



Dates

December

Sunday 3rd, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing – Confirmation service

Thursday 7th 10am – Rec, Y1 and Y2
Nativity for parents in the Church

Friday 8th – Friends Christmas Present Sale
Please send your child to school on this day with seven small unwrapped gifts, a bag and £5 in coins. The children are able to buy secret presents for family members and all the money raised goes to the Friends Association.

Tuesday 12th, 6.30pm – School Carol Service in church. The school choir will sing and all families are very welcome to join us for carols and then refreshments afterwards.

Wednesday 13th – shared Christmas lunch for all classes
Lists are up in the playgrounds for parents to sign up for the food donation they can offer.

Wednesday 13th – Christmas Jumper Day!
Please wear a Christmas Jumper (home-made is fine!) and bring in a suggested donation of £2 for charity

Thursday 14th, 2.15pm - KS2 carol singing outside Waterstones – **CHANGED DATE**

Friday 15th, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church – all families welcome

Friday 15th midday – Children home for Christmas holiday

Thank you and Christmas charity

Thank you to all parents and families who contributed to our recent charity collections. We raised £90 for the British Legion with our Poppy Appeal and we collected an amazing 130 Christmas Boxes for Samaritan's Purse which will be delivered to a child somewhere in the world living in very different circumstances who would not otherwise receive a gift.

School council have held a discussion and vote among the classes to decide upon our Christmas Charity and have decided we will split the money raised three ways between Cancer Research UK, Save the Children and a charity to support an ill child in Armenia (a charity suggested by Aleksandra in Y4).

We will collect money for our Christmas Charity at the Nativity on Thursday 7th December, at the carol singing in Hampstead on Thursday 14th (please note changed date) and on our Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 13th.



Self-portraits calendar

We hope all families loved our self-portraits exhibition and now have the framed portraits in pride of place at home! We all had a wonderful time creating them and it was fabulous to see how proud children were showing them to family members at the exhibition. Mr Polidano has created a brilliant 2018 calendar of all the portraits which we have had professionally printed. These calendars will be available to buy from Tuesday 5th December from the school office at the price of £6 each (all the money raised will go straight towards funding future Arts Projects). They make amazing Christmas presents!

Lego donations?

Does anyone have any Lego (standard Lego not Duplo) that they would like to donate to the school? We would like to run a Lego club after school next term and would gratefully receive any donations to add to the school supply.

Information and reminders

School Policies

The following school policies have recently been reviewed by staff and governors. Copies are available on the school website or from the school office.

- Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Science curriculum statement
- PE curriculum statement
- Maths curriculum statement
- Modern Foreign Languages curriculum statement
- Policy on marking and feedback to children

2018/19 term dates

Governors have recently agreed the 2018/19 term dates and they are attached to this newsletter. Please look carefully if you are planning ahead for next summer's holidays and beyond. There are INSET days still to be set and information about these will be sent home in the summer term.

Attendance

Thank you – attendance so far is up compared to this time last year. Let's keep it up in the new year!

January

Tuesday 2nd - children back to school for the Spring term

Class assemblies

Autumn term class assemblies - 10am

Friday 1st December – Year 3

Friends updates

Please sign up for the Friends' new communication app, **class list**. This is a new secure way for parents to share information about class and Friends events. Take up of the invitations to join has so far been very good so if you haven't yet got round to joining please do.

The Friends have agreed to fund this year's **Panto performance** for the whole school – thank you! The whole school will watch a live performance of Sleeping Beauty on Monday 4th December.

Thank you to all the families who supported the **Christmas Fair** and to Asra and her organising team for all their hard work beforehand and with the tidying up. What a successful and happy fair raising £4000 for the Friends Association!

Why not use **easyfundraising** when you are buying your Christmas gifts on line? This is a free service and you raise money for the school while you shop at sites including Amazon and John Lewis. Just sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate our school to get started.

UNICEF Outright day

highlights!

- School council collected over 40 signatures on their petition about refugee rights from members of the public in Hampstead (and they were fantastic ambassadors for our school)
 - Our bunting and posters were praised by UNICEF when we sent them in some photos
 - We sent 55 letters to our local MP to campaign for child refugee rights.
- Let's hope we can make a difference!



Rights Respecting Schools – Article of the month

To remind parents and pupils that we are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School we continue to include a different article from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in each month's newsletter.

Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents and their own and other cultures.





Christ Church Primary School

2018/19 Term Dates

Please look carefully at these dates for the year, especially when you are booking holidays!

Autumn term 2018

INSET day: Monday 3rd September

First day of Autumn term: Tuesday 4th September

Half term: Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 21st December

Spring term 2019

First day of Spring term: Monday 7th January

Half term: Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February

Last day of Spring term: Friday 12th April

Summer term 2019

First day of Summer term: Monday 29th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

Half term: Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

Last day of Summer term: Friday 19th July

INSET day: Monday 22nd July

N.B.

There are three further INSET days to be decided. Dates for these will be sent out to parents once they have been set in Summer 2018.

Children are not in school for INSET days - these are used for staff training.