



Christ Church School

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November 2017

Newsletter 3

Listening Project

Dear parents and carers,

A team of builders has spent the half term week working in what is currently our IT/computing room, next to the Year 1 classroom. We are converting this space into a music room to be used for class music lessons, choir rehearsals and some of our instrumental lessons. All classes enjoyed some amazing singing sessions with Mr Pegden, our returning music teacher, when he came in to visit just before half term, and we are looking forward to his return and a real focus on our music provision from the new year onwards. The music room will also become a multi-purpose space used for group work, meetings and some of our drama sessions as well.

Both the computing curriculum and the technology available has moved on so that we no longer need a specific, dedicated space to teach IT skills; our IT teaching and learning has become so much more integrated into our classrooms and into other areas of the curriculum, too. The school has class sets of laptops and ipads which can be connected to the school's wifi network and used in classrooms around the school.

We'd love to buy still more devices to use around school though, as well as a new keyboard and other instruments for our new music room, and it is wonderful that the Friends Association are planning to fundraise for this over the course of the year and with their 2018 May Ball event. Thank you to parents for all their support of the Friends events – your support makes a real difference to making projects like our new music room happen.

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



Are you a good listener?

Whole school listening project

Over the first four weeks of this half term the whole school is focusing on listening. We have decided to focus on this skill because, in general, we know that children at

Christ Church are confident, articulate speakers who are always willing to share their ideas and contribute to discussion but they are not always so good at listening to others!

We would really like to develop this important skill through our Listening Project over the next month which will include a range of class and whole school activities:

- Assemblies focused on why it is important to listen
- Listening to audio books in class
- Games to develop listening skills e.g. 'I went shopping and I bought...' and sensory trails
- Learning activities to develop listening skills e.g. dictation and craft activities following only spoken instructions
- Writing activities inspired by music and audio clips
- Stickers and audio book prizes for the children who show good listening skills and who engage well with the activities to develop their listening skills over the next few weeks
- Listening to different voices – e.g. grandparents and other family members will be invited into school to share a book
- KS2 class activities and a parent workshop focused on listening to others to support emotional well-being – why listening to others when they are feeling sad can help people to feel better

Thank you

Thank you to all families for their harvest food donations and for coming to the Harvest Festival service. It was fascinating to hear from a minister from Muswell Hill Baptist Church in an assembly about how the Soup Kitchen works and how many people it helps each evening.

Class assemblies and parent workshops

Parent workshop – Listening to your child Monday 13th November 9-10am

We are holding an additional parent workshop as part of our listening project using the Anna Freud Centre resources and led by Camden's Health and Well-being team. The workshop will focus on the listening and talking skills parents need to help their child with 'big feelings' and the planned outcomes are:

- you'll know what mental health is and how to help your child have positive mental health
- you'll know how to help to build resilience in your child
- you'll know how to talk and listen to your child about their feelings

Parents from all year groups are very welcome to attend on Monday 13th November, 9am in the school hall.

Autumn term class assemblies - 10am

Friday 10th November – **Reception**
(with Rec parent workshop on phonics beforehand at 9am)

Friday 17th November – **Year 4**
(with Y4 parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am)

Friday 24th November – **Year 5**

Friday 1st December – **Year 3**



Self-portraits exhibition

3.20 – 5pm on Friday 10th November

All parents and family members are very welcome to come and see everyone's self-portraits in the classrooms and in the hall after school on Friday 10th November. We are producing a 2018 calendar featuring everyone's portraits which will be available for parents to buy later in the term. Thank you very much to the parents who have come in to help with portraits this term.

Charity collections

In early November children from Year 6 will be running the school's Poppy Appeal in the playgrounds before and after school – please give generously if you can.

We are also collecting our annual Christmas Boxes for Operation Christmas child – information about this came home in book bags before half term and boxes should be in school before 15th November please.

School council will also decide on our school Christmas charity later this month – if parents have any suggestions of charities for them to consider please let the school office know.

School Improvement Plan targets this year

Each year the school leadership team and governors agree a school improvement plan with areas for the school to work on over the year. Many of the areas for development come from the results of parent and child consultations each year. Our areas for development this year, alongside a continued focus on high-quality teaching and the highest possible progress for all children, include:

- Participating in a nationwide training and research programme to maximise the impact of our very valuable Teaching Assistants
- Developing our Music provision across the school
- Applying for re-accreditation as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School
- Developing provision and resources in the junior playground
- Developing children's listening skills through a focused listening project
- Raising awareness of online safety and digital citizenship issues
- Working with two other schools to lead Camden's Mental Health Learning Hub
- Raising the whole school attendance level and, in particular, the attendance of those children with attendance of under 90%
- Increasing the visibility of governors with the parent body
- Developing the content of our school website

Information and reminders

New Chair of Governors

Oliver Chesser has taken over as Chair of the Governing Body this term. Thank you very much to Bruce MacRae for all his hard work as Chair of Governors over the past three years.

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.

- Complaints Policy
- Communications Policy

Please keep out of the Church car park!

Please do not let your children walk through the church car park on the way to or from school - the automatic gates are dangerous and there have been several near misses recently with children running through and cars manoeuvring at the same time.

Dates

November

Friday 3rd – Friends disco
Sunday 5th, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing
w/b 6th – KS2 Spelling challenge this week
Friday 10th 3.20 – 5pm – CAP Exhibition of children's self-portraits
Monday 13th, 9am – Parent workshop on listening and talking to your child – parents from all years groups welcome
Friday 17th – Non uniform day – bring a toy for the Christmas Fair
Monday 20th – UNICEF Outright day – look out for our work promoting children's rights!
Tuesday 21st, 9.50am – Music assembly
Friday 24th – non uniform day – bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair
Sunday 26th – Christmas Fair
w/b 27th – last after school clubs this week

December

Friday 1st – last after school club for this term
Sunday 3rd, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing – Confirmation service with the Bishop of Edmonton
Thursday 7th 10am – Rec, Y1 and Y2 Nativity for parents in the Church
Friday 8th – Friends Christmas Present Sale
Tuesday 12th pm – KS2 carol singing outside Waterstones
Tuesday 12th, 6.30pm – School carol service in Church
Wednesday 13th – Christmas Jumper Day!
Friday 15th, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church – all families welcome
Friday 15th midday – Children home for Christmas holiday

January

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

Friends' improvements to the school site

A dedicated group of Friends volunteers have been working hard to redevelop the area above the bike racks so that the school can use it as an outdoor learning space. There will also be volunteers planting bulbs with children this week. Thank you very much to those parents who have been giving their time to these projects – we look forward to seeing the results in the spring!

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 22 Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

