



# Christ Church School End of Year Newsletter

2017-18

We have all enjoyed a great year at Christ Church and would like to share some of our highlights and plans for next year with you in this end of year newsletter.

## Amazing arts – super self-portraits and ‘Joseph!’

We have all taken part in two super Arts Projects this year.



In the Autumn term every child created a wonderful self-portrait, hopefully now hanging in pride of place in many families' homes. Children used media ranging from ink and water colour crayon to chalk pastel and poster paint to create their masterpieces. They were helped by several parent helpers and were inspired by artists from Picasso to Julian Opie. We shared our work in an exhibition for parents in November and also created a 2018 calendar of all the portraits.

In the Spring term we all had a very exciting time rehearsing and performing our whole school production of 'Joseph'. Whether it is the ticket queues in the snow, the working golden chariot or Elvis-style pharaohs or maybe the maypole dancing, the spectacular multi-coloured coat or some quite stupendous singing, everyone will have their own favourite moment. We had a brilliant time giving every child the opportunity to perform on the stage and have hopefully created some memories that the children will never forget!



Next year our Autumn term arts project will focus on singing Happy Songs to go alongside our Happiness Project. We will be asking for suggestions of songs that make people happy when we are back in September! In the Spring term we are planning a project focused around film.



Thank you very much to the Friends

Association for their ongoing funding of our Arts Projects.

Other arts activities this year have included:

- Inspiring performances in school by the Young Shakespeare Company, trips to the theatre or cinema for all classes and a pantomime performance of 'Sleeping Beauty', plus lots of drama workshops in all classes.
- A brilliant nativity play and a fabulous Year 6 production of 'Peter Pan'.
- The choir singing brilliantly in church all year as well as performing in events as diverse as the Camden Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall and the church community concert.
- Six wonderful performing arts assemblies including a whole musical show performed by Year 2 and a brilliant performance of their own compositions by Year 3 who had worked with the worshipful company of musicians on a version of James and the Giant Peach. All six performing arts assemblies were squeezed into one term this year because of the production – well done Mr Pegden!
- Some very impressive instrumental performances at our music assemblies and Summer Serenade, some winning entries in the Hampstead Art Festival and Year 6 performing brilliantly at the Camden Dance Festival.

Next year we will all be learning a bit of street dance with a new street dance coach who will be in school once a week!

## Listening Project

In the Autumn term we all took part in a four-week listening project. We thought about what active listening is and what we should be doing with our hands, feet, bodies and voices to show we are listening to each other. All classes took part in listening games and activities in class, including producing some beautiful writing inspired by music. We also thought about how important it is to be there to listen to our friends when they need us and many parents came to our thought-provoking parent workshop about 'listening to your child'. We will come back to our work on active listening at the beginning of next year.

## Mental Health and well-being work

We built on the legacy of our successful 2016 Happiness Project in a number of ways this year. We held a super Friendship Week in September where each child made a friendship bracelet to swop with a new friend in the school and every child set themselves a goal for the year, too, thinking about the steps they need to take to achieve the goal. We also spent a wonderful 'Try something new' week in October making chocolate, printing, skipping and learning circus skills – the diabolo certainly caught on in the juniors and many of the children are now even more skilful than the original workshop leader! KS2 classes also spent the Autumn term learning some mindfulness skills in a weekly session. We will build on all of this by running another Happiness Project over the Autumn term 2018, helping children to think about what makes them and others happy.

Christ Church has co-led a Camden Learning Hub focused on Mental Health this year bringing together teachers, leaders and other professionals from across Camden to share ideas, learn from expert speakers and develop our own resources to support pupil and staff well-being. We will continue to lead this work across the borough next year. All Christ Church staff members also took part in a very well received six hour Mental Health First Aid training course.

## UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

Our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools work has continued to be an important part of the school this year. We have taught and learnt a great deal about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and about children around the world who sadly don't receive the rights that they should. We have tried to make a difference in all sorts of ways from a very successful Outright Day in November campaigning and petitioning about refugee rights, to a brilliant SoccerAid event in May raising money for UNICEF and class fundraising events such as Year 2's 'School in a Box' collection and Year 4's Sport Relief challenge. We have also written letters to our local MP and to the Secretary of State for International Development raising awareness of children's rights issues.



We hosted two UNICEF representatives at the beginning of July for the Gold Rights Respecting Schools accreditation day – their feedback was very positive but we are awaiting their official report and decision about accreditation, which we should be able to share in September.



## CREW and School Council

School council have had a busy year as always: they led our UNICEF Outright campaign in November and confidently petitioned the public about refugee rights on Hampstead High Street. They also planned and led our SoccerAid event in May. School council presented at the school council debates in the Town Hall, which were chaired by the Mayor of Camden, and they set up our two buddy benches and surveyed children on the after school clubs they would like us to run. Some of the requested clubs have run this term and others are planned for the Autumn.

CREW (Christ Church Eco Warriors) have also been busy this year: they entered a design into the Royal Parks Bug Hotel competition, campaigned for us all to reduce single use plastics in school, planted over 500 bulbs with the Friends and have grown some amazing vegetables which have been used in our school lunches! So far we have eaten potatoes, carrots, strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce, rocket and herbs which have been grown all over the school site. There will be more to harvest over the summer and in September, we hope!

## Anti-bullying week and Digital Citizenship week

In January, our Year 5 trained Anti-bullying champions helped Miss Innes to plan and run a very successful Anti-bullying week around the theme of being an upstander not a bystander. The Year 5 pupils led assemblies and a parent workshop and created a leaflet about the school's anti-bullying work. We also had great fun celebrating difference and diversity on odd sock day! In February, all classes focused on online safety and courtesy in our digital citizenship week. Children took part in special workshops and assemblies and we ran a parent workshop to raise awareness of this important issue.



## Vision consultation

In February we commissioned an external consultant to review provision and the medium-term vision for the school, through surveys of all stakeholders and discussions with children, parents, staff and governors. Thank you very much if you responded or took part.

It was wonderful that the summary report noted strengths such as: *'the strength of the community, the approachability of leaders, the level of staff morale and the safe, pastoral environment where pupils thrive both personally and academically'*.

Our plans to address the development areas are in place and in many cases have started already:

- **Healthy eating:** Look out for free fruit for the juniors at break time and no more cakes/sweets for birthdays from September as part of our drive to further promote healthy eating
- **Languages:** We have reviewed our French teaching timetable to give more classes more teaching time as well as introducing a weekly French session in Year 2 from September. Spanish club is new this term, too.
- **Curriculum review – especially STEM subjects:** we are in the process of reviewing our curriculum to ensure we have high quality coverage of computing, Science and DT. We have already focused a great deal on DT this term with electric houses, rain water collection systems, plant obelisks and water filtration systems being designed and built across the school this term.
- **Governor visibility:** look out for a new photo board for governors in the front office next term, further information on the website and in newsletters and governors at parent workshops and at school events next year.
- **Christian vision and distinctiveness:** reviewing and raising awareness of the school's Christian vision and values will form a large part of our work next academic year
- **Website development:** look out for more content and curriculum links on the website over next year. It already has all the monthly school newsletters and a growing archive of photos and information celebrating our many events.

## Precious places

Children from Years 1-6 have been sharing presentations about their 'precious places' this year while Reception class have continued with their introductory 'week in the spotlight' presentations.

We have learnt about some wonderful locations in the UK and from right around the world including the Isle of Islay in Scotland, a grandparents' house in Italy, the history of the family home in Amsterdam and lots and lots of beaches! One child even chose Christ Church School as his precious place, just before he returned to Japan after a very happy term in our school, and we have also heard about an imaginary land, too!

The aims of this project continue to be to develop children's public speaking and presentation skills (building on our 'one wonderful day' and 'try something new' projects in previous years) and to celebrate and learn from the wide range of different experiences our children have. A big thank you must go to all the parents who have helped their children prepare for and give their presentations this year.

Next year we want to continue to build on this success with a 'my family a century ago' presentation. This will link to our learning about the centenary of the end of the First World War and we will be encouraging children to choose one member of their family who was alive, anywhere in the world, 100 years ago and tell us a little about them and their life. This can be unconnected or connected to the First World War but should hopefully give children an opportunity to research and share a little about their family history and for everyone to learn about how the world has changed over the past century. We look forward to hearing some amazing stories about some amazing people!

## Sporting success!

Additional Government funding for PE and sport has now been increased and has helped us build on our sports provision again this year. We have continued with an afternoon on the Heath or at the Sports Hall for all KS2 classes, as well as in-school PE for all classes alongside providing lots of after school sports clubs. We have continued to enter a large number of Camden sports competitions this year – with a great deal of success (see results below). We also continue to receive very positive feedback about the sportsmanship, respect, encouragement and fair play that our teams demonstrate at these events. It is wonderful for the children to hear these comments from staff and parents at our school and from other schools and from the event organisers – all the children who have taken part this year should feel very proud of the way they have represented our school!

All children in the junior classes took part in our competitive cross country trials and athletics trials. We finally managed to avoid the rain and hire the Parliament Hill running track for our athletics trials events and for a team practice before the Camden competitions. Using the track was a great success and we will book it again for next year.

### Camden Competition Results 2017/18

**KS2 cross country** – small schools champion  
**Y5/6 athletics** – 7<sup>th</sup> place  
**Y3/4 athletics** – 3<sup>rd</sup> place, small schools champions  
**Y3/4 girls football** – runners up  
**Y3/4 boys football** – group stages  
**Y5/6 rounders tournament** – A team league champions, B team league runners up  
**Y5/6 girls and boys football league** – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places  
**Swimming gala** – various individual medals



Everyone had a lovely afternoon of fun games and activities at our school sports day in July with many, many parents and family members coming to watch and join in the fun and a resounding win for Du Maurier house (yellows)!

We have made an application for the school games award again this year and are awaiting the results.

## Building developments - Music room and Railings

In the Autumn term we transformed the IT room into the new music room and the wonderful Friends May Ball raised the funds for a new electric piano, new screen and recording software and a range of new instruments for all classes to use. We have also bought many new laptops and ipads which are in constant use around the school for computing and in other curriculum areas.



As we come to the end of the first full school year with the building project completed, the school is still looking very smart on the inside! Over the summer, work will take place to renew the junior steps, parts of the boundary walls and to repair and repaint all the external railings and original ironwork gates. This work, alongside the lovely outdoor area that the Friends have created at the top of the old infant steps and the beautiful bulbs planted all over the site, will hopefully get the outside of the school looking smart too!

## Teaching quality and provisional results

We have maintained our excellent quality of teaching this year, including the high standard of marking and feedback to children in all classes, and continued to use more experienced staff to support teaching and teachers across the school both in the classroom and 'behind the scenes'.

Our teachers continue to share their skills outside Christ Church, too; we have supported leaders and teachers in two local schools this year, as well as leading a moderation and assessment cluster of five schools, who work together to share good practice, and working with trainee teachers.

The vision consultation with all stakeholders commented on strengths in *'our creative curriculum, high expectations and quality of teaching and a balance between academic and personal growth and opportunity'*.

There are always areas to improve and next year we will build on our strengths, through reviewing our curriculum provision, particularly in the Science and Technology areas, as well as continuing to work on mentoring and supporting all members of teaching staff.

Analysis of our provisional results for the end of all three key stages shows that our results in terms of attainment levels and progress measures will continue to be well above local and national figures in all areas. There have been some very impressive individual results with plenty of children 'working at greater depth' within the Year 2 curriculum or achieving very high scaled scores at Year 6. We will share our results in more detail with parents in the Autumn term.

## Training new teachers - at Christ Church and beyond

Christ Church continues to be a lead school for the School Direct teacher training programme and we work with Teaching London to train new teachers, including the very successful training this year of Mrs Manning-Bennett and Miss Morgan who are both now fully qualified teachers – congratulations! Next year we will train another two teachers at Christ Church.



This year we have continued to expand our work supporting the Teaching London course running eight training days over the year when we welcome their whole cohort of 60 trainees into school for training on PE, phonics, writing, RE and art. This continues to provide excellent opportunities for professional development for our Christ Church staff as well as demonstrating our commitment to the profession and aiding recruitment of the best staff at a time of a growing recruitment challenge.

We have also hosted visits from secondary trainee teachers on the Teaching London course and two groups of US trainee teachers who were fascinated and very impressed by our little school!

## Other highlights this year

We have done so much more this year as well, including:

- Our **fundraising** efforts have continued this year. We again collected over 100 shoe boxes full of essentials and gifts for the Samaritan's Purse charity and our Harvest Festival food donations went to the Muswell Hill soup kitchen. Our Christmas events raised over £900 which was split between Cancer Research UK, Save the Children and to support a sick child in Armenia. We also raised money for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you very much for all your donations.
- Our **assemblies** have taught us about children's rights, how to make a difference to others and how to be an active and caring listener.
- There was such a very high standard of creative writing and presentation in our **writing competition** this year that some of the governors again found it almost impossible to pick the winners! It was great to welcome governors to the prize-giving assembly to present the certificates, too.
- We have participated in the national **MITA (Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants) research project** led by the Institute of Education allowing us to reflect on the deployment, direction and training of our vital team of TAs.
- We all took part in a very successful **walk to school week** in May with far more families thinking about travelling more healthily and sustainably. This has helped us renew our Bronze School Travel Plan accreditation again.

- Our **breakfast club** has now been running very successfully for nearly two years and has a large group of children booked in in advance or many parents using the on-the-day drop-in facility. Our **after school clubs** have included a great deal of committed sports training, some very creative writing and lego building and new chess and Spanish clubs.
- We continued with our **KS2 spelling challenge** this year – more and more children achieved over 100 correct words over the year, plus we awarded a most improved certificate for the child in each class who had made the most impressive progress in their scores. Our **times table challenge** has also run over the whole of this year and there have been some impressive results and progress in this area, too, with some pupils now completing the diamond challenge.
- Well over a hundred parents came to our seven **parent workshops** again this year to learn more about how to support children’s learning at home – feedback was again very positive and we will continue these next year.
- We have been re-accredited as a **Healthy School** this year, recognising our work on promoting healthy minds and bodies.
- We enjoyed a super **International Event** run by the Friends and a **Chinese New Year Celebration** at Burgh House with the Y4 giant paper mache dog on display!
- Classes and groups have taken part in some **amazing trips** this year including to Buckingham Palace, the Francis Crick Institute, Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre, the Postal Museum, the STEAM bus at Kings Cross, places of worship of all major world faiths, stop motion animation workshop at the City Learning Centre and St Paul’s Cathedral for a wonderful London Schools Service, not to mention regular trips to the Heath, whatever the weather! Year 6 had a fabulous week away at School Journey in Dorset, too.  
Thank you to all the parents who have helped to make these trips happen.



We hope you have enjoyed reading about some of our highlights this year – every child will have their own special highlights of the year to share with you, too.



And it snowed quite a bit, too!

