



Christ Church School

A village school in London inspiring *life in all its fullness*

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January 2019

Newsletter 5

Happy New Year and a
new vision statement
for our school

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term to all children and families!

Thank you very much from all the staff team to all children and families for their cards, gifts and best wishes at Christmas. I hope everyone had a restful and happy Christmas break.

Staff and Governors have been working hard last term on a renewed vision statement for the school which is explained and set out in full at the end of this newsletter – please take a few minutes to read the vision and to read the explanation about why we felt it was the right time to review this. I would very much welcome any comments from parents on the wording and meaning of the new vision statement and would like to invite any interested parents to come into school for a meeting to discuss it at 9am on Tuesday 15th January. If you are interested in being part of this group please do let me or the school office know. If you are unable to come on the 15th January, but you still have comments to make, I would love to hear from you. Please come and find me or email in your comments to the school office. Thank you very much in advance for your comments about our new vision statement.

With very best wishes for 2019,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Staff news

Many congratulations to Mrs Pagnello and her husband who are expecting their second child in July! Best wishes from everyone at school to the whole family!

We welcome two new Teaching Assistants for this term – welcome to Miss Jones and to Miss Jess. We also welcomed back another teaching assistant, Mr Parkes, before Christmas. Mr Parkes will continue at the school until February half term before returning to his football coaching role in the US.

Happiness Balloons!



We had a wonderful time releasing our balloons in December to celebrate the end of our Happiness Project. Thank you to parents who came to join us.

Children worked with a partner from a different class to write a message to go with the balloon. The messages aimed to spread a little bit of what we had all learnt about how to keep ourselves and others happy.

Examples of the inspirational messages the children wrote included:

'Be happy and never give up, stay strong and be unique!'

'Remember you are amazing – so never give up!' *'Always give a smile!'*

'Mindfulness can calm you down and always try your hardest.'

'Always try again when things are hard, even if it seems impossible, sometimes first impressions are wrong.' *'Always have a positive attitude!'*

'If you try something new you might find a talent you really like!'

It was wonderful for us to receive five messages back from people (in Reading, Purley, Hitchin, Kings Walden and Welwyn) who found our balloons and to hear that we had spread a little bit of happiness to others. The one found in Reading was even found by a head teacher who took it in to her primary school to share with the school in assembly!

Class assemblies

Spring term class assemblies and performing arts assemblies – all at 10am

Friday 25th January – Year 6 class assembly (school hall)

Friday 8th February – Year 1 class assembly (school hall)

Friday 15th February – Year 5 class assembly (school hall)

Friday 1st March – Year 3 class assembly (school hall) with Y3 parent workshop beforehand at 9am

Friday 8th March – Reception class assembly (school hall)

Friday 15th March – Year 2 class assembly (school hall)

Tuesday 26th March – Year 3 performing arts assembly (church)

Thursday 28th March – Year 4 class assembly (school hall)

Friday 29th March – Year 2 performing arts assembly (church)

Tuesday 2nd April – Year 5 performing arts assembly (church)

Monday 8th April – Rec, Y1, Y4, Y6 Street Dance performance (church)

Parent workshops this year

The workshops start at 9am
Wednesday 6th February – E-safety workshop – all parents welcome
Friday 1st March – Y3 workshop – writing

Friday 10th May – Y5 workshop – RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

Christmas charities – thank you!

Thank you very much to all families for their generous donations to our Christmas charity collections at our Nativity Play, our Carol Singing and on Christmas Jumper Day. We raised just over £900 to split between the three fantastic charities chosen by our school council.



We will be able to twin five of our toilets with new toilet facilities that we are able to support somewhere else in the world - look out for the signs in our toilets!



Information and reminders

Punctuality and attendance

Well done to the 59 children who received a 100% attendance certificate at the end of the Autumn term. Thank you to parents for supporting your children and the school by not asking for holiday absences in term time and arranging your appointments outside the school day.

Please make it your new year's resolution to make sure your child is on time for school at 8.50 every day. There are a number of children who are persistently late to school which is often embarrassing and upsetting for them and disruptive for the rest of the class and their teacher.

Please take care

Please take care on the steps and around the school as the weather continues to be wetter and colder.

Applications for Reception class 2019

The deadline for applications for next year's Reception class is 15th January 2019. For any sibling applications, please remember that parents need to fill in both the Camden online application form **and** the school's own supplementary form (available from the school office or on the school website). Please come in to ask in the office if you have any queries.



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This month's school website updates

We have completed our page about the Happiness Project – this includes the information and hand outs from the parent workshops last term (including information on how to promote a positive self-image for your child and on resilient families):

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/happiness-project-2018/>

We have also added a new information page about our Christ Church Arts Project:

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/cap-project-page-1/>

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 28: All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Secondary education must be available for every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity. Richer countries must help poorer countries to achieve this.



Dates

January

Monday 14th – Clubs start this week

February

Sunday 3rd, 11am – Children in

church, school choir singing

Monday 4th – Friday 8th – Keeping

Healthy and Safe Week

Wednesday 6th, 9-10am – E-safety

parent workshop

Week beginning 11th – KS2 times

tables challenge this week

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd – Half term

March

Sunday 3rd, 11am – Children in

church, school choir singing

Week beginning 4th – KS2 Spelling

challenge this week

Thursday 7th – World Book Day,

Friends Book Sale

Saturday 16th, eve – Friends Around

the World event tbc

Tuesday 19th, 9.50am – Music

assembly

Friday 22nd – INSET day, no children in school

Monday 25th – Last clubs this week

Sunday 31st, 11am – Children in

church, school choir singing for

Mothering Sunday

April

Wednesday 3rd, 3.45 – 7.30pm –

Parents evening

Thursday 4th, 3.45 – 6pm – Parents

evening

Friday 5th – Film Premiere! tbc

Monday 8th, 10am – Rec, Y1, Y4, Y6

Street Dance performance

Friday 12th, 11.15am – Easter/End of

term service in Church

Friday 12th, midday – children home for Easter Holidays

Monday 29th – Children back to school for Summer term

Welcome!

Welcome to both Livia and Stella who joined our Year 2 class before Christmas. A very warm welcome to them and their families!





Christ Church School, Hampstead

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Jesus, The Good Shepherd, promises 'life in all its fullness'. (JOHN 10:10)

At Christ Church we believe every child and adult in our school should be able both to experience life in all its fullness now and to aspire to life in all its fullness in the future.

We all seek to inspire life in all its fullness for all in the school through:

- ensuring a **safe, welcoming and inclusive environment** for children and adults, where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and flourish;
- the pursuit of **academic excellence** in all areas, with a determined desire for each child to make the best possible progress as a result of high aspirations, hard work and the development of a personal love for learning alongside the highest-quality teaching and support;
- offering the widest possible **breadth of curriculum** both within school and through extra-curricular activities, enriched by the vast range of opportunities locally and across London;
- **creativity and positivity** in all we do, mixing innovation with tradition;
- planned and spontaneous opportunities for **spiritual development** through reflection, discussion and harnessing curiosity, as well as the provision, at the heart of our school life, of daily opportunities for prayer and worship;
- the development and modelling of **strong, positive and loving relationships**, with peers, amongst the school community and in the wider community;
- the promotion of **respect and compassion for ourselves and for all others**, by cultivating positive emotional and physical well-being, by celebrating the diversity within and outside our school and by encouraging all of us to be empowered global citizens, guided at all times by the example of Christ's compassion alongside the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- engendering a **sense of community and responsibility** for others and for our local and global environment and enjoying working together towards our common goals and expecting and valuing contributions from all.

What is a vision statement?

A vision statement (similar to a mission statement which many organisations have) sets out the vision for the school and the school's aims. This is what we want to achieve and what we want to provide for every child and adult in our school community.

Why have we reviewed our vision statement now?

Our consultation with children, parents, staff and governors last Spring term identified many great strengths of the school but also identified that the Christian distinctiveness of the school was not at the forefront of the school's activities and community. As a Church of England school it is important and expected that we have a deeply and distinctively Christian vision and that this vision is rooted in a Biblical verse. After much deliberation, we have chosen to adopt the same Biblical quotation as the Church of England's vision for education in general – that is that we want everyone to experience 'life in all its fullness'. 'Life in all its fullness' is what Jesus promises at the end of telling the story of the Good Shepherd (John 10:10) and we felt this fitted well with our desire as a school to provide the widest possible experiences for children and to support everyone to develop both academically and personally.

Who reviewed the vision statement?

Senior staff, the chair of Governors and the vicar met with advisers from the London Diocesan Board for Schools to review our existing mission statement and agree on the Biblical root of our new vision statement. Mrs Forsdyke then wrote a draft statement which has been shared, discussed and refined by the full Governing Body and all the teaching and non-teaching staff. We would now very much welcome any comments from parents on the vision statement as well. You can meet with Mrs Forsdyke to share your views at 9am on Tuesday 15th January or send any comments into school. The ideas in the vision statement will also be shared with all the children in the school in assemblies next term.

Will this reviewed vision statement mean anything changes in the school?

This vision statement and the Christian values of *compassion, creativity, courage, simplicity and community* which underpin this vision and all we do in school will be introduced to the children in assemblies over the coming term. We also plan for our Arts Project films this term to help us all to learn about and introduce this vision and values. You will see the extended 'strapline' or motto on our school documents (including the monthly newsletter) and on a new school sign in the coming months and you will see the full vision statement on the school website and within our school policies.

However, what we do in school will not change - we are not changing our curriculum, our teaching or any of our events. We simply hope this new vision statement sums up everything we are already trying to do.