



Christ Church School

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

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Newsletter 7

Parent survey results

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you very much to all the parents who responded to our parent survey last month. It is wonderful to hear that your children are feeling safe, happy and well-looked after at our school and your responses and comments provide all the staff team with lots of positive feedback – thank you! There is always more we can do, though, and your comments and suggestions also give us lots to think about and we will be planning in some of the changes you have suggested over the coming months and terms. There is a detailed summary of the results of the survey at the end of this newsletter; please take a few minutes to read the results and other parents' comments. Of course, you are very welcome to provide feedback and suggestions at any time: find me in the playground and have a chat, email your comments in to the school office or make an appointment to meet with me or the class teacher.

I was also very pleased that parents provided such positive and constructive feedback about our new vision statement. In recent assemblies I have introduced 'a village school in London inspiring *life in all its fullness*' to the whole school. We have learnt about the story of the Good Shepherd to explain where the Biblical text is rooted and I asked all the children to reflect on and share what *life in all its fullness* might mean in our school:

'It's about having lots and lots of opportunities and being able to make choices for ourselves.' (Y5 pupil)

'It's about everyone getting the chance to experience everything you can in your life.' (Y4 pupil)

'It's always having a chance to share your ideas and express your views.' (Y3 pupil)

'It's about making the most of happy things.' (Y4 pupil)

'It's grasping every opportunity and trying your hardest in everything.' (Y6 pupil)

'You have one chance in life so make the most of it – don't make your life bad, make it good.' (Y5 pupil)

I thought the children's thoughtful responses really showed that they understood what *life in all its fullness* meant and the way this vision comes to life in our school. Children can often explain things a lot better than adults can!

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We are doing lots in school to celebrate reading and books on World Book Day!

- **Book Sale** – the Friends are again running a second hand book sale on the day. Please send your child in to school with any good quality second hand children's books you are willing to donate (3-5 books per child would be great, for age 5 upwards) and £3 to buy some books. If you would like to bring your books in before the day, please just drop them off to the school office. All proceeds go to the Friends and it's a great way to pass on books your child has grown out of. Thank you to Antonia Logue for organising this event – if you'd like to help on the day please get in touch with Antonia.
- **Every child should bring in a favourite book** (named) and be ready to share/read this book with others in their class. We are also going to have some set times in the day when everyone in school gets the chance to stop and read – even the adults!
- **Dressing up – only Reception** are dressing up as book characters this year
- **Online book sale** – the Friends have also set up a special discounted online book sale with 30% of sales going to the Friends. You can follow the link below for some great books:

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/shop/ChristChurchPrimarySchoolBookshop>

- **World book day vouchers** – every child will go home with their World Book Day voucher which you can use to buy a special World Books Day Book or to get £1 off any other book.



Staff news

Miss Tunis, one of our Teaching Assistants, is moving on to an exciting new job later this month. We all thank her for her hard work and send her best wishes and good luck!

Class assemblies

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

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 workshop

9-10am Friday 29th March

Y5 and 6 parents – **How can you support your child with exam anxiety?**

Led by Camden Well-being adviser

Update on our emotional well-being work

We are part-way through our application for a Well-being Award for Schools. The key messages from our evaluation of the Happiness Project (including feedback from children, parents and staff) are:

- the project had a big impact in getting children to think about giving to others in lots of different ways and that giving (as well as receiving) gifts can make us happy;
- the children really value how much their friends and families make them happy!
- whole school initiatives, when we all do things together, like our wake and shake sessions, have a really positive impact.

Our next steps in our emotional well-being work include further work on staff well-being, the introduction of a new mental health and well-being policy as well as trialling short mindfulness/reflection sessions in some classes after lunch. Also, have a look at our new well-being board in the hall and we have a new well-being section in our library. Please ask Ms Miller for more details or if you would like to borrow a book.

Information and reminders

Parking and driving around school

Please drive and park carefully and legally around school. There have been recent comments both from parents at Christ Church and local residents about the dangerous behaviour of some drivers on Christchurch Hill. Please take care and consider pedestrians, many of which are small children, residents and other drivers when you are dropping off or picking up from school. If you can, please walk to school or park at a distance from school.



This month's school website updates

Look at our super snowmen pictures!:

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/news/events-2018-2019/>

We have also uploaded a copy of our home school book on to the website – it includes lots of reminders and useful information: <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/parents/routines/>

Our Christian Values

This term we will be introducing our reviewed school vision and Christian values to the children. Our chosen Christian values are compassion, simplicity, courage, community and creativity, with each one rooted in a Biblical text or story and then related to children's own lives and how we act. Over the next five months we will introduce these values, one at a time, to parents in the newsletter, too.



Compassion This value is rooted in Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan, which is told in Luke 10. Jesus has told those listening to him that they should 'love God with all their heart and love their neighbour as they love themselves' when someone in the crowd asks 'but who is my neighbour?'

As his answer, Jesus tells the story of a Jew who is attacked by robbers and left gravely injured by the side of a lonely road. First a religious leader, and then a temple worker, both respected members of the community, walk along the road, but neither of them approaches the injured man to help. They ignore him and walk on. Then a Samaritan, a man from Samaria whose people often argued and fought with the Jews, passes along the road. The Samaritan stops, bandages the man's wounds and takes him to an inn to be cared for.

Jesus asks his listeners whether they now understand who is their neighbour and they explain that everyone is our neighbour and that they should show compassion for all.

We often think of being compassionate as 'putting yourself in other people's shoes', thinking about how other people are feeling and doing whatever you can to help them, whoever they are.

We have introduced this value by talking about the story as well as linking this to our own lives by reflecting on ideas such as:

- ❖ Compassion is helping others if they are hurt, for example if they fall over in the playground.
- ❖ Compassion is thinking about children around the world who don't have the same opportunities as us and doing what we can to make a difference to them.
- ❖ Compassion is being a good listener if someone is upset or worried and doing what we can to help.
- ❖ Compassion is showing kindness and respect to everyone, even if they are different from us – treating others how we would like to be treated.
- ❖ Compassion is putting ourselves in other people's shoes.

Dates

March

Friday 1st March – Friends disco

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 – **only Reception class are dressing up this year**

Tuesday 19th, 9.50am – Music assembly

Friday 22nd – INSET day, no children in school

Monday 25th – Last clubs this week
Monday 25th eve – Choir festival – details tbc

Friday 29th, 9am – Y5/6 parent workshop – exam anxiety

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! times tbc

Saturday 6th, eve CHANGED DATE – Friends Around the World event

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

Careers event – volunteers needed!

We are starting to plan ahead for our Careers Event on 12th June. We need parents with all sorts of careers and jobs who are willing to share a little bit about them with small groups of children. If you could spare us some time on the morning of Wednesday 12th June, then please do let the school office or Miss Parsons know. We run this event every two years for our Year 5 and 6 classes and for children from other local schools and it is only a great success if we have lots of volunteers! Thank you very much in advance for your help!





Christ Church School

Parent Survey Results 2019

Thank you very much to the 74 parents who responded to our online survey. This is 53% of the families in our school and a little lower than our previous response rates.

Parents are, of course, very welcome to bring any concerns, issues or suggestions to class teachers or to Mrs Forsdyke or Mr Hollings at any time. Please feel free to make an appointment to meet with us if you need to.

The school's leadership team and governors are very pleased with the continuing very positive results and feedback from parents and we are delighted that children feel safe and happy at school.

(2017 results in brackets – we asked slightly different questions in our vision consultation in 2018))	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at Christ Church School	73% (66%)	26% (33%)	1% (1%)	0 (0)	0 (0)
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	81% (68%)	15% (30%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4% (2%)
My child makes good progress at Christ Church	57% (48%)	38% (46%)	1% (5%)	0 (0)	4% (1%)
My child is well looked after at Christ Church	74% (66%)	23% (31%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3% (3%)
My child is taught well at Christ Church School	65% (55%)	32% (41%)	0 (2%)	0 (0)	3% (2%)
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	34% (30%)	55% (46%)	4% (19%)	0 (2%)	7% (3%)
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	64% (47%)	28% (47%)	1% (2%)	0 (0)	7% (4%)
Christ Church School deals effectively with bullying (2019 don't know response=don't know/I don't have any experience of this)	18% (22%)	30% (35%)	5% (9%)	0 (1%)	47% (33%)
Christ Church School is well led and managed	88% (70%)	12% (25%)	0 (2%)	0 (0)	0 (3%)
Christ Church School responds well to any concerns I raise	42% (43%)	41% (45%)	3% (6%)	0 (0)	15% (6%)
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	32% (30%)	55% (56%)	9% (13%)	1% (0)	1% (1%)
My child has the opportunity to take part in a wide range of different activities	61% (52%)	31% (39%)	5% (7%)	0 (0)	3% (2%)
What is really important in our school? (new question in 2019, respondents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence				76%
	A wide curriculum				74%
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care				96%
	Our Christian character and ethos				61%
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity				69%
	Making a difference to others				61%
	Creativity , performance and arts activities				78%
Other (respondents added sport, music, working together)				18%	

24 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 14 of these comments included varied suggestions for improvement. We can't respond to every suggestion individually but please be assured they have all been read and noted and we will take action where we can.

Over all the survey provides the school with very positive feedback, however there are always areas for improvement and parents' comments provide us with very valuable feedback about areas we could develop. Two themes emerged from the responses to the questions and parents' additional comments at the end of the survey.

Information about children's progress

There were two comments from parents asking for more regular or extensive information about their child's progress and the responses to the related question in the survey are also less positive.

School response

Currently we provide two formal parents' evenings each year, with brief written notes sent home afterwards, and a comprehensive written report in the summer term. We think this is sufficient formal opportunities to report on progress but please be aware that parents can ask to meet with teachers to discuss children's progress at any other time in the year. Many parents take advantage of this offer and teachers are often meeting with parents before or after school. If you would like to arrange an appointment, please speak to the class teacher or let the school office know.

Our written report and teachers' conversations at parents' evenings focus both on children's progress and on their attainment compared to the national expectation for the year group. We do not think it would be helpful or positive to rank children or to make comparisons with other children in the class.

Use of the Heath

There were three comments from parents about using the Heath more.

School response

- KS2 classes (Y3-6) spend an afternoon on the Heath for sports each week (weather permitting!)
- Reception take part in fortnightly trips to the Heath where they take part in a wide range of different activities.
- All classes visit the Heath on other ad hoc occasions for picnics, Science trips, art activities etc

Reception certainly make the most of having the Heath so nearby and gain a great deal from their regular trips there – in response to parents' comments we will think about how we can continue this in some way into Year 1 and Year 2 before the sports afternoons start in Year 3. The commitment of time and adults needed wouldn't mean we could keep up the fortnightly trips in Year 1 and Year 2 but we could certainly make more regular use of the Heath for these two classes.

School vision

We also asked parents for their comments on the reviewed school vision statement, summarised in the school 'strap line': 'A village school in London, inspiring *life in all its fullness*' rooted in the Biblical text of the Good Shepherd in John 10:10.

Parents were, in general, positive about the new vision statement, providing support for the rooting in Biblical text as well as how we are trying to live out this vision in how the school works day-to-day. Some parents posed questions about the statement's clarity or meaning – hopefully this will become clearer as we embed this new vision into our school in the coming months.

A selection of parents' positive comments about the vision statement:

- *'The new vision has already been cleverly woven into various school activities. Many organisations declare their vision but fail to actively implement it. Christ Church have managed to live their vision.'*
- *'It's fantastic to see scripture in the school's vision; in fact, you could probably lose the 'village school' element... The statement fits perfectly with Christ Church's considerable and successful efforts to provide breadth of experience, through the curriculum, clubs, trips and special weekly focuses.'*
- *'I think the essence of the vision statement does an excellent job at encapsulating our experience at Christ Church. In addition to the wide range of excellent teaching and organised activities the children have the opportunity to participate in, it really strikes me how the school also approaches day to day events so as to promote joyful experiences for the children. A perfect example is the day it snowed and instead of approaching the snowfall as a health and safety issue which the children had to be kept away from, the fact that the staff cordoned off the snow so as to allow for snowman building later in the day, harnessed the natural excitement among the children and allowed them to really enjoy the weather and create lovely memories. For me it is this type of approach which demonstrates the focus on living life and finding happiness in the everyday which makes the school so special.'*

A flavour of the many positive comments received – thank you very much!

'Thank you to everyone for all the hard work which goes into creating such a positive and joyful school environment at Christ Church. We are delighted to be part of the community.'

'Christ Church children are curious, happy, respectful and kind and have a love of learning – thank you Christ Church School!'

'The positivity around the school from parents to kids and staff is forever present...There is wonderful energy surrounding our kids which we are incredibly blessed with. Not to mention the excellent teaching, support staff, leadership.'