



Christ Church School

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

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April 2019

Newsletter 8

Dear parents and carers,

As the spring weather arrives, children have been thinking about how to care for the environment around us in lots of different ways. School Council and CREW (our children's eco-team) have launched a joint campaign to make us a single-use-plastic free school – parents should have received a letter home in books bags from them encouraging parents to make sure there are no single-use-plastic items in lunch boxes or in afterschool club snacks. This includes throw away plastic bottles, plastic bags and cling film, please. School Council and CREW are also running two competitions for children to promote the issue: a poster competition and a competition to design a logo for a fabric tote bag.

We also have a new 'bug hotel' on the pathway on the left as you come down the steps to the junior playground. Thank you very much to Joseph in Y6 (and his family) for designing, creating and installing the bug hotel which we hope will encourage lots of different minibeasts. Reception did a great job of collecting natural materials on the Heath to fill the different sections, too! (See photo below.)

All families are very welcome to our end of term service in Church at 11.15am on Friday 12th April. This year our service will focus particularly on Palm Sunday and there will also be a display of children's Easter work in the Church. I hope to see lots of families there and before that at our film premiere event on Friday!

With very best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



Gold RE Quality Mark!

We are all delighted that the school has been awarded a Gold RE Quality Mark after a visit from an assessor from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. The assessor looked at children's work, spoke to staff, including our RE subject leader, Mr Hollings, and, most importantly, spoke to children from across the school about their RE work. We are very proud of the very positive comments in the assessor's report:

'At Christ Church School, Hampstead, there is a real care for high-quality RE throughout the school. This curriculum area is innovatively and well led, clearly having a long-lasting impact upon all pupils and the wider school community. The subject supports the faith of those who have one, whilst inclusively developing deep religious literacy in all. It both markedly contributes to the character development of all pupils whilst contributing significantly to the whole community. Pupils are very insightful about the value of their RE learning, both for today and in their future, particularly in the troubled times that our world currently finds itself in.

It was a joy to visit Christ Church School, Hampstead and meet pupils and staff who share such understanding and dedication for high quality RE for all. The effect of rapidly developing and embedded effective practice, led by the RE subject leader is a real beacon of hope for today.'

Volunteering at Henderson Court

This term we have started a weekly volunteering session for Year 5 and 6 pupils at Henderson Court, which is a local centre for the elderly run by Age UK.

An Age UK volunteer came into school to talk to the Year 5 and 6 classes about the centre and we are taking a small group of children to spend time talking and playing games with the elderly people each Monday lunchtime. We have a long list of children who are keen to volunteer their break time to take part which is great to see! Our whole Year 5 class has also been working hard to fundraise to buy plants to refill the window boxes at Henderson Court. They will all take part in the gardening session at the centre this week.

This volunteering initiative came about as a result of our 'Giving' week in the Autumn term Happiness Project – we felt that volunteering our time was one way of giving that was missing from what we do in school and it has been good to set up this relationship with Henderson Court, which we hope we can build on in the future.



Class assemblies

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

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

Thursday 4th April CHANGED DATE- Rec, Y1, Y4, Y6 Street Dance performance (church)

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

Friday 10th May – Y5 class assembly, with Y5 parent workshop (RSE) beforehand at 9am

Friday 17th May – Y1 class assembly
Friday 24th May – Y4 performing arts assembly (church)

Friday 7th June – Y2 class assembly
Friday 14th June – Y3 class assembly
Tuesday 18th June – Rec performing arts assembly (church)

Tuesday 25th June – Y1 performing arts assembly (church)
Friday 28th June – Rec class assembly
Friday 5th July – Y4 class assembly
Friday 12th July – Y6 memories assembly

Summer term – Children in Church

The school choir will be singing in church on 12th May, 9th June (Confirmation service led by the Bishop of Edmonton) and 14th July

Careers event on 12th June

More parent volunteers are still needed to talk about their jobs! Please contact the office for more information or to volunteer.

Well dones!

Reception raised a super £463 for Great Ormond Street Hospital last month with a sponsored run in the playground – they ran a mile between them in an enormous relay race! Reception were learning about what it means to be part of a community and how we can help others in our community and they chose Great Ormond Street as a good cause to support. Well done, Reception!



Well done to our Y6 **hockey team** who represented Camden in the London Youth Games last week. It was fantastic that the Christ Church team was awarded the 'Respect the Games' award, out of all the teams who competed, for their excellent sportsmanship! Brilliant!

Well done to the **choir** who performed brilliantly at the Camden choir festival last week. They sang in a massed choir made up of children from six different schools and also performed 'Make your own kind of music' wonderfully.



Information and reminders



This month's school website updates

World Book Day photos are here:

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

Thank you for everyone's support of the day – especially to those parents who helped at the Friends Book Sale. We all had a great day reading and talking about books!

There are lots of photos of our film projects here:

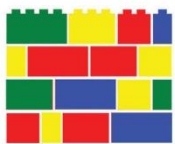
<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/news/events-2018-2019/>

Childcare vouchers

Please remember that childcare vouchers can only be used to pay for afterschool clubs and breakfast club – they cannot be used to pay for school lunches or trips.

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.



Creativity This value is rooted in the Old Testament story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-7).

Nehemiah was an adviser in the court of the King of Persia but when he heard that his home city of Jerusalem had been destroyed, he

vowed to return there and rebuild the city. He travelled to Jerusalem, sought help from God and used his leadership skills to encourage others to help him in rebuilding the walls. He used his creativity to organise people in teams so that they could build at the same time as defending themselves. Nehemiah is known as a great creative builder and leader – someone who is determined to build things up and mend them, not knock them down or break them.

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

- ❖ Creativity is using our skills and talents to create wonderful things.
- ❖ Creativity is thinking up new ways of doing things.
- ❖ Creativity is working together to solve problems.
- ❖ Creativity is being positive and building each other up.
- ❖ Creativity is making the most of the skills and talents God has given us.
- ❖ Creativity is being someone who builds things up and mends them, not someone who knocks things down or breaks them.
- ❖ Creativity is sharing our great ideas – we can do amazing things if we work together



Our new bug hotel!

Dates

April

Wednesday 3rd, 3.45 – 7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 4th, 10am CHANGED DATE - Rec, Y1, Y4, Y6 Street Dance performance

Thursday 4th, 3.45 – 6pm – Parents evening

Friday 5th – Film Premiere! tickets only

Saturday 6th, 5-7.30pm – Friends Around the World event

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

School Policies

The following school policies have recently been reviewed by school staff and governors. All our school policies are available on the school website or paper copies are available on request from the school.

- Mental Health and Well-being Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Attendance & Punctuality Policy
- Policy on Marking and Feedback to Children
- Music Curriculum Statement
- Art and Design Curriculum Statement
- Design Technology Curriculum Statement
- Continuing Professional Development Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality Policy and Plan
- Data Protection Policy