



# Christ Church School

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

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May 2019  
Newsletter 9

Summer term!

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term! I hope everyone had a restful and happy Easter break. It was lovely to hear children sharing their very varied Easter experiences in assembly this week; these included being blessed with holy water outside a Russian Church, celebrating Easter on two different days here and in Romania, watching a spectacular Easter parade in Spain, taking part in an Easter egg hunt in the heat of an Indian park as well as witnessing a Passion Play in Trafalgar Square!

Thank you to everyone who came to our film premiere event at the end of last term – the children and staff had a wonderful time walking down the red carpet and seeing themselves and their animations on the big screen! Thank you also for your kind donations towards our future Arts Projects (we couldn't do these projects without your donations and the support of the Friends Association). The children had an amazing time creating the animations, using the cameras and filming our school and we really hope that the films brought our Christian vision and values to life in an accessible way for everyone. All the films are now available on our website, as promised, under the 'about us' menu.

We have lots planned for the summer term, including starting to plant our vegetables this week, as well as all of our usual end of year events later in the term. Please make a note of the dates for the term and look out for details of how you can get involved in these newsletters and in the class leaflets which will come home next week.

With very best wishes for the summer term,  
Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

## Staff news

Miss Bettle, one of our teaching assistants, has decided not to return to her post at Christ Church after spending a term caring for her father in Turkey. Miss Bettle has worked at the school for over 17 years and has cared for and supported hundreds of children and dozens of different classes. She will be very much missed from our staff team and we are hoping she will be able to come into school to say good bye to everyone in the next couple of weeks before her move to Turkey. Good luck, thank you and our very best wishes, Miss Bettle!

## Well-being Award for Christ Church!



Christ Church was awarded a national Well-being Award for Schools. We were visited for the day by an assessor who spoke with children, staff, parents and governors as well as looking at all our Happiness Project work and our work supporting other schools to develop their emotional well-being support for their school communities. We are very proud of the very positive feedback we received about our work in school since supporting children's well-being

is such an important part of our school vision:

*'Well-being is integral to all the school does. The values of the school instil a strong sense of community and underpin a culture in which pupils and staff are empowered to take responsibility for their own and others' well-being.'*

Thank you to the parents who came in to talk about our well-being work during the assessment day and to Ms Miller for leading this area of work for the school.

## New Chairs of the Friends Association

Parents should have received an email at the end of last term introducing Isabel and Charlotte as the new Chairs of the Friends Association. Thank you very much to Isabel and Charlotte for taking on this role!

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

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Y5 class assembly**, with Y5 parent workshop (RSE) beforehand at 9am

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Y1 class assembly**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Y4 performing arts assembly** (church)

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Y2 class assembly**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Y3 class assembly**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Rec performing arts assembly** (church)

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Y1 performing arts assembly** (church)

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Rec class assembly**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Y4 class assembly**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Y6 memories assembly**

## Good luck Year 6!

Year 6 have been working very hard towards their end of key stage 2 SATs tests which take place on 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May. We are sure they will all do brilliantly!

Christ Church  Hampstead

## New Junior Sunday School at Christ Church

Christ Church has recently started a new Junior Sunday School on certain Sundays for children aged 7 and over. The Sunday school takes place in the Vestry during the 11am morning service and this term will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## Attendance

Our whole school attendance figure to the end of the Spring term is 97.09%. This is a good whole school figure at this stage in the year but this is still an area of focus for the school and Ms Miller has recently been in contact with parents of children who have attendance under 95%. Governors have also recently agreed a new Attendance Policy for the school. The policy is available on our website. Well done to the 32 children who took home 100% attendance certificates at the end of last term. Thank you to parents for their support with attendance and please make sure that if your child is well they are in school every day this term (including the very last day, please!)

## Information and reminders



### This month's school website updates

The school's Christian vision and values films are on the website here:

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/christian-value-films/>

Photos of all of our Spring term events, including the Film Premiere, the Street Dance performance and the Around the World event, are available here:

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

### Christ Church Passage closure

As the last phase of the building works at 29 New End starts, the contractors have secured a licence from Camden to close Christ Church Passage in order to work on the boundary of the site and rebuild the wall. We are trying hard to persuade them to do this quickly and to reopen Christ Church Passage as soon as possible but the licence is in place until September so it may be closed for the rest of term. While Christ Church Passage is closed, please leave extra time to get to school at the beginning and end of the day.

### If children are leaving...

If your children are moving on at the end of this term (or even if you are considering this but have no confirmation yet) please do let us know. This really helps us with admissions and filling places for other children next year. Thank you.

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## Our Christian Values

In the Spring term we introduced 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.



**Courage** This value is rooted in the Old Testament story of Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6: 1-28).

Daniel is an important adviser in the court of the King Darius – he becomes Darius's most trusted friend and the other advisers in the court grow jealous and begin to plot against Daniel. Daniel is a faithful Jew, whereas Darius and many of the others in the kingdom are not. The other advisers persuade Darius to make a new law insisting that everyone can only worship Darius the King; anyone worshipping another god will be thrown to the lions. Even in the face of this new law, Daniel has the courage to continue to do what he knows is right and to openly and faithfully pray to God, until, reluctantly, King Darius has him thrown to the lions. Daniel again has the courage to face this terrible fate and prays to God for help. When Daniel is found alive the next morning, surrounded by sleeping lions, he explains that God sent an angel to stop up the mouths of the lions so that they caused him no harm. King Darius rejoices that Daniel has survived and announces that 'Daniel's God is the living God!'

We have introduced our value of courage by talking about this story and about how courage is like a candle that can waver as well as grow in strength with the support of others. We have been linking this value to our own lives by reflecting on ideas such as:

- ❖ Courage is being brave when we are hurt or ill.
- ❖ Courage is trying something new for the first time.
- ❖ Courage is being resilient when you don't succeed the first time and bouncing back and trying again.
- ❖ Courage is standing up for what you know is right, even when it's difficult.
- ❖ Courage is being an upstander not a bystander when something is going wrong.
- ❖ Courage is being brave enough to be different from other people.

**Welcome** to Gregory who has joined our Year 1 class – a warm welcome to Gregory and his family!

## **Dates**

### **May**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3.20 – 4.30 – Friends Bake Off in the playgrounds

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – **Bank Holiday – no school**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – After school clubs start

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Children in Church, school choir singing

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 SATs tests

Week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Walk to School week

Week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – KS2 timetable challenge this week

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – Half term**

### **June**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – UNICEF SoccerAid day – wear your happiness t-shirt! More details to come

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Children in Church, Confirmation Service, School choir singing

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Spelling challenge this week

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> – PSHE week: the wider community

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Careers morning

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – INSET day, no children in school**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, pm – New Reception children and parents afternoon

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> – Friends Summer Fair

### **July**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – last after school clubs this week

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, pm – Sports Day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, pm – Reserve Sports Day (for rain)

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, pm – Open Afternoon

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Summer Serenade

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Y6 production

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Y6 production

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Children in Church, school choir singing

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, pm – Y6 banquet

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, 11.15am – End of term/Leavers Service in Church, all families very welcome

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, 12 midday – all children home for the holidays**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – new Y1-6 back to school for the new year**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September – new Rec class start half days