



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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December 2019

Newsletter 4

Christmas!

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you very much for your support of our Art Exhibition last month and the Friends Christmas Fair, especially to Charlotte, Isabel and their team who organised such a successful event for the whole school community.

December is a very busy time at school and we ask for and rely on lots of parent help and support over the next month. Thank you in advance for the Nativity costumes, Christmas hats and seven presents, and for coming to events such as the Carol Service, KS2 carol singing outside Waterstones or Christmas Service. There is a lot going on, so please do come and ask if you are not sure when things are happening, what to send in or how you can help! Dates and times of events are below.

We really couldn't make Christmas such a special time for all the children at school without all the help from parents and families – thank you very much indeed.

With early best wishes for a Happy Christmas,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Christmas charities

School council, which includes representatives from all classes, have chosen our Christmas charities and they have decided to continue to support the same three organisations as last year. We will be supporting World Vision, a Christian charity who support vulnerable children around the world, Toilet Twinning, to raise money for clean hygienic toilets and Great Ormond Street Hospital, where some of our children and families have recently been supported.

We raise money with collections at our Nativity Play, KS2 carol singing in Hampstead and on our Christmas Jumper Day. Please give generously – they are all wonderful causes to support.



Punctuality and the beginning of the day

It is getting very congested, particularly in the hall, at the beginning of the school day and the lines in the playground are looking very empty as children are arriving later to school and joining their classes from all directions– *please read the following information carefully and help us all to have a punctual and orderly start to the school day. Thank you!*

- Children should be in the playground ready to line up when the bell rings at 8.50am. Learning and the school day starts straight away at 8.50am – children are missing learning time as well as disrupting other children and staff if they arrive late.
- Children and parents should not be in school before the bell rings (unless it's raining or parents have a query for the school office). Please stay outside in the playgrounds.
- Juniors should enter the junior playground via Christ Church Passage and down the junior steps. Infants should enter through the infant gate on Christchurch Hill. If you have children in both playgrounds, please move between the playgrounds by the passageway between the playgrounds, not via the hall. (The only exception to this is parents with push chairs – please use the hall if you need to but it really helps if you let the children in and up to their classrooms first).
- Junior children should make sure they are in the junior playground on time to join their class line, rather than entering through the hall, please.
- Parents, please don't come into school with your child (infant parents are great at saying good bye in the playground but there are more and more Year 3 and 4 parents in the hall each day at the moment). Once the bell has gone, junior parents please say good bye to your child and then leave the playground by the junior steps or round the passageway to the infant gate.
- Only parents who have a query for the school office should be in the school building at the beginning of the day, please.

It has been very hard to access the school while Christchurch Passage has been closed over the past several months but having this access open will be a great help to many families. Please make every effort to be on time so that children are ready to start the day at 8.50am.

Autumn term class assemblies – all at 10am in the school hall

Friday 6th December – Y5 class assembly

Dates

December

Sunday 1st, 12-2pm – Christmas Fair

Week beginning Monday 2nd – Last after school clubs

Thursday 12th, 10am – Infant nativity play in Church – please queue up by the main door and wait to be let in, please don't ring the nursery bell!

Friday 13th, am – Friends Present Sale (bring the seven presents, £5 in coins and a shopping bag!)

Tuesday 17th, 6pm – School carol service in church –all families welcome, school choir singing and refreshments afterwards provided by the Friends

Wednesday 18th – Christmas Jumper Day! Please bring a donation for our Christmas charities.

CHANGED DATE: Wednesday 18th, 2pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead – please come to support us!

Friday 20th, 11.15am – Christmas service in church – everyone welcome, please wait by the main church door.

Friday 20th, midday – all children home for the holidays

Monday 6th January – all children back to school for the Spring term

Please take care on our steps!

As the weather gets wetter and colder and the leaves continue to fall, please take extra care on the steps and around the school site.

School meals feedback and next steps

The Year 6 school council representatives and Mrs Forsdyke recently met with the Operations Manager from Caterlink and the Camden school meals monitoring officer to give children, staff and parent feedback about school meals. School councillors set out their concerns about portion size, variety for vegetarians and choice for the last classes to be served, as well as lots of positive feedback from the surveys they carried out in every class. Recent parent feedback was also passed on to Caterlink and Camden's monitoring team. There was lots of useful and interesting discussion about

- how the school meals are decided upon following the School Food Standards and the Camden enhanced food standards;
- how each whole meal (main course and pudding) is nutritionally analysed to make sure it is healthy and includes the right elements, e.g. 60g protein per meal;
- recent training for our school cooks which has helped quality improve and them to achieve very highly on the regular monitoring visits;
- how everyone is trying to limit food waste and how children, the cooks and the school can help to reduce this.

Some next steps were decided as a result of the meeting (and school council will talk about these with the school in an assembly):

- ongoing monitoring of portion sizes by Caterlink to ensure these are correct, alongside ongoing and regular monitoring of quality of food;
- trialling a meat-free Monday for the spring term where there will be two vegetarian (and no meat) options – lots of Camden schools are already trying this;
- cooking a few more vegetarian portions and more vegetables to ensure there is enough for everyone, but at the same time trying to limit waste. There should be unlimited salad and vegetables for everyone.
- expanding the selections of salads that are available;
- Caterlink took away lots of the children's suggestions about meals (e.g. soups) to think about whether they can be incorporated in the menus in the future;
- Caterlink will communicate again with the delivery companies to ensure deliveries take place as planned – this is often the reason why, on occasion, something different from the published menu is served.

The adults at the meeting were very impressed with the children's comments and thanked all the children and parents for the very useful feedback.

Design and technology (DT) projects

We hope you enjoyed finding and buying your child's Christmas item at the Christmas Fair. This year we linked these items to our Design and Technology curriculum and children put in a lot of effort to research, design, make and evaluate the items to sell.

Our DT work included:

- mood boards of research and then taste-testing of the gingerbread made by Year 5;
- detailed evaluation of a first attempt at the decorations and puppets made by Years 1 and 6 and then creation of much-improved second versions to sell;
- moving mechanisms built into the Christmas cards and toys created by Years 2 and 3;
- prototypes of biscuit boxes created and tested for strength by Year 4;
- mixing of salt dough to create decorations in Reception.

You never knew so much thought went into the items you bought at the Fair!



Healthy schools – Gold!

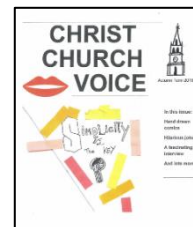
We were all very pleased that Christ Church was awarded the Gold Healthy Schools accreditation last month. This accreditation recognises how much we do to support and promote physically and mentally healthy lives for the children and wider school community. Thank you to Miss Innes, our PSHE leader, for all her work on the application process.



Sports events this term

Well done to all our teams who have taken part in sports events this term – we have sent teams to play dodgeball, benchball, hockey, basketball, football and to run in the cross country event. Children have represented the school brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship when they have won and lost.

'Christ Church Voice' magazine



Bea in Y6 has done a brilliant job of setting up a school magazine, collating contributions, including cartoons, pictures,

articles, recipes and jokes, from children across the school. The first edition last half term was a great success and widely-read in our classrooms and staffroom. Bea is in the process of putting together the next edition and children can send in their contributions on the theme of Christmas until the 6th December. Bea is also putting together a team of helpers from Y4, 5 and 6 to make sure the magazine will keep going in the future.

What a great idea, very well done Bea!

Miss Allen in Zambia!

Miss Allen (last year's Year 1 teacher) has had a brilliant term teaching and training teachers in Zambia. She sent lots of information about the school she has been working in which all the children



learnt about in an assembly and she will soon be back in the UK to tell us all about it. It looks like an amazing adventure!

SIAMS inspection and report

Thank you to all parents for their support of our SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) last month. We are waiting to receive our report which will then be shared with all parents.

Christmas boxes – thank you!

We sent over 125 Christmas gift boxes to the Samaritan's Purse charity last month. These boxes, filled with basic hygiene items and gifts, will be opened and appreciated by children in refugee camps or in war torn areas of the world. What a wonderful way for the children here to make a real difference to children living in very different circumstances elsewhere in the world. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this campaign