



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

February 2020
Newsletter 6

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Dear parents and carers,

Thank you very much to all the parents who completed the parent survey last month. We had 120 responses which is a very impressive 79% response rate out of all the families in the school! Thank you for being so engaged and interested in the work of the school. A summary of all the responses and details about some of the school's next steps following your feedback is included at the end of this newsletter – please take a few moments to read about what parents think and how we will respond.

Thank you for all the positive comments and feedback; it is wonderful to know that your children feel safe and happy at school and that 100% of parents would recommend the school to other parents. If you have raised a specific concern in the survey which you would like to speak to a member of staff about, then please do get in touch. I would be very happy to meet with parents to discuss any areas where you think we can improve or add to our provision.

We will be holding another 'pupil voice' assembly this month where we canvas the views of about a third of the children at a time, speaking in small groups about their learning and the school in general with a member of staff. This term we will also welcome some of our governors to join in with these conversations, too. Just like parents' views, children's views are also very important in shaping the way we run the school and decide on our next priorities.

With many thanks for your ongoing support of our school,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Staff news

Many congratulations to Mrs Manning-Bennett who is expecting a baby in July. We all send our very best wishes and congratulations to Bea and Neil!

2020 New Year's Resolutions for the school

In January, all classes contributed to a review of our 2019 school resolutions and helped to decide on some new resolutions for 2020. We will be looking back at them through the year to see how we are doing!

Be on time every day

Be ready in the playground before the bell rings at 8.50am every day.



Learning starts straight away!

Be compassionate and make a difference whenever we can

Put yourself in other people's shoes. Have courage to be an upstander. Be polite and considerate.



Raise awareness and money for charities in our local and global communities.

Keep ourselves healthy



Join in with 'wake and shake' enthusiastically each week and encourage others to join in, too!

Eat the fruit at break time.



Be eco-friendly

Turn lights and screens off. Turn the heating and air conditioning down or off.



No single-use plastic at all! Don't waste food.

Re-use scrap paper before we recycle.

Grow our own vegetables and plants.



Look after our school

Keep the toilets clean and tidy.

Put fruit peel and cores in the bin.



Pick things up in the cloakrooms.



Include everyone and spend time with other classes

Enjoy the fact we all belong to Christ Church School.

Take part in activities with other classes and as a community.

Include everyone in our games.



Always try to be positive, friendly and resilient



Think about how to keep ourselves and others happy. Smile!

Enjoy and appreciate the simple things.

Bounce back when things are tricky.



Experience

life in all its fullness

Follow our school vision and values in everything we do.



Try new things whenever we can.

Make the most of every opportunity and try our very best.

Take part in as many sports, arts, technology, creative and other activities as we can fit in!

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Welcome!

Welcome to Miss Hext who has joined our teaching assistant team this term working mostly in Year 3 and Year 5. Welcome also to Miss Lans and Mr Binns who are completing trainee teacher placements in Year 4 and Year 2 this half term.

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

Weds 12th February – Y2 class assembly

Fri 14th February – Y1 class assembly

Weds 18th March – Y5 class assembly

Fri 20th March – Rec class assembly

Parent workshops

We are holding three whole school parent workshops this term, linked to our particular curriculum weeks.

In our PSHE week, focused on keeping healthy and safe, Ms Miller will run a workshop on the **importance of sleep for growing children:**

Monday 3rd February, 9-9.45am

There will also be a **basic First Aid workshop for parents**

Tuesday 4th February, 3.30 – 4.30pm.

We will look after children who are not in a club while parents take part.

Please email the office if you would like a place.

In our Tech week, E-safety experts from the Camden City Learning Centre (CLC) will run an **online safety workshop for parents**

Wednesday 4th March, 9-10am

Tech week – 2nd-6th March

Look out for lots of technology-based activities in our Tech week in the first week in March. Children will be building programmable robots and taking part in a workshop at the CLC, creating animations, apps and even sensor-controlled moving machines! Classes will also get the chance to learn about how technology has changed with a visit from the 'Codeshow' who bring technology from the 1970s and before up until the present day into schools to teach children about the rapid pace of change in how technology shapes our world and lives. Parents are very welcome to come into school to see the technology from the past after school on Tuesday 3rd March!

We will also all be learning about how to use technology safely and be responsible digital citizens. Please come to the parent workshop on online safety at 9am on Wednesday 4th March and also make time to talk to your child about their learning in this important area.



Year 4 at TATE Britain

Year 4's class photograph (from Year 3) is currently part of the enormous Steve McQueen art exhibition at TATE Britain, along with 76,000 other Year 3 pupils! Year 4 had a great time visiting the exhibition before Christmas and were very proud to find their photo amongst the thousands of others. The exhibition runs until the beginning of May and if you would like to visit and find our photo it is in the top right-hand corner of section three. But you might want to take your binoculars as the Christ Church photo is very high up!

Reception at Burgh House for Chinese New Year

Reception class were very proud to have their art work exhibited at Burgh House in Hampstead as part of their Chinese New Year event. Children in Reception had taken part in a printing workshop with volunteers from Burgh House making colourful prints for the year of the rat. They were very proud to take their Year 6 partners to the exhibition, too, to show off their art work.



Well done to our sports teams!

Well done to lots of children who have represented the school in sports teams recently, taking part in benchball, football and indoor athletics events this term. Well done especially to the Y5 and 6 football teams who both won their fair play leagues showing how to win and lose with great sportsmanship.

Information and reminders

Term dates 2020/21

Term dates for next academic year have now been set and are attached to the end of this newsletter and available on the school website. Please look carefully at these dates when booking holidays and note that we return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020. The dates are almost completely aligned with Camden community school dates next year. There are still four INSET days to be set for next year and these will be set and shared with parents in the summer term.

Because of the way the dates fall around Easter, we have an extra day's holiday to allocate which we have decided to add to the October half term. We will not return to school until Tuesday 3rd November after the week off. Hopefully this extra day will allow families to take advantage and book some cheaper flights over this holiday.

New privacy notice and photo permission form

Please note we have a new privacy notice for parents on our website at <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/privacy-notice/>. This explains how we use and share the data we hold about your child.

An updated photo permission form will also be coming home shortly – please help us by completing this fully and returning it to school. We love to be able to share photos of what we have been doing in the newsletter and on our website so it is really helpful if parents give us permission to do this. Please be aware that if you decide not to give us permission to use your child's photo, we may take a whole class or group photo at an event, followed by another photo asking any children without photo permission to step out for a moment.

Dates

February

Sunday 2nd, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th – PSHE week: keeping healthy and safe
Wake and shake every day this week!

Friday 7th, eve – Friends Disco

Week beginning 10th February – KS2 times tables challenge this week

Monday 17th – Friday 21st – Half term

Week beginning 24th February – KS2 spelling challenge this week

March

Sunday 1st, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th – Tech week, including digital citizenship and online safety

Tuesday 3rd, 3.30pm -Parents welcome to see the Codeshow technology from the past!

Wednesday 4th, 9-10am – Parent workshop – Online safety—all welcome

Tuesday 10th, pm and eve – Camden Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall

Friday 13th – Dressing up for World Book Day and Friends second hand book sale (we know this isn't on quite the right world book day date!)

Saturday 14th, eve – Friends Around the World International event – tbc

Tuesday 17th, 9.50am – Music assembly

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th – last after school clubs this week

Friday 27th, pm – Arts Project sharing event for parents – more details to come

April

Wednesday 1st, 3.45 – 7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 2nd, 3.45 – 6.00pm – Parents evening

Sunday 5th, 11am – Children in church, school choir singing, Palm Sunday

Thursday 9th, 11.15am – Easter Service in Church, all welcome

Thursday 9th, midday – all children go home for Easter holidays

Monday 27th April - all children back to school for the summer term



Christ Church School

Parent Survey Results 2020

Thank you very much to the 120 parents who responded to our online survey. This is 79% of the families in our school and a very impressive response rate which hopefully shows you really care about our school. Thank you very much for taking the time to respond.

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.

(2019 results in brackets – quite a few questions have changed since Ofsted have changed their parent view questions this year)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
My child is happy at Christ Church School	68% (73%)	30% (26%)	1% (1%)	0 (0)	1% (0)	
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	77% (81%)	23% (15%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1% (4%)	
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	57% (64%)	38% (28%)	2% (1%)	0 (0)	3% (7%)	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively (newly-phrased question for 2020 survey)	4%	15%	8%	1%	8%	64% My child has not been bullied
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (new question for 2020 survey)	35%	52%	9%	2%	3%	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly (newly-phrased question for 2020 survey)	25%	36%	6%	0	3%	30% I have not raised any concerns
Christ Church School has high expectations for my child (new question for 2020 survey)	34%	50%	7%	0	10%	
My child does well at Christ Church School (2019 Q: My child makes good progress at this school)	45% (57%)	48% (38%)	3% (1%)	0 (0)	3% (4%)	
The school lets me know how my child is doing (2019 Q: I receive valuable information about my child's progress)	33% (32%)	58% (55%)	5% (1%)	1% (1)	3% (1%)	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school (new question for 2020 survey)	38%	52%	5%	0	4%	
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school (2019 Q: My child has the opportunity to take part in a wide range of different activities)	47% (61%)	49% (31%)	2% (5%)	0 (0)	3% (3%)	
Christ Church School supports my child's wider personal development (new question for 2020 survey)	49%	44%	3%	0	3%	
I would recommend Christ Church School to another parent	Yes 100%		No 0%			
What is really important in our school? (respondents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence				78% (76%)	
	A wide curriculum				74% (74%)	
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care				94% (96%)	
	Our Christian character and ethos				61% (61%)	
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity				75% (69%)	
	Making a difference to others				64% (61%)	
Creativity, performance and arts activities				75% (78%)		

39 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 27 of these comments included varied suggestions for improvement covering over twenty different topics. 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. There are some really good ideas among them about, for example, new clubs for us to research, the way we organise payment for school lunches, how we set our term dates and schedule our class assemblies and ways we can support all pupils be healthy and physically active.

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. Three themes emerged from the responses to the questions and parents' additional comments at the end of the survey.

How we deal with parents' concerns, including bullying

A small number of parents indicated that they weren't happy with the way we have dealt with either their concerns or a bullying incident. If you are one of these parents and would like to come in to talk to Mrs Forsdyke, Mr Hollings or one of our governors to resolve any ongoing concerns or to discuss how we could improve this part of how we run the school, then please do arrange an appointment. Similarly, if you were one of the very small number of parents who indicated that you were not completely satisfied with how we provide for your child's Special Educational Needs, please do come and speak with us about how we can work together to improve this.

Information about our curriculum and what children will learn during the year

There were two comments from parents asking for further detail about our curriculum and what their child will learn and the responses to the related question in the survey were also less positive.

We try to send home and share information about our curriculum in a range of different ways over the school year:

- in our termly class leaflets – these are on the website <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/parents/class-leaflets/>
- in our curriculum information on the website, which includes overviews for each class and lots of information about each subject area <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/key-information/curriculum/> and <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/key-information/curriculum-subjects/>
- on our homework sheets each week teachers include information about the learning over the week
- in our parent workshops we share how we teach different subject areas – slides from the workshops are also on the website <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/parents/parent-workshops/>

If any parents would like more detailed information about the curriculum, please do come and ask us – teachers plan each subject and each sequence of lessons carefully to build on children's prior learning and make sure everyone makes progress.

Feedback about children's progress

There were five comments from parents asking for more regular, differently-timed or more extensive information about their child's progress. This included a couple of parents asking whether we could regularly send home children's books.

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 provides sufficient formal opportunity to report on progress but please be aware that parents can and do ask to meet with teachers to discuss children's progress at other times in the year. Many parents take advantage of this offer and teachers are often meeting with parents before or after school. This would be a good opportunity to go through your child's books with the teacher and to discuss progress, next steps and how you can support at home. If you would like to arrange an appointment or a time to come in to look through your child's books, please speak to the class teacher or let the school office know.

A flavour of the many positive comments received. It is these types of comments that make our hard-working and committed staff team give extra time and energy to your children and help to keep up our morale and community spirit – thank you very much!

'Fantastic school – warm, friendly staff, kind and caring children. Thank you for everything you do – not least with limited space and resources!'

'The school is very well run and a happy place to be. It's not only supportive to the children but also to parents' needs. A role model of a school in which children flourish, parents feel engaged and provides friendship and community.'

'We are very grateful for everything you do at the school. The happy, positive atmosphere is palpable and we are always impressed at how you keep such high morale and sense of community among staff, parents and pupils. Thank you.'

'Our child's progress since starting at Christ Church has far exceeded our expectations. Starting with English as his second language, we were apprehensive about how he would get on. From day one not only has his English come on in leaps and bounds but also his personality and his confidence. If only things were like this when I was at school!'

'I truly believe Christ Church to be an exceptional school with consistently excellent staff and a really good set of values which allow children to thrive.'

Thank you to all parents for their time in completing our questionnaire



Christ Church Primary School

2020/21 Term Dates

Please look carefully at these dates for the year, especially when you are booking holidays!

Autumn term 2020

INSET day: Wednesday 2nd September

First day of Autumn term: Thursday 3rd September

Half term: Monday 26th October - Monday 2nd November

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 18th December

Spring term 2021

First day of Spring term: Monday 4th January

Half term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

Last day of Spring term: Thursday 1st April

Summer term 2021

First day of Summer term: Monday 19th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Last day of Summer term: Friday 23rd July

N.B.

There are four further INSET days to be decided. Dates for these will be sent out to parents once they have been set in Summer 2020.

Please note the extra day of holiday at the end of the Autumn half term break - children return after half term on Tuesday 3rd November.

Children are not in school for INSET days - these are used for staff training.