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Dear parents and carers,

I am writing this newsletter in very different circumstances than normal and I am sure families are reading it in very different circumstances, too. It has been a whirlwind of a few weeks for everyone and I really hope all families stay safe and well and that we are back together in school soon. As a staff team we are trying to keep as many normal school things going as possible so this newsletter shares some of the events that took place before the school closures as well as some of the amazing home learning activities that have been taking place.

Children and families have been doing an amazing job with keeping learning going at home and teachers have been doing an equally amazing job setting this up and motivating children to keep going. It will be wonderful to see this continue to the end of term and into the summer term, too.

At the moment, we have no further idea about when we will be back at school – let's hope it's soon.

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



Rainbows of hope for a community of home learners!

Children and families from Christ Church have joined with children from across the UK to paint rainbows to put in their windows as a symbol of hope for the future and to show that they are all learning at home.



Wonderful World Book Day celebrations!

We had a brilliant time talking about reading and books when we celebrated World Book Day in March. The second hand book sale raised over £500 for the Friends Association, there were some great story-telling sessions at Waterstones and the home-made costumes were brilliant! (There are lots more



photos on our website: <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/events-spring-2020/>)

We have also now published our reading suggestion lists on our website under the parents menu. Thank you to children and parents if you sent in a suggestion for a favourite book!

Terrific Tech week!

We all enjoyed our Tech Week in March with trips to the CLC and visits from the CodeShow and robot-making workshops. We animated, programmed and created, using sensors, websites, robots and apps, as well as reviewing our agreements about how we use technology and the internet at school and reminding ourselves of all the important online safety rules we know.



Staff news

Mrs Pagnello is returning from her maternity leave this month – she returns part time for now and then full time in July. Welcome back to the team, Mrs Pagnello, even in these strange, new circumstances!

Staff training

We are using the opportunity while school is closed for staff members to complete quite a bit of online training. Staff members are updating their knowledge with some statutory safeguarding training and phonics training as well as learning more about dyslexia through some online training modules from the British Dyslexia Association.

Dates

April

Monday 6th April – Parents evening forms emailed out to parents

Wednesday 8th April – last set of home learning activities for the Spring term emailed out by class teachers

Monday 27th April – first set of home learning activities for the summer term emailed out by class teachers

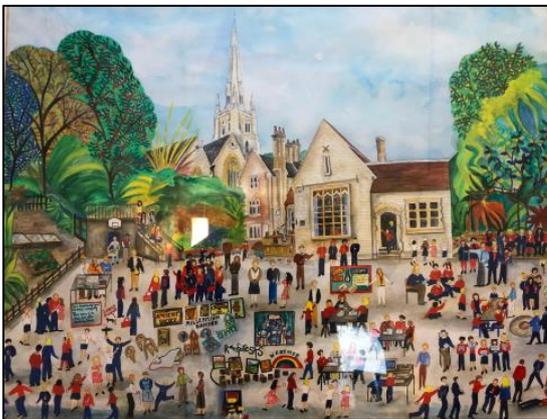
Choir at the Royal Albert Hall

The choir performed brilliantly at the Royal Albert Hall last month at the Camden Music Festival. They sang with over two thousand other children to an enthusiastic audience of over three thousand. It was a spectacular occasion and one that the children will hopefully never forget!



A new painting of our school

We have recently asked painter Ivel Muller to create an exciting new painting of our school. Ivel first painted the school twenty years ago when her daughter was a pupil at Christ Church and her original painting (below) hangs on the stairs up to Year 3 and 4. Ours was only the second school she painted and since then Ivel has painted hundreds of schools around the world in her distinctive style. She came into an assembly in March to explain to the children the process for creating her paintings and spent the day in school taking hundreds of photographs. Then Ivel came back to show us all her pencil drawing and she is now busy working on the finished watercolour painting. We hope to be able to share that with everyone when school reopens, when there will be an opportunity to buy prints or cards, too. We are all very excited to see the finished painting and to try to spot ourselves in it!



Ivel's painting from 2000 and part of her sketch for the new painting



Information and reminders

Home learning and the Easter 'holiday'

Teachers will email out the last set of home learning activities this term on Wednesday 8th April, setting activities for Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th April. We will then start again for the summer term on Monday 27th April.

We will also be sending out some completely optional activity ideas for what would have been our Easter holiday period.

Please keep in contact with us – weekly check-ins

It's really important to us that we stay in touch with all the children and families at Christ Church even while the school is closed. Please keep in touch with class teachers and be aware that the school office will be contacting families who haven't been in touch at least once a week to check that all is well.

Do you remember fundraising for Areg in Armenia?

Some children and families will remember that, at the suggestion of one of our pupils, we raised money two Christmases ago for a small boy called Areg in Armenia, helping to fund his medical treatment and care. Our Armenian family recently moved back and have met up with Areg who is doing well. They all wanted to thank the Christ Church community for their help and support!



Home learning highlights so far...

Lots more on the website at <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/home-learning-news/>

