



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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May 2020

Newsletter 9

Summer term



Dear parents and carers,

I want to say three big thank yous in this month's newsletter.

First, **thank you to parents and families** for all your support over those last few weeks while school was still open in March and for all your support and encouragement of your children's home learning once school was closed. Thank you also for your kind words and emails to staff members (and your constructive feedback!) – they make all the difference.

Second, **thank you to all the staff team** – to those who have volunteered to be on the rota to be in school supporting children of key workers, including through the holidays; to class teachers for their amazing management and encouragement of home learning; to admin staff for keeping the school communications and so many behind-the-scenes things going; and to the whole staff team for their support of each other and continuing hard work for the children and school in so many ways.

Third, **thank you to the children** for such a positive attitude to home learning at the end of last term, for adapting so quickly to something so new and different and yet for still enjoying learning, having fun while finding out more and working hard every day. Keep going this term!

With very best wishes to all families,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



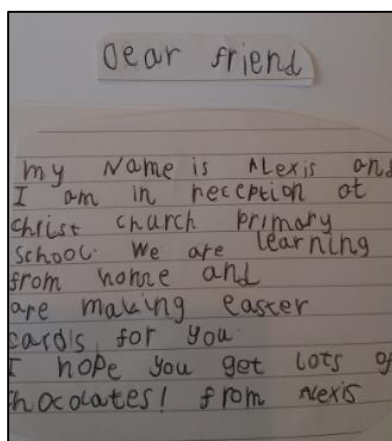
Thank you for Henderson Court Easter cards!

Thank you to children and families for all the wonderful cards

sent to Henderson Court before Easter! If you managed to post your card to the centre, they have been displayed in the rooms there, as well as being distributed with food packages to the many local elderly and vulnerable people they support. They certainly made a difference to the centre manager, Brian, who sent the following email before Easter: *Please can you pass on my thanks to the children for the lovely Easter Cards. They were so great for the staff to see. I know those receiving the Food Parcels will love getting them. I was flagging a bit this morning and they really perked me up!*

It's great to know we can still make a difference to the elderly people from Henderson Court – thank you very much to families for all the help with the cards.

Henderson Court's next appeal is for plants as they would still like to plant their outdoor spaces for residents and for when the day centre services reopen. If you have any that you can drop into the centre on Fitzjohn's Avenue then they would be very grateful.



Welcomes!

A warm welcome to Adam who has recently joined our Year 4 class!

Also, a warm welcome to Aarav, who has just joined our Reception class – welcome to Aarav and his family!

Dates

April

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

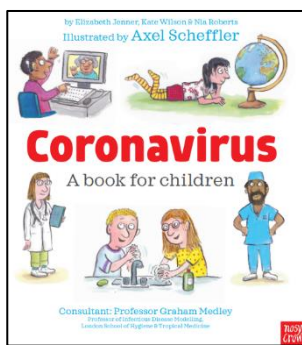
May

Friday 8th – Bank Holiday – no home learning email from class teachers – a smaller number of optional tasks will be set for the Friday in teachers' Wednesday email.

Week beginning 11th – PSHE week.

Our home learning activities for all classes will be focusing on our summer term PSHE themes of *Living in the Wider World* and being a good citizen.

Monday 25th – Friday 29th – Half term – no home learning activities set by class teachers



Coronavirus - a book for children

Axel Scheffler, best known for his Gruffalo illustrations, has illustrated a book for children explaining what the coronavirus is and how it is affecting us all. It is full of clear information and illustrations and answers to some of the questions children are asking. It is free to download from the publishers Nosy Crow or from the Home Learning page of our school website: <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/home-learning/>

Coronavirus and the Community:

The **Hampstead Volunteer Corps (HVC)** are collecting local donations to help Royal Free patients and staff, as well as for those homeless who are sheltering at the Britannia Hotel. We really need the Christ Church community's help. Anything you can donate would be immensely appreciated.

- **Royal Free Patients:** iPads/Tablets for elderly patients at the Royal Free Hospital to connect to their families.
- **Royal Free Staff:** Individually packed snacks and juice boxes plus Phone chargers, Toiletries, Coffee/tea/hot chocolate sachets, Biro/Sharpies for Royal Free staff on their brief breaks.
- **HOMELESS:** Pasta, rice, pasta sauce, tuna, tins, non-perishables etc to make meals for the homeless presently sheltering from Covid19 at the Britannia Hotel, plus board games and books if possible.

Contacts for donations: Antonia - 07747 829 823 (Text/Whatsapp best) or Amy - 07813 663 238 Thank you and keep safe from all of us at HVC.

<https://www.hampsteadvolunteers.co.uk>

Online art lessons led by Daisy in Year 5 and her dad!

Every Friday Daisy and Ed teach everyone how to make a famous masterpiece.

It's free on Facebook Live - Cheese and Wine Painting Club

<https://www.facebook.com/CheeseandWinePaintingClub/> This Friday it's Matisse!

Information and reminders

LGfL DigiSafe **SIX TOP TIPS**
To Keep Primary Kids Safe Online During School Closure

Children are bound to spend lots more time on devices during school closure. DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT IT - lots will be schoolwork or catching up with friends. But there are ways to keep them safe, healthy and happy.

- Don't worry about screen time, aim for screen quality**
Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or Skyping Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.
- Check the safety settings are turned on**
Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or go live, are their posts public? **Internet Matters** has hundreds of guides to parental controls.
- Get your children to show you their apps and games**
You don't need to know *all* about the latest apps or games, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced - they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kid-safe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** or **NSPCC's BeSafe**. And why not download the **BBC Own It** app?
- Don't try to hide the news about coronavirus**
If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel - there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.
- Remind them of key online safety principles**
There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... If somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**
- If you aren't sure, ASK!**
Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at www.internet-protect.com including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).

Important documents for home learning

We have gathered all the information about our home learning on one page of our website. This includes our 'dos and don'ts' document for parents and staff members and some helpful online safety tips.

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/home-learning/>

The six top tips for parents about online safety are:

- Don't worry about screen time, aim for screen quality
- Check the safety settings are turned on
- Get your children to show you their apps and games
- Don't try to hide the news about coronavirus
- Remind children of key online safety principles
- If you aren't sure, ask

For older children, do monitor their use of chat groups, and let them know you are doing this. Be aware of what children are typing using your contact information or device.

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.

Eligibility for Free School

Meals – have your circumstances changed?

Families whose children are eligible for free school meals (due to income levels, not the universal infant free school meals) continue to receive support while schools are closed, in the form of weekly e-vouchers for food shopping. New applications for free school meals can also still be made during this period. Therefore, if your circumstances have changed, for example if you are now claiming benefits of some kind, please contact the school office by email and Mrs Connock will be able to explain how to apply.

Staff training

Lots more online training has been taking place for staff members over the last few weeks. To add to safeguarding, phonics and dyslexia training, staff members are now working on modules on Autistic Spectrum Disorder and extending their knowledge of the coding curriculum.

Updated policies

The following policies have recently been reviewed and agreed by staff and governors. They are available on the school website:

- Complaints Policy
- Annex to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in relation to school closures
- Several of our curriculum statements for different subjects

If you are leaving...

If you are planning to move at the end of the year and your child is leaving Christ Church, please let us know. It's really helpful for us to know as soon as possible so that we can offer places for next year. Thank you.

Home learning highlights!

Lots of photos at:

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/home-learning-news/>