



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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September 2020  
Newsletter 1

**Welcome back  
to a new year!**

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome back all the children to the start of the new school year! Staff and children have very quickly been getting used to their new classes and our new routines and, apart from the few families who are quarantining because they have just returned from abroad, we now have every single child back in school. Thank you very much for your support with the return to school. It is certainly beginning to feel a little bit more like normal again! Please do get in touch with class teachers or with me if you have any concerns or queries – an email to the school office is probably best in the first instance or I am often around at the beginning and end of the day for a socially-distanced conversation in one of the playgrounds!

With very best wishes for the new school year,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

## Keeping everyone safe in school

Like all schools, we have adapted our routines to keep everyone safe in school, including introducing regular hand washing, enhanced cleaning and staggered break and lunch times to keep classes as separate as we can. Although we're not able to hold any mixed class activities at the moment, it was lovely for the whole school to join together virtually to share our golden certificates at the end of last week via a zoom assembly viewed in each classroom. Well done to all the children who have been amazing at settling in to the new routines!

Parents have also been wonderfully supportive of the school with the many changes over the past six months. The children's progress at home over the period of home learning, the return to school for so many children in June and July and the smooth start to the new school year last week would not have happened without our usual brilliant support from the parent community. Thank you.

Parents can continue to help us by

- **Keeping your child at home if your child or anyone in your household has any symptoms of COVID-19.** If this happens, please inform the school and arrange a test. Do not send your child to school if they have a high temperature, a new continuous cough or if there has been a change in their sense of taste or smell. (If your child develops a temperature or cough in school, we will phone you to ask you to collect them and arrange a test.)
- **Being on time at the beginning and end of the day (not early) and leaving as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your child.** We are all getting used to the adjusted start and finish times over these first few weeks, and, of course, teachers are getting to know and recognise parents of children in their new classes. We know the dismissal will take a few minutes so please be patient and wait at a distance from others in the playground or in Christ Church Passage. In the juniors, if you would like to speak to the

class teacher or if you are picking up different children than usual, you are very welcome to come down into the playground to talk to staff members.

- **Letting us know if your child is not in school for any reason** Please email if possible – then we will not chase you up to find out where they are.

## Staff news

Many congratulations to Mrs Manning-Bennett whose baby, called Matthew, arrived at the end of July. We all send our very best wishes to Bea, Neil and Matty!

A warm welcome to Miss Hoque who is joining our staff team as our school direct trainee teacher working in Year 2 this year.

## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to all new children and families who have joined our school this term. Welcome to Nysha and Inaaya who have joined our Year 1 class and to Tiger and Oluwalani who have joined our Year 4 class.

Also, a very warm welcome to our new Reception class who are starting this week! Welcome to Toby, Tristan, Sebastian, Ruby, Chiara, Bridget, Zac, Alexey, Oscar, Arseniy, Amelia, Imogen, Bianca, Lily, Eddie, Milo, Samson, Seren, Nicole, Maia, Albie, Arthur, William, Takumi, Sophie, William, Elliot and Ellen.

### Reminder about timings for the beginning and end of the day

(Reception are working on slightly different timings as they start school

- the timings below will apply to the whole Reception class from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September)

8.40 Juniors	All of Y3, All of Y6 Plus any members Y4 and Y5 who have siblings in Rec, Y2, Y3 or Y6
8.50 Juniors	Rest of Y4, rest of Y5
8.40 Infants	All of Reception, All of Y2 Plus any members of Y1 who have siblings in Rec, Y2, Y3 or Y6
8.50 Infants	Rest of Y1

3.10 Juniors	Y3 and Y6 (unless they have siblings in Y1, Y4 or Y5)
3.20 Juniors	All of Y4, All of Y5 Plus the rest of Y3 and Y6
3.10 Infants	Reception and Y2 (unless they have siblings in Y1, Y4 or Y5)
3.20 Infants	All of Y1 Plus the rest of Reception and Y2

## New End Healthy Street Scheme

The traffic restrictions around New End School as part of the Healthy School Street scheme are now back in operation. Please see the attached letter which provides more details and, if you can, please walk, cycle or scoot to school.

## No homework activities this half term

Parents and children have done an awful lot of working at home over the last few months so we are not setting any homework activities for this first half term. Teachers are taking the opportunity to take stock and review the sorts of activities we set. We hope parents (as well as children) will appreciate this break from learning at home but, of course, there are plenty of online and published materials you can use with your child if you'd like to continue a weekly activity at home.

We will be continuing to set spellings and times tables each week and we will continue to expect children to read regularly at home – without a homework activity there should be more time to focus on this each week. Teachers will still send home a weekly sheet in book bags explaining the learning which has taken place in school that week and setting out the spellings etc for the week.

## We love reading!

Last spring, as part of our World Book Day events, we collected lots of recommendations for great books to read for different ages. They are all available on our website at <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/we-love-reading/>

We have recommendations for

- Picture books
- Early chapter books
- Getting the hang of chapter books
- Confident chapter book readers
- Established readers looking for a challenge
- Chapter books with more challenging concepts (for Y6 or moving on to secondary school)



## This term's Christ Church Arts Project and the Global Sustainable Developments Goals

This term our Arts Project will link to our work as an active UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Classes will be exploring the UN Convention

on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and also the Global Sustainable Development Goals. Classes will be creating art work inspired by these goals and the UNCRC and we hope to be able to share this with parents in some format later in the term.



## Meet the parents – secondary school event

Christ Church parents are welcome to attend a 'Meet the Parents' transition event at New End School on Thursday September 17th from 6.30 to 7.30pm. The event is a chance for parents to ask a friendly panel of families from the local state secondary schools what they are really like. All year groups are welcome. You can also chat to families more privately afterwards. More details will be emailed soon.

## Dates

### September

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – New Reception class starts – half days  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – New Reception parent meeting  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Secondary transfer parent meeting – details to come for Y4,5 and 6 parents  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Reception class full time from now

### October

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – individual photos – tbc  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – INSET day, no children in school**  
Week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – KS2 times table challenge this week  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, 3.45 – 7.30pm – parents evening – please wait for more details about how we will hold parents evening this term  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3.45 – 6.00pm – parents evening  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – nasal flu immunisations – all classes (consent forms will be sent to parents)  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – half term**  
**This year our half term holiday includes Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

### November

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – All children back to school for second half of term**  
Week beginning Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – KS2 spelling challenge this week  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – PSHE week – positive relationships and diversity  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Anti-bullying day – wear odd socks!

### December

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Jumper Day!  
*All our Christmas events are yet to be confirmed – information will be sent to parents nearer the time.*  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – midday – all children collected for the end of term**

### January

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – all children back to school for the Spring term