



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

October 2020  
Newsletter 2

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Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to have the whole school back together for the first month of the new school year – children have settled back into school routines brilliantly and have all been working very hard. Teachers have been carrying out detailed assessments with each child to find out if there are any specific learning gaps to fill or areas where we can provide extra support. We will let parents know some of our plans for using the government’s ‘catch up’ funding to support children’s learning over the next month.

Teachers have also spent time over the last month discussing and setting up our contingency plans for remote learning should individual children or whole classes be asked to self-isolate. We have been fortunate not to have any positive COVID-19 cases in our immediate school community yet this term, but other local schools have already had to send classes home because of positive cases, so it is important that we are prepared. Please see the information below about our contingency plans.

We are trying hard to make things as normal as possible for children in school, so we continue to review our usual events and routines one-by-one and add things back in where we safely can. It’s looking unlikely, though, that our basic routines, such as staggered start and end times and no mixing of different classes, will be able to change this term or even into the spring term. However, if the guidance for schools changes and we can change the way things are working, then I’ll let parents know. We are currently working on whether we can bring back some very limited after school and breakfast club provision after half term.

Thank you again for all your help with a smooth start to the year,

Best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

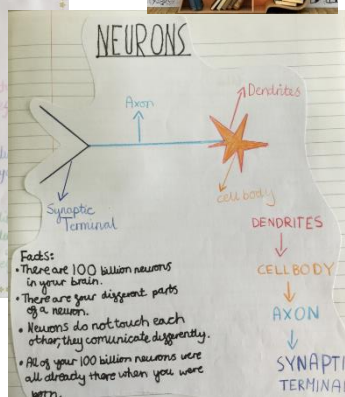
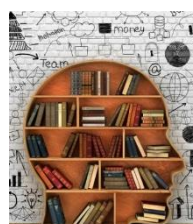
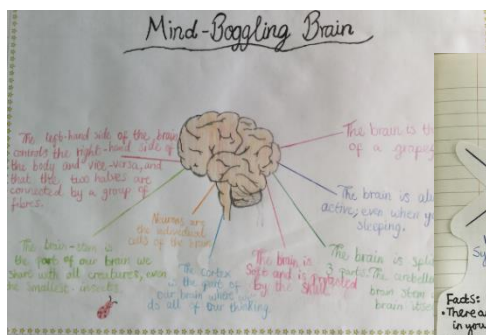
## Thank you for your tin donations!

We collected over 300 tins for our Harvest Thanksgiving at the end of last month to donate to the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen who are providing take away meals for local homeless and vulnerable people. Thank you very much for your donations which will make a real difference.



## Learning about our brains and how we learn and remember – am I a good learner?

Classes in KS2 have started learning all about how their brains work and how we learn and remember new facts and skills. It is fascinating to learn about and is helping everyone to understand how to look after their brains and how everyone learns in different ways.



## Walk to school week – 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October

We are promoting walking to school with a focus week of activities between 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October. Each child will take home a walking challenge leaflet with activities to try on the

walk to school each day and we will be tracking how children are travelling to school in classes all week. Walking to school helps us be healthy and happy, helps us connect with others and gives us time to think!



## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to two new children and families who have joined our school recently. Welcome to Jack who has joined our Year 4 class and Haider who has joined our Year 1 class!

## Be careful on our steps

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please take care on your way in to and out of the school, especially on the steps into the junior playground.

## Being safe on the way home

Please walk or scoot straight down Christchurch Hill on the way home. We have had concerns raised by residents of the flats behind the school that children are scooting through the communal areas at the back of the block. This is private property so please just stick to the pavements. Thank you.

## Please return reading books!

We sent home hundreds of extra school reading books with children in March. If you have any still at home, please send them back in to school! Thank you!

## Contingency plans for home learning

**If individual children are self-isolating at home** because of a positive case in their household, class teachers are keeping in touch via email (and telephone where necessary), sending the slide shows, instructions and resources which have been used in school so that children can keep up with their class's learning at home.

**If whole classes were asked to self-isolate**, we would revert to the home learning system we successfully used last year, with teachers setting three tasks per day for Reception and Year 1 and four tasks per day for all other classes, via emails sent to parents every two days. We would also provide a paper home learning pack (as we did before but smaller) so that there could be a range of online, paper-based and practical activities set each day. Children would need to send their work back to teachers who would provide feedback via email as before.

Feedback from children, staff and families at the end of last year told us that this system of home learning worked well but, if we needed to use it again, we would aim to make a few additions and improvements, too. We aim to include more links to video teaching to help teachers to introduce new concepts – either links to existing high-quality online video resources or videos filmed by our own teachers of, for example, maths methods, letter formation or writing techniques. We would also aim to include more teacher-recorded voice notes on our powerpoints to help children understand the teaching and tasks and access them more independently.

We have also purchased google classroom software to help us and children and families with the organisation and administration of remote learning and will spend the next half term training staff and children with how this works. We didn't want to introduce something new to parents, children and staff at a time when anxiety and stress levels might be heightened but, once staff and children are confident, we hope to be able to include google classroom in our remote learning contingency plans from December/January onwards.

### Do any families need any home learning resources at home?

We are sending home a home learning exercise book to all children over the next few days, *just in case* they need to use it for a period of learning at home. *Please keep this book safely on one side.*

Please also think about whether your child has a pencil, pen, ruler, rubber, coloured pencils etc at home. We are very happy to provide resources to families who need them, so that you are ready just in case. Please just let us know, via email to the school office, what you need and we will quietly send the resources home with your child to put on one side in case they are needed.

### Free School Meal eligibility

Have your circumstances changed and are you now eligible for income support, job seekers allowance, universal credit or other income-based benefits? If so, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals – please contact the school office to find out more information. Even if your child is in the infants (where school meals are free for all children), please do apply if you are eligible as there is also financial support for trips, clubs and other activities.

**Every Mind Matters**

### Mental health and well-being resources

There are some helpful mental health tips and resources for parents, families and children available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>



### Rights Respecting Schools – Article of the month

To remind parents and pupils that we are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School we are including a different article from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in each month's newsletter.

**Article 24** Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment, so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poor countries to achieve this.

## Dates

### October

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – individual photos (no sibling photographs this time unfortunately)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – INSET day, no children in school**

Week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – KS2 times table challenge this week

Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October - Parents evening phone call appointments

Monday and Wednesday evenings – Years 1, 2, 4 and 6  
Tuesday and Thursday evenings – Reception, Years 3 and 5

Separate details to come about how we will hold parents evening this term.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – nasal flu immunisations – all classes (consent forms should be returned to the office)

**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



### Well done, Year 5!

Well done to all the Year 5 pupils who have been awarded a Blue Peter badge recently – this was the result of one of their Year 4 home learning tasks last term!