



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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November 2020

Newsletter 3



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after half term! I hope all families had a very relaxing half term break.

We have a busy month ahead at school! Children are busy creating some beautiful art work for this term's **Arts Project**, highlighting children's rights and the Global Sustainable Development Goals. We will share this with parents on UNICEF Outright Day later this month. It is also our **Positive Relationships and Diversity PSHE week** this month (information below) with lots of great activities in all classes.

We are also planning our **Christmas events** in earnest now – many will have to be different from usual but we are determined to make December a special time in school as usual. We will be sending out more information about how we will be trying to involve parents in our Christmas events in the next few weeks.

We also have a few activities re-starting or starting this month. We are re-starting setting our main **homework tasks** this week (more information below). Thank you in advance for all the support that parents continue to provide supporting their children's homework. I know that parents spend lots and lots of time reading with their children, practising spellings, teaching times tables and helping in all sorts of other ways and the support that children receive at home really does make a difference. Thank you.

There is also information below and attached about some additional small group, **after school booster sessions** which we will be trialling in some classes this half term.

We are also planning on restarting a very **limited offer of sports clubs** after school this half term – for one class on one evening and one class on another, changing the classes after Christmas. We will be sending out details to the KS2 classes involved this week.

We are all looking forward to a busy half term, as usual!

Best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

PSHE week – positive relationships and diversity

Our Autumn term PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) week all about positive relationships and diversity takes place this month and we have updated our PSHE curriculum a little to take into account the new Health Curriculum and Relationships Curriculum which both became statutory in September.

Classes will be learning about all sorts of different topics over the week covering **feelings, friendships and diversity**, including how to recognise and name different feelings (Reception), how feelings can affect people's bodies and how they behave (Y1), the importance of respecting privacy (Y2), about protected characteristics and respecting difference and similarities between people (Y3), the importance of positive friendships and of seeking support if feeling lonely or excluded (Y4), strategies for recognising and managing peer influence in our friendships (Y5) and commitment in adult relationships including marriage and civil partnership (Y6).



We will also be holding our **Anti-Bullying Day** during the week with reminders about what bullying is, how to be an upstander if bullying is taking place and strategies to respond to hurtful behaviour in different situations, including online.

In order to celebrate and recognise diversity, everyone is invited to wear **odd socks** to school on Tuesday 10th November! We will be collecting donations for Childline on this day. Other parts of our learning about diversity this year will include learning about key figures in black history to support our other PSHE teaching and rehearsing and sharing songs in sign language.

We will be creating our usual **friendship bracelets** in all classes and, even though we can't physically meet and swap them this year, we will be sending cards and pictures with our bracelets to introduce ourselves to a new friend in the school! It promises to be a busy week!



Dates

November

Week beginning Tuesday 3rd – KS2 spelling challenge this week
Monday 9th – Friday 13th – PSHE week – positive relationships and diversity
Tuesday 10th – Anti-bullying day – wear odd socks to celebrate diversity and difference!

December

Friday 11th – Friends Present Sale – seven presents to come into school on this date, please
Wednesday 16th – Christmas Jumper Day!
All our Christmas events are yet to be confirmed – information will be sent to parents soon.
Friday 18th – around midday – all children collected for the end of term

January

Monday 4th – all children back to school for the Spring term

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.



Keeping in touch with other classes

It is a little more difficult for us to make sure children are keeping in touch with what is happening in other classes this term, but we are trying our best to find new ways of doing this.



We have a weekly zoom assembly to share our Golden Certificates which is shared in all classrooms (we also successfully shared it with Year 1 children at home when their class was closed for the week).



Reception have been meeting their Year 6 partners via zoom as well this year, sharing their creations and reading stories.

Homework

We have been taking a break from setting a main homework task for the last half term but will be starting this again this half term. Teachers have taken the opportunity to review the sorts of activities they set for homework and, in particular, they have learnt from what worked well during our period of home learning.

We have certainly noticed that without a main task, children have spent more time on the really important tasks of regular reading and practising spellings and timestables and we would really like this to continue! We only want to set main tasks which are useful for children, useful for teachers and which we will have the opportunity to share, praise and value back in school. For this reason, we are going to trial being flexible about whether we set a main task or not each week. Teachers will continue to set a main task most weeks and, in the weeks when they don't, they will make this clear on the weekly homework sheet.

We have reviewed our homework information for parents and staff and an updated version is on our website (<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/parents/routines/>) and will also be sent home with the weekly homework sheet this week. Please do get in touch with class teachers if you have any questions about homework.

After school booster sessions

We know that the best way for all children to make progress in their learning is through high-quality teaching in the classroom every day, which is what every child at Christ Church receives from our fantastic team of class teachers. However, we recognise that children missed a significant period of time in the classroom with their teachers last year and, even though children, parents and staff worked very hard on our home learning, we know that there are some specific areas of last year's learning which children missed or misunderstood. As always, we want all children to make as much progress as possible this year so we are going to trial some additional small group, after school booster sessions in some classes this half term. Please see the more detailed information attached with this newsletter. Teachers in Years 2-6 will start to email information to the parents of children who will be involved in the first set of sessions, this week.



Walk to school week – thank you!

Thank you to everyone for their efforts in walk to school week, especially to those who walked, scooted or cycled to school for the first time. Please try to keep it up!



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 13 Every child has the right to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Poppy appeal



Poppy appeal boxes collecting for the Royal British Legion will be outside the main school gate this week – please donate if you can. Thank you.

Are you an accountant?

The Friends Association is looking for a qualified accountant who could spare a little time to carry out the annual independent examination of the Friends' accounts. If you could help, or know someone who could, please contact the school office.

Parent workshops

We are able to offer two online parent workshops on Mental Health issues this half term.

Monday 16th November, 10am:

Managing your own stress and well being

Thursday 3rd December, 10am:

Supporting your child to cope with anxiety and stress

Both workshops will be run by the Camden Learning Health and Well being team. More information to come about how to join.

Admissions criteria

amendment 2021 onwards

We have amended our admissions criteria to take into account any periods when churches are closed for public worship. You can find more information and the amended criteria on our website.

Camden crowdfunding campaign for digital devices

A reminder that Camden are running a crowdfunding campaign to purchase devices and wifi access for children currently without them to use for remote education.

We have been collecting donations from staff members at Christ Church and have been able to send off a £150 donation to the campaign. Thank you to staff for their donations. You can find more information, including how to donate, here:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/and-the-digital-divide-for-camden-pupils>

Refugee club donations – thank you for your support!

