



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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December 2020

Newsletter 4



**Christmas!**

Dear parents and carers,

Please take a look at the dates and details in this newsletter – we have been busy planning a very packed and Christmassy December for school!

**Thank you for all your recent support.** I'm aware that December is the part of the year when we are continually asking for many different things from parents and families as we try to run Christmas events for the children, collect for our Christmas Charities and, at the same time, support all the Christmas Friends events which raise money for the school. I'm also well aware that things are very different for all of us this year and that it might be more difficult for families to donate or get involved. We are really appreciative of however you can support what's going on.

Thank you to the Friends committee and reps who have worked very hard to transfer some of their usual Christmas events online. None of this is easy to do and it all takes lots of time and effort, so please support them if you can.

Finally, a big end of term thank you to the staff team who have all worked incredibly hard to keep everything as normal as possible in school this term and to the children who have kept us all positive, upbeat and inspired by their enthusiasm for everything.

With very best wishes for Christmas to all families and let's hope for a much better new year for everyone!

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

## Christmas charity fundraising:

### Colours and sparkles for Charlie!

We usually raise money through our carol singing, at our Nativity Play and on our Christmas Jumper Day for two or three Christmas charities chosen by our School Council. This year, we have decided to raise money for just one charity, a children's cancer treatment project coordinated by Great Ormond Street Hospital. This cause was selected by Charlie Chesser's parents and we'd like to raise our money as a school community in memory of Charlie this year. Charlie would have been part of our Year 6 class this year but he very sadly died in July after two years of treatment at Great Ormond Street for a brain tumour.

For our main fundraising event, we are encouraging everyone to come to school wearing bright colours or sparkles on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, to remember and celebrate Charlie's life in a joyful way and to raise as much money as we can for the Great Ormond Street project. We will also be asking for any further donations as we send out the link to our filmed Nativity Play and on our Christmas Jumper Day.

Please do give as generously as you can – this is our main charity fundraising event of the year and we would love to raise lots and lots to give in Charlie's name.

### This year's school priorities

Although it is a little more difficult to plan ahead this year, the school's leadership team and governors have set out a school improvement plan for this year and, as usual, would like to share our school improvement priorities with parents. This year, amongst all our usual things, we are focusing on:

- A safe return to school for all pupils and staff, including remote learning plans and providing catch-up learning support and well-being support where needed
- Further development of all our teachers as effective subject leaders
- Teaching children in KS2 about how their brains and memories work through our 'Am I a good learner?' series of lessons
- Implementation of the new statutory Relationships Education and Health Education curriculums
- Working towards reaccreditation as a Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School



## Welcomes!

A warm welcome to the children and families who have recently joined our school! Welcome to Sherin, Helena and Zofia who have joined Year 1 and to Caetano who has joined our Reception class.

### Applications for Reception 2021

If you are making an application for a sibling for the Reception 2021 class, please remember that you need to fill in and submit **both** the online application form on the Camden admissions website and our school supplementary information form (available on our website) by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Thank you.

### 2021/22 term dates

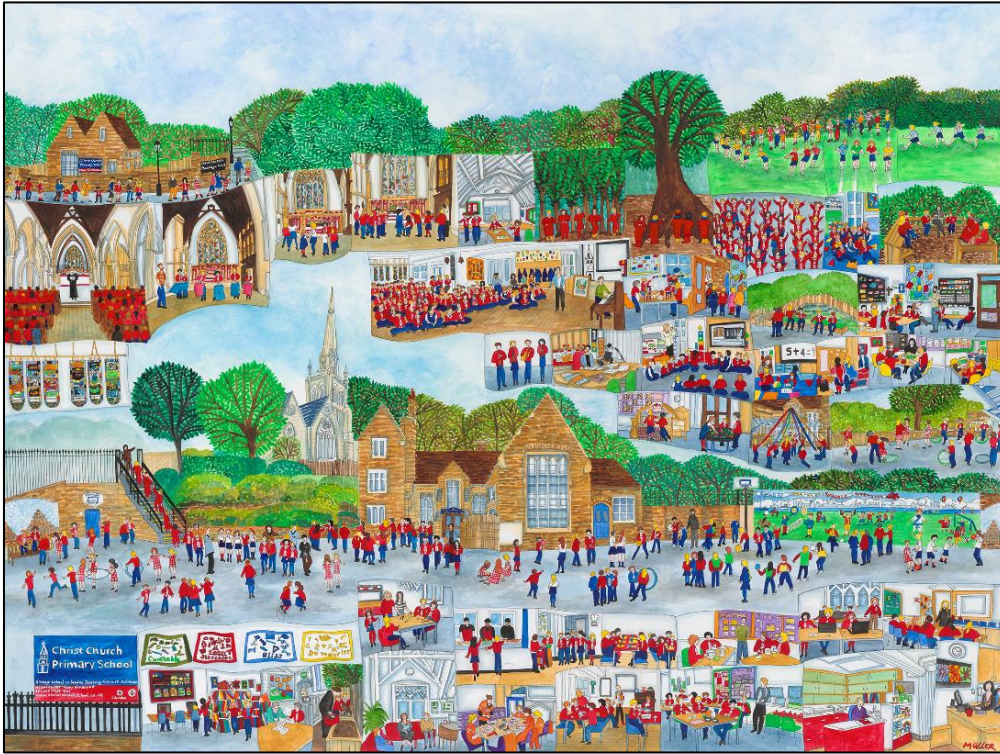
Governors have now set the term dates for 2021/22 and these are on our website. These are the same dates as all of Camden's community schools this time. Please look carefully if you are booking holidays.

## Art Exhibition

We loved sharing our artworks inspired by the UN Global Goals and the articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with everyone in our online exhibition last month. We have now embedded our virtual exhibitions in our website here: <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/cap-project-november-2020/> so that you can take another look!



## New painting of our school!



Children and staff members have been excited to try to spot themselves in our new painting of our school! The image was painted by Ivel Muller, who created a first painting (which hangs on the stairs up to Year 3 and 4) twenty years ago when her daughter was at the school. Since then, she has painted schools all over the world in her particular style. Ivel visited the school back in March to take photographs of everywhere and everything we do and finished the painting over the summer. We plan to hang it in the Hall and we think it captures what an enormous amount we try to cram into every day, term and year – quite a reflection of our school vision for ‘life in all its fullness’!

## School council elections

We have recently held our (slightly late) school council elections. We hold an annual secret ballot across the school to vote for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary from our Year 6 class. Thank you to the 17 Year 6s who created posters and wrote campaign information which was shared in all classes – it is wonderful that so many children wanted to put themselves forward for the election to represent the school. Congratulations to Danny (Chairperson), Isla (Vice Chairperson) and Emily (Secretary) who were elected!



## 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 1 Every child under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

## Dates

### December

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am** – Parent workshop – supporting your child to cope with anxiety and stress - online

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** – non-uniform day – bring a good-quality second hand toy to be collected by the Young Barnet Foundation

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** – last day for Christmas Gift Box donations  
We have over 65 now and are aiming for 100!

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – All classes' Christmas DT project items will be coming home to parents

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** – **Wear colours or sparkles for Charlie** - wear something bright or sparkly and bring in your donation for our Christmas Charity collection for Great Ormond Street Hospital

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Friends Present Sale – seven presents to come into school on or before this date, please

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Present sales will take place – children to bring in £5 in pound coins/fifty pences and a shopping bag

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Link to our Year 2 filmed Nativity will be sent out to all parents

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Friends Raffle Draw

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> pm** – children will watch two different interactive online pantomime performances – both kindly funded by the Friends

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Jumper Day! Wear a Christmas Jumper (bought or homemade) and bring a donation for our Christmas Charity collection

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas lunch with Christmas Hats and parties in all classes

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** – **Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6** - collected for the end of term at 11.45

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** – **Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5 (plus siblings from the other classes)** – collected for the end of term at 11.55

### January

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