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Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of another quite different year for the school, I want to thank staff, families and, most of all, children for helping us to keep things going this year. There has been an enormous amount of cleaning, hand washing and timetabling, but there has also been endless hard work and fantastic teaching from teachers and other staff, excellent progress made by children across the school, fabulous support from parents and family members of our home learning provision and school events and, of course, a lot of fun and happiness in school!

It has, however, been another very difficult, worrying and stressful year for many of our families, our staff members and those in our wider community and we are all, again, hoping for better and more settled times to come.

Please take a look at the updated dates and events in this newsletter for information about the end of term and please look out for emails before the end of term and over the summer break to let you know about any changes to schools' COVID guidance and our routines for September.

With best wishes for the summer break and many thanks for all your support this year,
Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Parent survey – thank you

Thank you to all parents who completed our parent survey last month. We had 131 responses, which is a very high response rate given we have 146 families and 188 children in school in total – thank you for your time and thoughts at such a busy time for everyone. We received a great deal of positive feedback, which is great to be able to share with the staff team who have all been working so hard, and many helpful and constructive comments about areas where we could consider making changes.

A detailed summary of the responses and some of our planned actions as a result can be found at the end of this newsletter.

'Try something new' week - highlights

We all enjoyed a super 'Try something new' week in June. The aim of this annual week at school is to develop children's openness to trying new experiences and their resilience when something is difficult or doesn't go quite right the first time. We know that trying new experiences is good for our mental well-being and we hope that

some children might just find a new hobby or activity that they would love to try again!

←Year 4 and 5 had a great time having a go at skateboarding with tricks, ramps and quite a bit of falling off!

Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed → trying out lots of instruments and rhythms in a samba drumming workshop – it was great fun and very noisy!



Year 6 had a wonderful three days away at school journey, trying out lots of adventurous new things and spending time on the beach! A big thank you to the three staff

members who accompanied Year 6.



Different classes also tried calligraphy, making paper fidget spinners, finger knitting, painting with shaving foam and trying lots of new foods!



Welcome back to Mrs Manning-Bennett who is returning this month part-time after her maternity leave!

Y6 Leavers' destinations

As in previous years, we thought it would be helpful to share where our Year 6 leavers are going on to secondary school next year. We wish all our leavers much luck and success as they move on at the end of term!

- Leila – Channing
 - Harrison – St Mary's and St John's
 - Bluebell – Archer Academy
 - Imogen – St Marylebone
 - Victoria – St Marylebone
 - Rufus – Northbridge House
 - Ethan – Northbridge House
 - Daniel – JFS
 - Havana – St Marylebone
 - Henry – King Alfred
 - Danny – Haberdashers' Aske's Boys
 - Dexter – Northbridge House
 - Anouk – City of London Girls
 - Rosie – Channing
 - Clara – St Margaret's
 - Emily – St Marylebone
 - Noah – Marylebone Boys
 - Isla – South Hampstead
 - Miles – The American School
 - Daisy – St Marylebone
 - Sol – Highgate
 - Toby – Maida Vale School
 - Seb – King Alfred
- Also, **an enormous thank you to this group of parents and families**, especially if you are leaving the Christ Church community after a long association over a number of years. Thank you!

Athletics champions!

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 athletics team who had a very successful day at Parliament Hill track last month becoming Camden athletics champions! There were some impressive individual and team performances as well as fantastic support for each other and super sportsmanship – well done!



Other summer term events: Writing competition and RRS accreditation visit

Children in all classes are working hard on their entries for our annual creative writing competition. Members of our Governing Body will be judging the entries as usual and we will be giving out the prizes and hearing some of the amazing writing in a special zoom assembly before the end of term.

We will also take part in a virtual visit for reaccreditation for our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award before the end of term. The representatives from UNICEF will speak with staff members, parents, governors and children from different classes. We will hopefully be able to share the report with children and parents at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Information and reminders

COVID routine reminders

Unfortunately, COVID case numbers are rising again in Camden and there have been several class closures in local schools recently. We continue to do all we can in school to reduce the risks with continued hand washing, enhanced cleaning, good ventilation, twice-weekly staff testing, limited visitors and keeping class groups separate. Please continue to help us over the next few weeks by:

- keeping your child off school if they have any COVID symptoms and arranging a PCR test
- keeping your distance from staff members
- sticking to your class arrival times
- waiting at a distance from the gate and other parents and being patient at pick up time
- leaving the infant playground quickly after you have picked up your child
- letting us know by email/phone if your child is not going to be in school.

Thank you very much indeed.

Policy reviews

Staff and governors have recently reviewed and agreed the following policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Postive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

All our policies are available on our website or you can request a paper copy from the school office.

Children moving on

If you are planning for your child to leave Christ Church at the end of this year, please let us know as soon as possible. This really helps us to be able to offer any occasional places to those on our waiting lists.

School caps for sale



We have a limited number of red school caps with the school logo for sale (price £7.50) – if your child would like one, please contact the school office.

Camden cycle training

Camden is running free cycle training for children during the summer break on July 26, 27, 28, 29. For details and bookings: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/cycle-skills-and-bike-maintenance-courses>

Electric scooter hire consultation

Camden are consulting on whether to take part in Transport for London's electric scooter hire scheme. You can respond to the consultation until the 12th July.

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/electric-scooter-trial-in-camden/>

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 4 Governments must do all they can to ensure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in the Convention.



Dates

July

Throughout July – class music sharing – opportunity for children who learn a musical instrument to perform to their classmates

Friday 2nd – non-uniform day: bring a money donation for the Friends – what you would have spent at the Fair – thank you very much!

Weeks beginning 5th and 12th – Reception 2021 with siblings in school: induction visits after school. Please arrange with the school office.

Week beginning 5th July – last after school clubs this week

Wednesday 7th – last day for Friends Summer Hamper donations, please

Friday 9th – wear sports kit and t-shirt in House colours to school – sports day activities in school all this week

Tuesday 13th – last day for Friends raffle ticket stubs and money to come back to school. Raffle draw on Wednesday 14th.

Wednesday 14th – Skipping workshops in school all day

Wednesday 14th – letter home re staffing for 21/22

Friday 16th – reports home to parents

Monday 19th, pm – the whole school will watch a zoom performance of the Year 6 production of the Jungle Book

Tuesday 20th, 6pm – Year 6 production zoom performance to Year 6 parents and families

Friday 23rd - children home for the summer holidays at 11.45/11.55am

September

Thursday 2nd – children back to school for Autumn term
(New Reception class starts on Monday 6th)



Christ Church School - Parent Survey Results June 2021

Thank you very much to the 131 parents who responded to our online survey. There are 146 families (and 188 pupils in total) in our school, so this represents a very impressive response rate which hopefully shows you really care about our school. Thank you very much for taking the time to respond.

Parents are, of course, very welcome to bring any concerns, issues or suggestions to class teachers or to Mrs Forsdyke or Mr Hollings at any time. Please feel free to make an appointment to meet with us if you need to.

The school's leadership team and governors are very pleased with the continuing very positive results and feedback from parents and we are particularly delighted that children feel safe and happy at school.

(2020 results in brackets)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
My child is happy at Christ Church School	76% (68%)	24% (30%)	1% (1%)	0 (0)	0 (1%)	
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	85% (77%)	14% (23%)	1% (0)	0 (0)	0 (1%)	
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	52% (57%)	43% (38%)	2% (2%)	0 (0)	3% (3%)	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	4% (4%)	9% (15%)	6% (8%)	1% (1%)	18% (8%)	62% (64%) My child has not been bullied
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	35% (35%)	56% (52%)	8% (9%)	0 (2%)	2% (3%)	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	23% (25%)	44% (36%)	5% (6%)	0 (0)	2% (3%)	26% (30%) I have not raised any concerns
Christ Church School has high expectations for my child	33% (34%)	46% (50%)	12% (7%)	0 (0)	8% (10%)	
My child does well at Christ Church School	40% (45%)	54% (48%)	5% (3%)	0 (0)	2% (3%)	
The school lets me know how my child is doing	27% (33%)	60% (58%)	13% (5%)	0 (1%)	0 (3%)	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	41% (38%)	50% (52%)	8% (5%)	0 (0)	1% (4%)	
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	37% (47%)	46% (49%)	9% (2%)	0 (0)	8% (3%)	
Christ Church School supports my child's wider personal development	49% (49%)	44% (44%)	3% (3%)	0 (0)	3% (3%)	
I would recommend Christ Church School to another parent	Yes 98%		No 2%			
What is really important in our school? (respondents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence					75% (78%)
	A wide curriculum					65% (74%)
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care					94% (94%)
	Our Christian character and ethos					51% (61%)
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity					63% (75%)
	Making a difference to others					62% (64%)
	Creativity, performance and arts activities					67% (75%)
	Our school community and a feeling of togetherness					79% (new option)

43 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 27 of these comments included varied suggestions for improvement. We can't respond to every suggestion individually but please be assured they have all been read and noted and we will take action where we can.

Over all, the survey provides the school with very positive feedback, however there are always areas for improvement and parents' comments provide us with very valuable feedback about areas we could develop. A few different themes emerged from the responses to the questions and parents' additional comments at the end of the survey. These are set out on the next page.

Impact of COVID on the school's provision

We all know that the past 18 months, including two periods of school closure and the ongoing restrictions on how schools and daily lives operate, have had a big impact on all aspects of our lives. The responses to the questions and parents' comments clearly showed that parents value our usual offer of after school clubs, a wide curriculum with specialist teaching, daily assemblies and use of the Heath. We have tried hard to bring back elements of our usual provision where we can and, in common with parents, staff are very keen to return to lots of our pre-COVID activities and routines as soon as we can, hopefully over the Autumn term.

COVID restrictions have also limited provision such as our 1:1 reading for the younger year groups, because adults from different classes have not been able to support with this as usual, and the way that parents can have an informal 'catch-up' with class teachers at the beginning or end of the day (especially in the junior classes). Parents' comments about both these areas have been noted and we hope that an end to COVID restrictions will help to resolve both these issues.

The school's reward systems

There were five comments from different parents about our various reward systems, including our general rewards, such as Golden Certificates and Star of the Day, and more specific awards, e.g. for the Spelling Challenge. Parents commented that these general awards were not always awarded fairly and that for the academic challenges, effort and improvement should be rewarded as well as high attainment.

School response

Teachers do try to make sure every single child is rewarded in different ways throughout the year with our Golden Certificates and Star of the Day, but we will review our systems for this to make sure this happens. However, we don't award our Golden Certificates and Star of the Day on a rota system, so they won't be evenly awarded to each child. Some children do need rewards like this a little more often than other children, just to keep them going or to reward particular efforts they have made.

Our KS2 Spelling Challenge is about beating your personal best, as well as about encouraging children to learn all the words on the lists. At the end of the year we give out certificates and celebrate the children who have made the most progress over the year, as well as to those who have scored 100% or close to this. We are just about to give out those certificates for children's efforts and improvements this year. We will have a think about whether we could do this twice in the year instead in order to emphasise this more, perhaps after both the spring and summer term challenges.

Communication between parents and teachers

There were five suggestions from parents about how we could make improvements to the way teachers and parents share information about children's progress and about our curriculum, with some specific comments about the format of our parents evenings.

School response

As stated above, the more informal communication with parents has been very difficult for teachers this year with the restrictions in place and we hope to build this up again next term. Parents evenings will also hopefully return to a face to face conversation with an opportunity to see children's work and books – we know that parents have missed this this year. Please be aware that with 28 children's parents to meet, parents evenings are inevitably brief conversations – parents are very welcome to ask to meet with teachers to discuss children's progress or other issues, including our curriculum, and to see children's work at any other time in the year and many parents take advantage of this offer (even this year when we have been meeting with parents outside or at a distance).

A flavour of the many positive comments received:

'The staff work very hard not only to encourage academic excellence but also to promote a kind, caring and nurturing environment. This helps children in all years to develop positive relationships with others in a happy, friendly and safe environment.'

'It is an excellent school, and I shall be sad when my daughter graduates from year six.'

'Christ Church is a gem of a school. It is incredibly well run and all the staff clearly put their hearts and souls into the school – and it shows. Thank you!'

'I really love that Christ Church is like a big family to my child.'

'We couldn't be happier. Moving our son to Christ Church was the best decision we made. Thank you.'

'I feel I could approach any member of staff [if I had an issue] and reach a satisfactory outcome. Staff's knowledge of and friendliness to all pupils is really quite delightful. In short, I could not have hoped for a better school for my daughter.'

'Over all the school has excellent teachers and very happy children – thank you for everything you do, not least during the challenges of the past year.'

Thank you very much for your positive comments – these have been shared with the staff team and they mean a lot to members of staff who continue to work incredibly hard to do their best for your children.