



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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September 2021
Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new year and a very warm welcome to new children and families! I hope everyone had a relaxing Summer break – the children and staff have returned to school with great enthusiasm over the past few days!

It is great to be heading even closer to our normal school routines and it has been wonderful to see parents in our playgrounds, start up our whole school assemblies and see children from different classes getting to know each other and playing together in the playgrounds.

We already have lots planned for a busy term ahead. Please take a look at the dates and information throughout this newsletter for some of our events and how parents and families can get involved. We are continuing our focus on well-being and positive mental health throughout the school and will be running our highly-successful Happiness Project again this term (see below for more details). Our Arts Project this term will also be linked to our Happiness Project – more details to come about this later in the term.

We will also start to build back in class trips this term and will once more be asking for parent helpers to support with these. Please do volunteer if you can, as we wouldn't be able to run these trips without your help – thank you very much in advance for your support with trips and everything else this term. It is great that it is going to feel so busy again!

With very best wishes for the year ahead,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Welcomes

A very warm welcome to children and families who are joining our school community this term.

Welcome to Ferhad who has joined Year 4, to Aubteen and Kiara who have joined Year 5 and to Martha who has joined Year 6.

A very warm welcome to our new Reception class too! Welcome to Lola, Theodore, Fleetwood, Tomas, Mathilda, Orson, Karlotta, Vivien, Patrick, Leo H, Jasmine, Nicholas, Apolline, Maddalena, Alexandra, Daphne, Margot, Dries, Caterina, Thea, Anoushka, Soraya, Leo S, Aurelija, Hero, Isadora, and Winston.

Welcome, also, to new members of staff: Mr Oliver is joining us to teach music to all classes and to lead our KS2 choir and Ms Pugalia will be teaching French to Years 2-6. Miss Iseley will be completing her School Direct teacher training year teaching alongside Miss Innes in Reception this year.

Rights Respecting School accreditation - Gold!

We are all really pleased and proud to be able to share the report for our fifth Gold Rights Respecting Schools accreditation. We hosted a virtual visit from UNICEF representatives in July, where they spoke with pupils, staff and governors about our work promoting and supporting children rights.

The key strengths highlighted in the report are:

- *the children's excellent knowledge and understanding of rights*
- *the school's exemplary use of UNICEF UK's Article of the Week materials*
- *a school culture that highlights equality and diversity not just through words but in action*
- *pupil voice, particularly 'Have your say' which serves as a catalyst for campaigning, action and realisation of change*

The report also states that '*children and adults at Christ Church have collaborated successfully to develop a school community based on equality, dignity, respect and non-discrimination....diverse opinions and perspectives are actively promoted and encouraged in numerous ways*', '*it was evident throughout the virtual visit that mutually respectful relationships are a hallmark of the school*' and '*support for all aspects of the children's wellbeing is a long-standing strength of the school*'.

The full report is attached with this newsletter and will also be published on our website – please take a look, as we are very proud of this important aspect of our school!



Dates Please check back in each newsletter for any updates or additions

September

Monday 6th – Reception class start half days

Thursday 9th, 3.20 – 3.50 – Y1-6 Open classrooms – children can bring parents/family members in to school to see their new classroom

Thursday 16th, 6pm – Reception parent information meeting

Week beginning Monday 20th – after school clubs and booster sessions start

Monday 20th – Harvest food collection this week

Thursday 23rd, 6pm – Secondary transfer and school journey meeting – Y4/5/6 parents welcome

Friday 24th – Wear colours and sparkles – raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital

Sunday 26th, 11am – Harvest Thanksgiving service in Christ Church – all families very welcome - with Church mini family event afterwards

Monday 27th – Wake and shake starts- Monday mornings 8.45am, junior playground – all families welcome

Tuesday 28th, 9am – Reception and Year 1 parent workshop – phonics

Class assemblies – Autumn term

We are looking forward to welcoming parents back to watch our class assemblies this term! Class assemblies will take place in the school hall at 10am on the following dates:

- Thursday 7th October – Y5 class assembly
- Friday 15th October – Y3 class assembly
- Wednesday 20th October – Y1 class assembly
- Friday 22nd October – Y6 school journey assembly
- Friday 5th November – Y4 class assembly
- Friday 12th November – Y2 class assembly
- Friday 26th November – Reception class assembly

Christ Church Hampstead

Each term there are three Sunday Eucharist services at Christ Church which are special 'children in church' services, where our school choir sings and children take part in the service by reading and serving. All families in the school are especially invited to attend these services, but are, of course, always very welcome on any other Sundays as well. The dates for this term's children in church services are 11am on 26th September (our Harvest Festival, no choir yet), 7th November and 28th November.

Happiness Project!

Each week this term, the whole school will focus on one of ten themes teaching about skills and strategies to help everyone

maintain positive mental well-being, alongside knowing when and how to seek extra help. It's not all about being happy and we know we can't all be happy all the time, but we do want to give children the skills to be able to support themselves and others to maintain good mental health and well-being wherever they can.

We first developed and ran our Happiness Project in 2016 and then again in 2018 and have since worked with schools across Camden and beyond to help them to develop their own similar school initiatives. We have also returned to these themes several times in the intervening years, including through our home learning periods. There is lots of information about our previous project on our website [here](#).

We will be sending out information about each of the themes to parents each week and there will be opportunities to get involved through parent workshops and homework activities, too. Here are our ten themes to look out for coming up this term:

Setting goals, Giving, Healthy Body, Resilience (bouncing back), Try something new, Emotions, Belonging, Family and Friends, Celebrating differences and Simplicity.

Some well done and thank yous from last term

School council 2021

Well done to Zachary (chair), Raina (vice-chair) and Agnes (secretary) who were elected to these Y6 school council roles for this year in our school-wide election at the end of last term. Thank you to all the many pupils who stood in the election.

Charlie Chesser awards

Congratulations to the first recipients of the Charlie Chesser awards, recognising kindness, thoughtfulness and inclusion. Well done to Ethan (last year's Y6), Coco (Y6), Dastan (Y5), Summer (Y4), Bear (Y3), Pablo (Y2) and Imogen (Y1).

Active Citizenship awards

Well done to the Year 3 and Year 5 classes for achieving an Active Citizenship Award for their work on campaigning on Food Poverty and setting up a Little free Library last term.

Water Aid fundraising

Well done and thank you to last year's Year 6 for raising a very impressive £833 for WaterAid with their sponsored run!



Happiness Project – September's themes



Setting goals, and breaking them down into achievable steps, gives us a sense of direction and builds confidence.



Giving to others, in lots of different ways, also makes us feel better and supports our own mental well-being.



Maintaining a **healthy body** helps our mental well-being, too, and builds resilience so we are better able to cope in trickier times.

October

Friday 1st, 9.50am - Music assembly

Wednesday 6th – individual photos

Friday 8th October – INSET day – no children in school

Monday 11th– Friday 15th – Y6 school journey

Week beginning Monday 11th – Try Something New week

Week beginning Monday 11th – KS2 Times table challenge this week

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st – Parents evenings

Monday 25th – Friday 29th – Half term

November

Week beginning 1st November – KS2 spelling challenge

Sunday 7th, 11am – Children in Church service – school choir singing

Week beginning Monday 8th – PSHE week: Positive Relationships

Friday 12th – Anti-bullying day – wear odd socks!

Week beginning Monday 15th – PSHE week: Celebrating diversity and difference

Friday 19th November – INSET day – no children in school

Sunday 28th, 11am – Children in Church service: school choir singing

Week beginning 29th – last after school clubs and boosters this week

December

Sunday 5th – Christmas Fair tbc

Wednesday 9th, am – Infant Nativity Play for parents

Tuesday 14th, 6pm – School Carol Service in Church

Wednesday 15th – Christmas Jumper Day!

Friday 17th, 11,15am – Christmas Service in Church

Friday 17th December, midday – Children home for Christmas holidays

January

Tuesday 4th – Children back to school for Spring term