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Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your support of our Happiness Project so far this term – we have all been having a wonderful time learning all about different ways to support our own and others' mental well-being. It has been great to see parents joining in with our wake and shake sessions, supporting our 'try something new' trips (see below for photos and details) and attending our parent workshops.

We have four more themes to explore this half term: belonging, family and friends, celebrating difference and simplicity. We will be asking for parents' help with one part of our family and friends theme when we ask you to send your child in with a stamped envelope addressed to a more distant member of your family (in this country or abroad) – children will be writing cards and letters to help them stay connected to family. When we've done this in the past, this has been a lovely surprise for aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, spreading a little bit of happiness further afield; thank you in advance for your help with this.

It has been great to start our class assemblies again over the last month and see so many parents and family members squashed into the hall to watch. The remaining classes will present their class assemblies before the end of term (see dates below) and children are looking forward to sharing their work and learning with their families and the rest of the school. All family members very welcome!

Best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Happiness Project – highlights of our 'Try something new' week!

Our 'try something new' week aims to develop children's confidence, resilience and openness to new experiences, helping them to overcome anxiety about trying new things whilst having a lot of fun! Judging by the children's comments about the activities they tried and how it made them feel positive about taking on a new challenge, we certainly achieved our aims!



How did you feel beforehand?

'I was excited, but there was a part of me that didn't want to do it as I was scared.'

We enjoyed trying **batik, tie-dye, kayaking, shelter building, fire-lighting, eating tropical fruits and circus skills!**

How did you feel afterwards?

'I was really proud of myself for trying something new, even though I was worried about it, because I really enjoyed it!'

Staff news

- Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Manning-Bennett who is delighted to be expecting her second baby in the spring!
- Congratulations to Mr Spadaccini who got married over the half term break – many congratulations to Rob and Anastasia!

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

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

Tuesday 9th, 9.50am – music assembly

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

Thursday 25th, 2.45 – 4.45pm – Art Project exhibition (clubs will run as normal)

Welcome back to Year 6!



Year 6 had a fabulous week away, trying lots and lots of new things, at the PGL adventure centre in Dorset. Thank you very much to Miss Parsons, Mrs Maguire and Miss Morris who accompanied the class!



Sports competitions are back!

Children in junior classes have represented the school brilliantly at Camden school sports tournaments and events so far this term – it has been great to get back to participating and competing with other schools at last! Well done to our dodgeball, benchball and cross country teams for some brilliant performances and super sportsmanship!



Information and reminders

Building works update

The external stonework replacement work at the Christchurch Hill side of the school is continuing on schedule and, additionally, works to replace and refurbish windows took place over half term. The scaffolding will move round to the south side of the school in the coming weeks for work on more windows, with all the work scheduled to be completed by Christmas.

Please take care on our steps

Please take care on our steps and in our playgrounds as the weather gets wetter and colder.

Photos on our website

There are lots of photos of this term's activities so far on our website news page [here](#). This page will be updated through the term.

Punctuality – thank you!

Thank you for supporting your child to be on time to school every day. Punctuality has been very good so far this term. Please remember that the bells ring and learning starts straight away at 8.50am for all classes and gates will close very shortly after this. If you do arrive late, please press the buzzer at the main entrance and come into the office to sign your child in.

Happiness Project – November's themes



Belonging: 'belonging to something bigger' by being a part of all sorts of different groups and communities, gives us meaning in our lives

Our **friends and family** are vital to our positive mental health – staying connected and spending time together supports us in so many different ways!



Celebrating differences – understanding that we are all unique, different and wonderful and, in particular, understanding our own strengths and weaknesses, supports our own and others' well-being.

Simplicity – our final theme, which is also one of the school's core Christian values, is all about the importance of taking time for a moment of quiet, to focus on the present, without worrying about what's next, and to appreciate the wonders of nature around us



Friday 26th – Non-uniform day – bring a toy for the Fair

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

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

December

Friday 3rd – non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the Fair

Sunday 5th – Christmas Fair

Thursday 9th, 10am – Infant Nativity Play for parents

Friday 10th – Friends Christmas Present Sale

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

Wednesday 15th – Christmas Jumper Day!

Friday 17th, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church – all families welcome

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

January

Tuesday 4th – Children back to school for Spring term

Arts Project this term

This term, our Arts Project will see children using their skills to create art works inspired by one of our Happiness Project themes. Classes will also be inspired by the work of artists from all over the world. Look out for more details of our exhibition which will take place after school on 25th November.

Class assemblies – Autumn term

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

Friday 5th November – Y4 class assembly

Friday 12th November – Y2 class assembly

Thursday 18th November – Y3 class assembly **new**

Friday 26th November – Reception class assembly