



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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Newsletter 7

We love reading!

Dear parents and carers,

We are all looking forward to a super World Book Day this week, celebrating our love of reading and sharing our favourite books. Reading is our highest academic priority at Christ Church and we work towards every child both becoming a fluent reader and developing a real love for reading. The Friends Association and all parents do an amazing job of supporting our reading in school, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to thank you for all that support:

- ❖ **Thank you** to all parents (and carers and family members) for reading regularly with their children at home – this is so important in both the early stages of learning to read *and* as your children becomes more fluent, even well into KS2. Children develop fluency best by reading aloud regularly and talking about what they read. Thank you for reading the phonics practice books with your child and also for sharing a wide range of other books at home – both are really important in developing fluency and a love of reading.
- ❖ **Thank you** to the Friends Association for organising their annual second hand book sale for World Book Day and for donating the money for our class trips to Waterstones to buy new reading books for the classrooms.
- ❖ **Thank you** to the parent who offered and used their staff discount to support us in buying extra copies of our phonics readers. This made a real difference.
- ❖ **Thank you** to parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for making sure you return your child's phonics practice book each week and for writing in your child's reading diary. Thank you to parents in the juniors for making sure your child has their reading book in school every day -- there are several individual reading sessions in every class each week.

We are very proud of the excellent reading culture we have at Christ Church – children choose to read in the playgrounds and eagerly share their book choices with each other as well as achieving super outcomes in reading assessments, which helps their learning in every other subject. This is a result of fabulous team work between school and home, so if you have any concerns about your child's reading or questions about how you can support, please do continue to talk to class teachers, either straight away or at the upcoming parents evenings.

Thank you for all your support of reading and World Book Day – we are looking forward to seeing some super costumes and celebrating some wonderful books!

Best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



## Signing the Camden School Climate Charter

Christ Church has recently signed the Camden School [Climate Charter](#). This continues all the sustainability work we already do as a school and commits us to

- *teaching children to be environmentally literate and to develop their knowledge, skills, motivation and confidence to practise and promote sustainability at school and in their community*
- *ensuring any decisions we make around managing our premises, purchasing goods and managing resources and waste, take into account their impact on the environment, and adopting sustainable practices wherever possible.*

There are ten climate charter areas to work on in total and, in the first instance, we are going to focus on developing our work on single-use plastics, recycling and how sustainability fits into our curriculum. We are planning an exciting whole school eco week for the summer term - look out for more details to come!

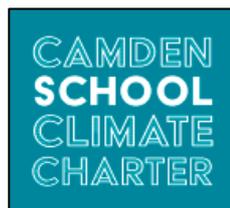
## Books suggestions and recommendations



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we will be updating our children's reading list suggestions and we'd love lots of great recommendations from children, parents and staff. Get thinking about books you would recommend!

Our current lists, if you need some inspiration now, are on our website on the [we love reading](#) page. We have

suggestions for picture books, early chapter books, getting the hang of chapter books, confident chapter book readers, established readers looking for a challenge and chapter books with more challenging concepts.



## Parents evening reminders:

**23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Sign up sheets for parents evenings will be in the junior playground from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Please sign up for siblings at least two slots apart.

There are no clubs or music tuition sessions after school on these evenings but we will run limited childcare if you need it during your appointment. All children who are in school with their parents will be asked to wait in the childcare in the Year 5 classroom.

Please remember that teachers are always happy to meet with parents at any time – don't save things up for parents evening!

## Keeping Healthy and Safe PSHE week highlights!



### Welcomes!

A warm welcome to Freya who has joined our Year 4 class and to Sofia who has rejoined!

### Information and reminders

#### **COVID reminders and update**

With the recent changes to Government COVID guidance, please continue to be help us all stay safe and healthy by following the [latest advice](#):

- children should still stay at home if they have any COVID symptoms and get tested
- if children test positive for COVID, they should still stay at home for at least five full days and only return to school after two negative LFD tests 24 hours apart (e.g. on days 5 and 6). We will continue to set home learning for those with a positive test result.
- if children become ill at school, as always, we will continue to inform parents and ask you to collect your child.

We will no longer inform parents of every positive COVID test result within the class, but will continue to inform you of the first case in a class (in each separate outbreak), so that parents can be vigilant for symptoms and aware if they are visiting those who are more vulnerable. We will also inform parents if there is a significant outbreak in the class or the school as whole.

We will continue to hand wash regularly in school, promote good hygiene and to maintain good ventilation in all areas.

#### **School policies**

School staff and governors have recently reviewed the following policies; you can find them on our website or you can ask for a paper copy from the school office:

- Drugs Policy
- Relationships Education Policy (including a statement on our provision for Sex Education)
- Continuing Professional Development Policy

#### **Spring Term Class Assemblies**

It was wonderful to welcome parents back to class assemblies last term. Dates for remaining class assemblies this term are below – they are all at 10am in the school hall.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 class assembly

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 class assembly

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Reception class assembly

There are some super photos of the class assemblies which have already taken place on our website [news page](#).

### **Dates**

#### **March**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Book Day, Dress up as a book character, if you'd like to. Friends second hand book sale: bring 3-10 good quality second hand children's books and £5 in coins to spend in our sale. All proceeds go to the Friends Association

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, eve – Choir Festival event – Y5 class and Y6 choir

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – INSET day – no children in school – staff training day

Week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – last clubs and booster sessions this week

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> – Y3 daily swimming sessions

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3.30 – 7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, 3.30 – 6pm – Parents evening

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Wear a Hat day! Wear any hat (the sillier the better!) and bring a donation for Brain Tumour Research charity

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Children in Church service – school choir singing

#### **April**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, 11.15am – end of term service in Church – all welcome

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, midday – children home for holidays

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – all children back to school for summer term

#### **Online safety parent workshop**

We are setting up an online evening parent information session on online safety to help to get this important information to parents. Look out for a date and details to come.

**Helping children remember what they learn!** We have been thinking about how we can help ourselves to remember what we learn. We thought it might be helpful to share with parents one tip for helping us learn and remember new facts and skills in each of the next few newsletters:

#### **Memory tip number 2**

*Coming back to the same information several times helps us to embed this learning in our long term memories. The very act of trying to retrieve or recall something we have learnt before helps our brain make connections and be able to remember this more quickly and automatically the next time. For example, this is why we return to the same maths learning from a few weeks ago in our homework or morning work, why we return to the same spelling lists over two year groups in key stage 2 and why we start history lessons with quick quizzes about what we have already learnt.*