



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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April 2022
Newsletter 8

Welcome back to the
Summer term!

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the summer term!

We have lots planned for the term ahead including lots of sports and time on the Heath as the weather gets warmer, plenty of Jubilee Celebrations, including our Church Service on May 27th and trips for all classes to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, and all our usual end of year events later in the term. There are lots of dates below – please have a look and put them in your diaries now!

Thank you to the many, many parents who responded to our parent survey at the end of last term. It is really helpful to gather feedback from parents, to hear your good suggestions and be able to share your positive feedback with all staff members. There is a summary of all the responses and a selection of some of your comments attached with this newsletter. School staff use parents' feedback to help us plan areas of our provision to change and develop as well as to let us know which successful things to keep just the same! We also gather feedback from children in lots of different ways and there is a summary of the comments from one of our recent 'pupil voice' sessions included below, too.

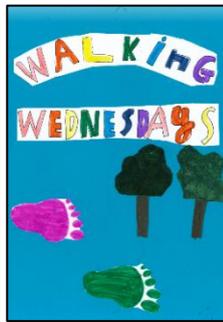
Please remember that you can give us feedback at any time and in lots of different ways – please find me in the playgrounds at the beginning or end of the day or make an appointment to meet with me, Mr Hollings or class teachers. With best wishes for a sunny summer term ahead! Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



School Council's Walking Wednesdays!

Walking Wednesdays have started! School council are encouraging everyone to walk, scoot or cycle to school to keep themselves and the planet healthy. Congratulations to Ellen (Y1) who designed the winning sticker and to Thor (Y4), Matilda (Y4) and Santi (Y2) who created our posters!

Thank you very much for donating just over £600 to the DEC Ukraine appeal in March. And **thank you** for donating another £600 to Brain Tumour Research Charity on our Wear a Hat day!



Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Mrs Manning-Bennett whose new baby daughter, Emma, was born just before the Easter holiday!

Welcome!

A warm welcome to James who has joined our Year 4 class!

Dates

April
Tuesday 19th – all children back to school for summer term

Monday 25th – After school clubs start

Tuesday 26th, 6pm – Online Parent workshop on E-safety – link to come

May

Monday 2nd – Bank holiday – no school

Sunday 8th, 11am – School choir singing in Church

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th – Year 6 SATs tests this week

Monday 16th – Friday 20th – PSHE week: Living in the wider world

Week beginning Monday 23rd – KS2 times table challenge this week

Friday 27th, 11am – Platinum Jubilee Service in Church – all families very welcome

Friday 27th, pm – Jubilee parties!

Supporting your child to stay safe online – Tuesday 26th April, 6pm online parent workshop

We have set up another opportunity for parents to hear from an online safety expert about how to support their child to stay safe and respectful online. In our online safety workshops with classes, children told us they wanted their parents to know more about what they were accessing online and how to support and protect them. More information about our online evening workshop is attached and the link will be sent out shortly.



Super music performance!

Very well done to our Year 5 class and Year 6 singers who gave brilliant performances at the Camden Spring Music Festival before Easter – amazing singing with the other schools and a fabulous individual performance, too!

Here is the lovely feedback from Sheena Masson, the organiser at Camden Music Service: *'your performance of*

'Shotgun' was superb. It was a fabulous way to start the concert series and an absolutely wonderful example of inclusive music-making. The children performed with amazing confidence and obvious delight and were so professional in the way they sorted themselves out with all those instruments!'

Well done, Year 4 – times table Spring Slam winners!

Congratulations to Year 4 who beat lots of other Year 4 classes in Camden to be crowned the Spring Slam multiplication tables champions! They are very proud of their trophy!

What do children tell us about our school?

Each term, teachers spend time talking with groups of children from across our school to find out about their experiences and get their feedback. Last term, in these 'pupil voice' sessions, which were also attended by some of our Governors, teachers talked to children about how we keep children safe in school, children's behaviour and our curriculum. A summary of some of the children's feedback is below:

<p>All children told us they feel safe in school. Children said the things that helped them feel safe in school included: knowing there are always adults around, the fire drills, the gates and the entry buzzer and people who give first aid.</p>	<p>All children could talk about how the school teaches them about keeping themselves safe. Examples children gave included learning about online safety, first aid courses, road safety lessons, how to keep safe on trips, and what to do in an emergency</p>	<p>Children told us that other children in school behaved well nearly all the time. Children talked positively about adults sorting things out if there was any inappropriate behaviour: 'teachers make sure it stops', 'a teacher sorts it out'.</p>
<p>Children were knowledgeable about bullying, what to do if it takes place and how to be an upstander. One pupil said: 'Our school is quite free of bullying because we do so much anti-bullying. There's so much we learn about bullying and not to do it.'</p>	<p>Children could recall this year's learning across the curriculum in some detail and were able to make some connections to their learning in previous years. For example, children talked about how the colour mixing lessons in Year 3 helped with their self portraits in Year 5.</p>	<p>Children gave examples of lots of different ways they are helped to remember what they learn. Examples included quizzes in History, spaced retrieval maths activities for morning work or homework, and using coding from one program in a different platform.</p>

Information and reminders

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:

- Attendance and punctuality policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Worship policy
- Data protection policy
- Freedom of Information policy

Punctuality reminders

Thank you to the many, many families who are always in the playground waiting for the bells to ring at 8.50am.

Please remember our gates open at about 8.35am so you can be here early, but that there is no supervision in our playgrounds before the bells ring, so children should remain with their adults. Aiming to be in the playground at 8.45am everyday would be ideal!

100% attendance certificates

We haven't given out our highly-prized termly 100% attendance certificates for over two years now because of COVID but, depending on the number of positive cases this term, we might finally be able to bring these back this term! If we do, we will probably give out an 'almost 100%' certificate, too. If your child is well, they should be in school every day.

Summer Term Class Assemblies

Dates for this term's class assemblies are below – they are all at 10am in the school hall and parents and family members are very welcome!

- Friday 20th May – Y3 class assembly
- Wednesday 25th May – Reception class assembly
- Friday 10th June – Y4 class assembly
- Wednesday 15th June – Y5 class assembly
- Friday 17th June – Y1 class assembly
- Monday 20th June – Y6 class assembly
- Friday 8th July – Y2 class assembly
- Friday 15th July – Y6 memories assembly

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

Monday 30th May – Monday 6th June – half term

June

Tuesday 7th – back to school

Week beginning Tuesday 7th – KS2 spelling challenge this week

Wednesday 8th – class photos

Monday 13th – Friday 17th – Eco week

Sunday 19th, 11am – School choir singing in Church

Thursday 23rd – Whole school photo

Friday 24th – INSET day – no children in school

Monday 27th – non uniform day – bring a toy for the Summer Fair – tbc

July

Friday 1st – non uniform day – bring a bottle for the Summer Fair – tbc

Friday 1st, 2.15pm – informal music performance/sharing for parents in the playground - tbc

Sunday 3rd, 11am – School choir singing in Church

Sunday 3rd – Summer Fair tbc

Week beginning Monday 4th – last after school clubs this week

Monday 4th, pm – Sports Day – whole school (reserve for rain: Tuesday 5th)

Thursday 7th, 2pm – Open afternoon

Thursday 7th, 6pm – Summer Serenade

Wednesday 13th, 6pm – Year 6 production

Thursday 14th, 6pm – Year 6 production

Friday 15th – Annual reports sent home to parents

Friday 22nd, 11.15am – Leavers/End of year service in Church – all families very welcome

Friday 22nd, midday – all children home for the holidays

September

Monday 5th – Years 1-6 back to school

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 3

We learn and remember information best when it is presented clearly and simply, without being distracted by other extra information. If there is too much going on, our brains can find it difficult to work out what's the most important information to take in and remember. Teachers try to avoid this (which is called cognitive overload) by not giving too many instructions at once, not setting too many tasks at the same time and taking away any extra pictures or information from our screens and worksheets. This is why we learn best when it's quiet and still around us, as well.



Christ Church School - Parent Survey Results March 2022

Headlines from our parent survey:

100% of parents say their child feels safe at school.	99% of parents say their child is happy at school.	100% of parents say they would recommend Christ Church to another parent.	94% of parents say that the school makes sure children are well behaved.
97% of parents say their child can take part in clubs and activities – this is back up to a much higher level than last year’s responses, which shows us we have got our broad extra-curricular provision back up and running after the COVID restrictions.	95% of parents say that any concerns they have raised have been dealt with properly or they have not raised concerns. A similarly high percentage of parents say we deal with any bullying effectively.	89% of parents say the school makes parents aware of what their child will be learning over the year – we think we do this in lots of ways already, but some parents think we could do more, so we will review this for next year.	96% of parents say their child does well at school but there are slightly lower figures for whether the school lets parents know how their child is doing and whether we have high expectations – two areas for us to think about any changes

All the data from our parent survey:

122 responses in total

2022 results in bold (2021, then 2020 results in brackets)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
My child is happy at Christ Church School	72% (76%, 68%)	27% (24%, 30%)	0 (1%, 1%)	0 (0, 0)	1% (0, 1%)	
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	82% (85%, 77%)	18% (14%, 23%)	0 (1%, 0)	0 (0, 0)	0 (0, 1%)	
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	53% (52%, 57%)	41% (43%, 38%)	3% (2%, 2%)	0 (0, 0)	2% (2%, 3%)	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	2% (4%, 4%)	13% (9%, 15%)	4% (6%, 8%)	1% (1%, 1%)	14% (18%, 8%)	66% (62%, 64%) My child has not been bullied
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	41% (35%, 35%)	48% (56%, 52%)	8% (8%, 9%)	1% (0, 2%)	2% (2%, 3%)	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	34% (23%, 25%)	33% (44%, 36%)	4% (5%, 6%)	1% (0, 0)	1% (2%, 3%)	28% (26%, 30%) I have not raised concerns
Christ Church School has high expectations for my child	36% (33%, 34%)	44% (46%, 50%)	9% (12%, 7%)	1% (0, 0)	11% (8%, 10%)	
My child does well at Christ Church School	46% (40%, 45%)	50% (54%, 48%)	2% (5%, 3%)	0 (0, 0)	3% (2%, 3%)	
The school lets me know how my child is doing	35% (27%, 33%)	56% (60%, 58%)	7% (13%, 5%)	0 (0, 1%)	3% (0, 3%)	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	46% (41%, 38%)	47% (50%, 52%)	5% (8%, 5%)	0 (0, 0)	2% (1%, 4%)	
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	51% (37%, 47%)	46% (46%, 49%)	3% (9%, 2%)	0 (0, 0)	0 (8%, 3%)	
Christ Church School supports my child's wider personal development	50% (49%, 49%)	42% (44%, 44%)	3% (3%, 3%)	0 (0, 0)	5% (3%, 3%)	
I would recommend Christ Church School to another parent	Yes 100% (98%, 100%)		No 0% (2%, 0)			

Figures all rounded to nearest %

What is really important in our school? (respondents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence	85% (75%, 78%)
	A wide curriculum	61% (65%, 74%)
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care	91% (94%, 94%)
	Our Christian character and ethos	57% (51%, 61%)
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity	65% (63%, 75%)
	Making a difference to others	54% (62%, 64%)
	Creativity, performance and arts activities	67% (67%, 75%)
	Our school community and a feeling of togetherness	82% (79%)

Summary of key areas and actions from our parent survey:

Thank you very much to the 122 parents who responded to our online survey. There are 140 families (and 192 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.

34 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 19 of these comments included very varied suggestions for improvement. We can't respond to every suggestion individually but please be assured they have all been read 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 below.

How we let parents know about what their child will be learning and how we let parents know how their child is doing

We share quite a lot of detail about our curriculum in our class leaflets each term and on our website, but some parents would like more information. We will consider how else we can do this for the beginning of next year, perhaps by expanding the information available at the September open classroom sessions or our series of parent workshops.

We have a 'formal' opportunity for parents to hear feedback from teachers about their child's progress each term (parents evening in Autumn and Spring and annual reports in the Summer) but many parents also take the opportunity to meet with teachers in between to find out how their child is doing. Parents are very welcome to make an appointment to meet with teachers at any time to discuss progress and next steps.

Homework

There were three individual comments about homework: all asking for more homework for their child. There are always very differing opinions about homework from families - some love lots and some don't want any at all! Homework at Christ Church aims to strike a balance between reinforcing/reminding children of their recent learning, sharing learning with those at home, preparing children for the demands of homework at secondary school and allowing children enough free time to take part in other activities and to have a rest. You can read more about our homework on our website [here](#).

Breadth of curriculum and extra-curricular activities

It's great to see that parents' responses agree that we have our wide breadth of curriculum and extra-curricular provision back up and running after the period of COVID restrictions. Our ambition at the beginning of this year was to get our provision for clubs, trips, arts activities, workshops, sports and opportunities with other schools back to a level even higher than before the pandemic. We think we are achieving this and it's good to see that parents agree.

There were three suggestions from parents about us using the Heath even more – we will see what more we can do, especially for Years 1 and 2, who don't benefit from the weekly Reception Heath trips or the weekly sport trips in KS2. As a start, we have run some additional Year 1 trips to the Heath this year already as part of our COVID catch up provision and Year 2 will begin to join in with the KS2 sports trips in the summer term. There were also some good individual suggestions from parents about more drama and group instrumental opportunities which we will consider for the coming terms.

A flavour of the many positive comments received:

'I like that each child is made to feel very special, their achievements recognised, whether academic or more broadly.'

'We have been given a lot of extra support from the school and teachers recently which has been very gratefully received. Thank you for being brilliant.'

'The school strives to create a caring and nurturing environment, along with academic excellence and encourages creativity, all of which is reflected in the happiness of the children.'

'My daughter always loves going to school, feels safe and happy in it. She is thriving in Christ Church and it is a pleasure seeing her being a part of a wonderful class and community.'

'Very happy to see the children studying topics in depth /project based learning e.g. geography dovetailed with history - my child comes home talking enthusiastically about this and is inspired to find out more independently.'

'I'd like to thank the CC team for their enthusiasm, professionalism and the great work they do every day with our children.'

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.