



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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Newsletter 6

A busy start to term!

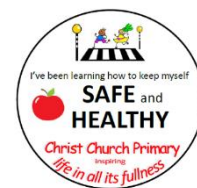
Dear parents, carers and families,

This week is our PSHE week, focusing on **Keeping Healthy and Safe**. This week covers some of our most important teaching and learning of the year, including, for different classes, life-saving first aid teaching; how to support your friends and peers if they are struggling with their emotions; how to eat and drink healthily and look after your teeth; about the importance of good sleep and sleep routines; how to cross the road and use a bike or scooter safely; how to keep safe around water, on beaches, near railways or in the home with medicines, cleaning materials and electricity; and how to assess risks in different situations and get help in an emergency. We think that the learning this week is so important that we want children to share what they have learnt with adults at home as soon as they can, so we will be sending home a folder containing all their work from the week as well as lots of information leaflets and additional materials this Friday. As part of children's homework, please spend some time talking with your child about their learning and work from the week – this will really help to reinforce the important messages from the week in school. We will also be emailing parents on Friday with a set of links to online learning and resources for parents and families on all these topics. Thank you to Miss Innes for organising all the workshops and visitors in another busy PSHE week: we are welcoming local doctors and dentists, community police officers, Caterlink (our school lunch company), bike, scooter and pedestrian safety trainers, First Aid trainers and Year 4 will visit the local fire station!

In the next two weeks and as a follow up to our PSHE week, children will also review all their regular learning about **keeping safe online**, too. Again, look out for a parent email before half term with links to parent resources on online safety and top tips for supporting with this at home.

Thank you to the 132 parents who responded to our recent annual parent survey – this is a very impressive response rate out of the 138 families in our school at the moment! I will send out a summary of parents' responses and comments and any resulting actions or plans soon. Your feedback, alongside feedback from children and staff, helps to shape our school for the better, so thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey.

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



Sporting success!

It has been a very sporty start to the new year – despite the wintry weather – with teams from KS2 classes taking part in dodgeball, badminton, table tennis, football and sports hall athletics events with other schools in Camden during January. Our sports hall athletics team will go on to represent Camden at the London Youth Games this month and both our girls and boys football teams qualified from their leagues and are taking part in play offs or finals in the next few weeks – good luck!



Staff news

We are all really sad that two of our super team of Teaching Assistants are leaving Christ Church at half term but pleased to know that they are moving on to new and different challenges, building on their roles here. We all send our thanks and best wishes to Miss Morris, who is leaving to take up a new post supporting families at Barnet Council, and to Miss Jess, who is moving on to a role at Great Ormond Street Hospital School. Both Miss Morris and Miss Jess have supported so many children across the school – in classes, in breakfast club, in after school music, at lunch times – we will really miss them both!

Also, congratulations to both Miss Innes and Miss Parsons who have recently passed their NPQ qualifications in Leading Teacher Development and to Mrs Pagnello who is part way through a year's training to become a NCETM maths mastery specialist teacher.

Our pupil-led groups have been busy already this term!



CREW (our ECO team of children from all classes) have introduced us to the **Recycle to Read** scheme. We are collecting used batteries to send off to be disposed of carefully, rather than going in household waste where they can pollute the water and soil, and we receive book tokens to spend on books for school in return. You can find more

information on the scheme [here](#). If you have any used batteries, we have a collection box in the front office – thank you!

As well as representing the school at the LDBS Schools Service at St Paul's Cathedral, school council have re-launched our **Walking**

Wednesdays campaign this term, encouraging everyone to walk, scoot, cycle or take public transport to school. Please help us reduce congestion and pollution around school and travel in the most sustainable way you can.



Our Well-being Champions led a super assembly teaching us all about calming triangle breaths, introducing their well-being bench in the KS2 playground and explaining their **non-uniform Rainbow Day (7th February)** when children are invited to wear a rainbow colour instead of uniform and bring a donation for the children's mental health charities Childline and Place2Be.

Coming up this term:

Readathon – The school and Friends will be jointly running an exciting Readathon later this month with the twin aims of raising money for the Friends to support book purchases for school **and** encouraging everyone to read even more. Look out for more information shortly!

Poetry sharing – Children in Years 1-6 will be rehearsing, learning and then reciting a poem to their classes at the end of this month. We are looking forward to hearing an amazing range of poetry and some brilliant performances!

Debating week – We are also looking forward to learning about the skills needed for debating with some workshops and activities in the week beginning 13th March.

Welcomes

Welcome to Kareena who has joined our Year 2 class and to Joe who has joined our Year 3 class – a warm welcome to both new families in our school community!

Information and reminders

Breakfast club

We have unfortunately made the decision to stop our breakfast club provision at half term. We were in the process of reviewing this provision, with a view to possibly ending it at the end of this academic year, but the fact that our key breakfast club staff are moving on, has brought this decision forward. The numbers in our club have never returned to the pre-COVID levels when we regularly had 15-20 children in breakfast club per day and we know that parents' working patterns have changed so there is less need for this type of child care. Parents who are booked in to breakfast club have already been informed separately, and, if the need in our school community changes in the future, we can always look to restart this provision again.

Class leaflets and news on our school website

Class leaflets, including lots of curriculum information for this term, came home to parents at the beginning of term and are also on our website [here](#). The news and events page of our website is updated all the time – you can find lots of photos of Autumn term events [here](#) and our Spring term events so far [here](#).

Spring Term Class Assemblies

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

Wednesday 8th February – **Year 2** class assembly (with parent workshop on maths before at 9am)
Friday 24th February – **Year 4** class assembly (with parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am)
Wednesday 8th March – **Year 3** class assembly (with parent workshop on writing before at 9am)
Friday 10th March – **Reception** class assembly
Wednesday 15th March – **Year 1** class assembly
Friday 24th March – **Year 5** class assembly

Thank you for joining in with wake and shake so enthusiastically this month – even in the freezing weather!



Dates - February

Sunday 5th, 11am – Children in Church service – school choir singing

Tuesday 7th – Well-being Champions' Rainbow Day – non-uniform day, children are invited to wear a rainbow colour instead and bring a suggested donation of £2 to go towards children's mental health charities. The Well-being Champions will also be running a mini cake sale after school – any donations of cakes to sell would be great!

Week beginning Monday 6th – KS2 times table challenge this week

Monday 13th–Friday 17th– Half term

Friday 24th, evening – Friends Disco

Friday 24th – beginning of Readathon

Week beginning 27th February – Y1-6 children's individual poetry sharing

March

Thursday 2nd – World Book Day, Friends Second Hand Book Sale – bring any good quality second hand children's books and £5 in coins to spend in our sale. All proceeds go to the Friends Association.

No dressing up this year, but lots of activities over this fortnight to encourage reading and support the Readathon. We know that some children and parents love the dressing up and others are much less keen, so we don't dress up every year.

Friday 3rd – Wear a Hat day – raising money for Brain Tumour Research Charity, wear any hat and bring a donation – the sillier hat, the better!

Tuesday 7th, after school – Infant classes eco toy swap event – details tbc

Monday 13th – last day of Readathon

Week beginning 13th – debating week

Sunday 19th, 11am – Children in Church school choir singing, Mothering Sunday

Monday 20th – Year 3 daily intensive swimming course starts (two weeks)

Week beginning Monday 20th – last after school clubs this week

Wednesday 29th, 3.40 – 7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 30th, 3.40 – 6.00pm – Parents evening

Friday 31st, pm – Arts Project Concert: A Celebration of Music – all parents and families warmly invited – time tbc

April

Sunday 2nd, 11am – Children in Church, school choir singing, Palm Sunday

Wednesday 5th, after school – Friends Easter event

Thursday 6th, 11.15am – Easter end of term service in Church

Thursday 6th, midday – children collected for Easter Holidays

Monday 24th – children back to school for the summer term