



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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Newsletter 7

Reading and lots more!

Dear parents, carers and families,

It has been wonderful to get our Readathon underway this week and to see children reading and sharing a range of different books in classrooms, in the playgrounds and everywhere else! We are all looking forward to meeting three brilliant local authors, Sharon King Chai, Kate Wilkinson and Jack Meggitt Phillips in the next few days and I can't wait to see the extreme reading photos! Please do encourage your child to read even more and perhaps a greater range of books over the next two weeks and, if you are able to, please donate to the Friends Readathon appeal too. All the money raised will go to support reading and reading resources at school.

It has also been wonderful to hear some of the children's poetry performances at the beginning of this week. Highlights so far have been 'Double, double, toil and trouble' by William Shakespeare, 'Chicken soup and rice' by Maurice Sendak, 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear and a beautiful poem in Slovenian called 'Pomladni angel' by Tone Pavcek and there are many more children still to share their poems! We will be sharing some of the poem performances in an assembly on Friday. With best wishes for lots of happy reading over the next two weeks, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Celebration of music!

Whole school concert, 1.45pm on Friday 31st March

All parents and family members are very warmly invited to our Celebration of Music concert on Friday 31st March. The concert will take place in the Church starting at 1.45pm (main doors will open for parents to come in at 1.40pm).

This is the culmination of our Christ Church Arts Project for this term. Every child will be taking part in several whole school songs and there will also be some instrumental performances by KS2 classes. We are all rehearsing hard and are looking forward to sharing and celebrating our musical talents with everyone on 31st March!

Rainbow day fundraising – thank you!

Thank you for your generous donations on our Rainbow Day last month, organised by our Well-being Champions. We raised just over £600 to split between Childline, Place2be and the DEC appeal in the aftermath of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Sporting successes

Congratulations to both our Y5/6 girls and boys football teams for qualifying for the finals days of the Camden tournament – this is the first time in many years that both teams have qualified for the finals! Both teams eventually reached the semi-finals and were very proud of their well-deserved bronze medals! Well done also to our athletics team who represented Camden at the London Youth Games event, travelling all the way to Harrow to take part and representing their school and the Borough brilliantly!



Toy swop event for infants – Tuesday March 7th, after school

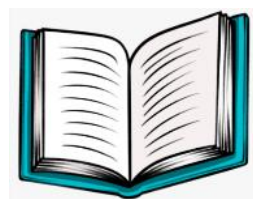
As part of our Climate Charter work on sustainability, we will be holding a toy swop event after school on Tuesday 7th March. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to bring in any good quality second hand toys and games that they no longer use on either Monday 6th or Tuesday 7th. Perhaps you have had a clear out after Christmas? No baby toys, please. The donated toys will be laid out in the infant playground after school on Tuesday 7th for children and families to take a new toy home – first come, first served!

Welcomes

Welcome to Anaiya, who has joined our Reception class, to Henry, who has joined our Year 1 class, and to Caetano, who we have welcomed back to our Year 2 class! A very warm welcome to these new pupils and their families!

Welcome back, also, to Ms Stepniak, who is continuing her teacher training placement in Year 4 for the rest of this school year.

We are delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Manning-Bennett from her maternity leave part time from after the Easter break. Working with Mr Hollings, she will be taking over teaching Reception class in the summer term.



Christ Church Parent Book Club

Like books? Christ Church's Parent Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of each month in a parent's home, and everyone is welcome. Contact the school admin email address to join and we will forward your email on to the parent who organises the club. Christ Church Parent Book Club Spring/Summer 2023 dates: Monday March 20th, Monday April 17th, Monday May 15th and Monday June, all at 8.30pm.

What do children tell us about our school?

Each term, teachers or school advisers spend time talking with groups of children from across our school to find out about their experiences and get their feedback. Some of our sessions are also attended by Governors and in the last two terms we have gathered children's feedback 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 said they felt safe in school and could talk about how the school keeps them safe and teaches them about keeping themselves safe.</p> <p>Examples children gave included learning about online safety, first aid courses, road and bike safety lessons and what to do in an emergency, as well as our fire drills, routines for trips and adults supervising at all times.</p>	<p>New children told us they had enjoyed a warm welcome to the school and loved being part of Christ Church.</p> <p>Pupils who are newer to our school were particularly positive about the way children behave at Christ Church and about the way they have been welcomed and supported. One pupil said 'I can share my ideas here more, I can be free and be myself.'</p>
<p>Children could talk about this year's learning across the curriculum in detail and were able to make connections to their learning in previous years.</p> <p>For example, children talked about how learning about electrical circuits in Y4 and using them to create their electrical dolls houses helped them when they created more complicated fairground models in DT in Y5.</p>	<p>Children are very positive about the behaviour in our school</p> <p>Pupils recently spoke to an external adviser about behaviour who reported that children said 'behaviour is very good in their school and they are very familiar with the reward systems in place. They say that bullying is very rare and if it does happen they are confident that it would be dealt with.'</p>

The [parent survey summary](#) is also attached at the end of this newsletter in case you missed it when it was sent out before half term.

PSHE week: keeping healthy and safe

There are lots of great photos and reminders of our learning in our recent PSHE week on the news page of our website [here](#). First aid, scooter training, dentist and police visits, fruit tasting and much more!



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 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

Information and reminders

If your child is leaving...

If your child is leaving Christ Church (or this is a possibility) please let us know as far in advance as possible. This helps us to offer places to families on our waiting lists, some of whom need to give notice to their current schools.

Water bottles

Please don't send your child to school with an expensive or flavoured water bottle – they are too big to fit in our classrooms and are causing pressure for some families to buy one when they really don't need to. Children should only have water to drink in their bottle during the day and can use a Christ Church bottle or a reasonable-sized, reusable plastic one from home. The Friends Association fund a water bottle for every child at the beginning of the year but if your child needs a new Christ Church bottle, then you can buy one from the office for £3. We encourage children to stay hydrated during the day with regular reminders to drink water.

Costs for after school clubs

We are giving advanced notice that, unfortunately, the price for our after school clubs will increase to £8 per session from the beginning of the summer term. We haven't increased these prices for several years but the costs of running the clubs have increased quite a bit, especially staff costs. Please do remember that we don't want any child to miss out on after school clubs for financial reasons – if you cannot meet these costs, but would like your child to take part, please just contact Mrs Forsdyke or Mrs Connock.

We are also taking over the organisation of the child care element of the Wednesday after school music sessions from the summer term. This means that the cost for this part of the session (not the music tuition itself) will be charged by the school and will increase from next term – we will contact the families who use this child care directly in the next few weeks. The music tuition will continue to be arranged and charged by Camden Music Service.

Dates

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 cash donation – the sillier hat, the better!

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

Monday 13th – last day of Readathon

Week beginning 13th – Debating week: workshops from Debate Mate, lunch time discussion questions, debating games, a debate shared with the whole school and much more!

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

Monday 20th – Year 3 daily intensive swimming course starts (two weeks, not Friday 31st)

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, 1.45pm – Arts Project Concert: A Celebration of Music – all parents and families warmly invited

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

School closed for additional bank holiday for the King's Coronation

The school will be closed on Monday 8th May for the additional bank holiday for the Coronation. We will be celebrating the Coronation in school with events on Friday 5th May! Please note that there are now two bank holidays when school is closed in May (May 1st and May 8th), plus a bank holiday within our half term break.

Christ Church School - Parent Survey Results Spring 2023

Headlines from our parent survey:

98% of parents say their child feels safe at school.	97% of parents say their child is happy at school.	98% of parents say they would recommend Christ Church to another parent.	98% 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 continues at the much higher level of response we saw last year, after we were able to bring back all of our extra-curricular provision after the COVID restrictions.	94% 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.	95% of parents say that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn over the year. We are pleased with the increase from last year's figure of 89% since we have worked hard on our class leaflets, parent workshops and website this year.	97% of parents say their child does well at school and the percentage of parents who agree that the school has high expectations has also increased to over 90% this year.

All the data from our parent survey:

132 responses in total

2023 results in bold (2022, then 2021 results in brackets)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
My child is happy at Christ Church School	70% (72%, 76%)	27% (27%, 24%)	2% (0%, 1%)	0 (0, 0)	0 (1%, 0)	
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	76% (82%, 85%)	22% (18%, 14%)	1% (0%, 1%)	0 (0, 0)	1% (0, 0)	
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	55% (53%, 52%)	42% (41%, 43%)	2% (3%, 2%)	0 (0, 0)	2% (2%, 2%)	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	2% (2%, 4%)	11% (13%, 9%)	5% (4%, 6%)	2% (1%, 1%)	15% (14%, 18%)	66% (66%, 62%) My child has not been bullied
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	48% (41%, 35%)	47% (48%, 56%)	3% (8%, 8%)	1% (1%, 0%)	2% (2%, 2%)	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	28% (34%, 23%)	43% (33%, 44%)	5% (4%, 5%)	1% (1%, 0%)	2% (1%, 2%)	22% (28%, 26%) I have not raised concerns
Christ Church School has high expectations for my child	43% (36%, 33%)	46% (44%, 46%)	6% (9%, 12%)	0 (1%, 0%)	5% (11%, 8%)	
My child does well at Christ Church School	48% (46%, 40%)	49% (50%, 54%)	2% (2%, 5%)	0 (0, 0)	1% (3%, 2%)	
The school lets me know how my child is doing	33% (35%, 27%)	54% (56%, 60%)	11% (7%, 13%)	0 (0, 1%)	2% (3%, 0%)	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	46% (46%, 41%)	45% (47%, 50%)	6% (5%, 8%)	0 (0, 0)	3% (2%, 1%)	
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	54% (51%, 37%)	43% (46%, 46%)	2% (3%, 9%)	0 (0, 0)	1% (0%, 8%)	
Christ Church School supports my child's wider personal development	43% (50%, 49%)	46% (42%, 44%)	4% (3%, 3%)	0 (0, 0)	6% (5%, 3%)	
I would recommend Christ Church School to another parent	Yes 98% (100%, 98%)		No 2% (0%, 2%)		Figures all rounded to nearest %	
What is really important in our school? (parents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence					82% (85%, 75%)
	A wide curriculum					65% (61%, 65%)
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care					84% (91%, 94%)
	Our Christian character and ethos					57% (57%, 51%)
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity					64% (65%, 63%)
	Making a difference to others					53% (54%, 62%)
	Creativity, performance and arts activities					69% (67%, 67%)
Our school community and a feeling of togetherness					83% (82%, 79%)	

Summary of key areas and actions from our parent survey:

Thank you very much to the 132 parents who responded to our online survey. There are 138 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.

If you are one of the very small number of parents who strongly disagreed with one of the statements or who would not recommend the school to other families, we would really like to explore why this is and try to resolve any issues if possible. Please arrange to talk to a staff member or, if you would prefer not to talk to a member of staff about this, you could let the school office know and we could arrange for you to speak with a governor or an external adviser to the school instead.

The school's leadership team 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.

56 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 29 of these comments gave positive feedback (there are a flavour of them below) and the other 27 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.

In this year's survey: After school clubs

There were four comments about our after-school provision, with parents wanting a greater range of provision, especially for infants, or more feedback about what happens in the clubs. We will continue to try hard to source a range of provision for after school clubs but we do need a reasonable number of children to attend for the club to be viable for either school staff or an outside agency to run. If we run too many different clubs, the numbers in each club become too small for it to work. This (and our space) limits the number of clubs we can offer but we do try to have provision for KS1 and KS2 children on each day of the week. Last academic year, we ran 35 different after school clubs and 83% of children attended at least one club and 54% attended two or more over the year. This year, we are on track for similar numbers of clubs and levels of participation. If parents would like feedback about what is taking place in a club, please just ask the adult dismissing the club – you might just need to wait a few moments until all the children are safely handed over to their adults.

In this year's survey: Feedback about your child's learning and progress

There were two requests from parents to have a further formal opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress, in addition to our current parents' evenings and our annual written report. If you would like a progress update or to talk about what your child is learning in class, please be encouraged to arrange to meet with the class teacher at any point in the year. Teachers are very happy to meet before or after school, to share children's work in books and talk about progress, next steps and how you can help at home.

Progress from last year's survey: Information about what your child is learning

It's good to see that more parents agree that we make them aware of what their child will learn over the year. This is pleasing to see as we have worked hard on increasing the information in our class leaflets this year, continued the information on the weekly homework sheets and have finally been able to bring back our parent workshops post COVID. There is also a very wide variety of curriculum information on our website.

Helpful suggestions – thank you

There were also some quite specific helpful suggestions from parents, such as how we can streamline our communications and how we could introduce more current affairs into the curriculum for the older pupils – both of these are examples of suggestions we will certainly reflect on and consider - thank you.

A flavour of the many positive comments received:

'I am so, so happy with this school. They have gone above and beyond to support my child. They are kind, patient, caring and loving and the academic side is excellent. I couldn't be happier with my experience.'

'We love our school because the support for and understanding of children and their needs is impressive. The individual approach starts at the school gate early in the morning and it matters so much for both children and their parents.'

'Thank you so much for all the hard work of all the teachers and the Christ Church team. We know just how hard everyone at the school works and how much you give to our children. Thank you for all the care, love and vision that goes into the school. We are so lucky our children are having this schooling experience.'

Thank you very much for your positive comments – these have been shared with the staff team and they mean a lot to our staff members who all work incredibly hard to do their best for your children.