



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

September 2023  
Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

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Dear parents, carers and families,  
Welcome back to a new school year at Christ Church and a very warm welcome to all new children, families and staff members. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and relaxing summer break and it has been wonderful to see all the children back at school refreshed and ready for the new year!

We have a busy Autumn term ahead including our Happiness Project (more information below), an Arts Project (with an exhibition later in the term) inspired by a range of different artists and the UN Global Goals and plenty of ways for parents and families to get involved. We also continue to expect our long-awaited Ofsted inspection this term and will let parents know as soon as we are notified that the inspection will start the next day.

Each month's newsletter includes information about everything that has been going on at school, events that are coming up and ways that families can get involved, as well as important dates for the term ahead. Newsletters are emailed to parents at the beginning of each month and current and previous newsletters are available on the school website [here](#). If you would like a flavour (or reminder) of some of the events from last term, you can see all our photos and news [here](#) – we will add an Autumn term news page for this term in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you in advance for all your support this year; I know that families will be keen to help their children to settle in to new year groups, as well as support our school events, trips and Friends events this year. As always, there will be a lot going on so, if you have any questions, please do ask class teachers in the playgrounds before the bell in the morning or after school, send an email to Mrs Connock or Ms Lo in the office or come to find me or Mr Hollings on the gates each day – we will all be happy to help and try to de-mystify some of our Christ Church routines and traditions! It promises to be an exciting year ahead!

With very best wishes for the year, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



## Happiness Project!

Each week this term, the whole school will focus on one of ten themes teaching about skills and strategies to help everyone maintain positive mental well-being, alongside knowing when and how to seek extra help. It's not all about being happy and we know we can't all be happy all the time, but we

do want to give children the skills to be able to support themselves and others to maintain good mental health and well-being wherever they can.

We first developed and ran our Happiness Project in 2016 and then again in 2018 and 2021 and have since worked with schools across Camden and beyond to help them to develop their own similar school initiatives. We have also returned to these themes several times in the intervening years, including through our home learning periods and there is lots of information about our previous project on our website [here](#).

We will be sending out information about each of the themes to parents each week and there will be opportunities to get involved through parent workshops and homework activities, too. Here are our ten themes to look out for coming up this term:

**Setting goals, Giving, Healthy Body, Try something new, Resilience (bouncing back), Emotions, Family and Friends, Celebrating differences, Simplicity and Belonging,**



## Collecting children from school - reminder

We are taking the opportunity at the beginning of the year to remind everyone of our procedures for dismissing children from school. Please fill in the information on the back of the contact sheet (in the home school book) letting us know about who usually collects your child and on which days and please keep the office updated if this information changes.

If someone different is collecting, for instance if your child is going on a play date with another child, please let us know, preferably by email to the office. Staff members will not send children home with another family unless we have been told about this change in arrangement by the child's own parent/carer – we will not send children home with someone else if another parent or the children themselves tell us about the change of plan. Instead, we will ask children and parents to wait while we contact the parent by phone to confirm. Please bear with us if we need to check with the office or phone a parent to check.



## Dates September

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Reception start
  - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> pm – Rec individual meetings
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 3.20pm – Open classrooms for Years 1 – 6
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Camden 'meet the parents' secondary school event for KS2 parents
  - Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, am – KS2 cross country trials on the Heath
  - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – after school clubs start this week
  - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Reception parent information meeting
  - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3.20pm – Friends Cake Sale
  - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – International Day at Church, details tbc
  - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Harvest collection this week
  - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – Secondary transfer information meeting for Y4-6 parents – and school journey information for Y6 parents
  - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sparkles and colours for Charlie Day – non-uniform raising money for Great Ormond Street projects
  - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – individual photos
- October**
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 11am – Harvest Thanksgiving service – school choir singing, all families very welcome

**Welcomes!** A very warm welcome to new pupils and their families who are joining us at the start of this year. Welcome to Emre, who is joining Year 1, Oscar, joining Year 2, Cyrus and Ella, who are joining Year 3, Ari, joining Year 4, Erina, joining Year 5 and Leonie and Yehor who are joining Year 6. Also, a very warm welcome to our new Reception class and their families! Welcome to Otilie, Rose, Martina, Elise, Anastasia, Camilla, Arabella, Lucas, Martin, Aya, Heath, David, Victoria, Coco, Kasper, Matias, Astrid, Mira, Max R, Frank, Finley, Nina, Margaret, Max Y and Diana.

We are also welcoming some new staff members this term. Miss Lewsey is our new Reception teacher, Miss Marks will be teaching Year 3 and Miss Edmunds will be teaching in Year 5. Miss Kaynak has changed her role and will be completing her teacher training, working alongside Mr Polidano in Year 4. We also welcome Miss Preece to our teaching assistant team this year.

**Information and reminders**

**Term dates for 2023/2024**

The full term dates, including all INSET days, for this academic year are at the end of this newsletter. They are also on the website [here](#).

**Please note the late end to this year's Autumn term – term ends on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – with the two week holiday after this. Please book holidays and time with family for within the two week Christmas break.

**Information for parents about web filtering**

As part of our safeguarding and online safety work, the school buys its internet services through lgfl (London Grid for Learning) which includes a web filtering service called Webscreen. This supports us to keep children safe by blocking both whole categories of websites from use on school devices and blocking individual web pages. It also allows us to unblock specific sites which we have carefully checked and which will support our teaching. Webscreen also allows us to monitor which sites have been accessed and by which devices. No web filtering service can be 100% effective, so our online safety work with all children with regular reminders about how to search safely and what to do if they access something in error, is also vitally important.

**Free lunches for all pupils**

The London Mayor's Office has committed to fund free school lunches for all primary pupils in Year 3-6 for the 23/24 academic year. The existing universal infant free meals scheme continues as well, so there will be no charge for any school meal this year. **If you want to change your child from packed lunch to school meals (or vice versa) this term, please let Mrs Connock know by emailing the school office.**

**Friends Committee**

An enormous thank you to the outgoing Friends Committee members, Catherine, Aimee and Suzanne, for an amazing two years of fundraising and bringing the school together. Thank you also to the new committee members, Laura, Lukas and Fiona, (with Jonathan continuing in the Treasurer role), for stepping forward this year!

**Some well dones and thank yous from last term**

**Rounders Champions!**

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 team who were crowned Camden Rounders champions at the tournament in July!



**Autumn 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 13<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 class assembly  
 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6 class assembly  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 2 class assembly  
 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 class assembly  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November - Year 5 class assembly  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Reception class assembly  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 class assembly

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wake and Shake every day this week – for Healthy Body week!

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9am – Parent workshop on phonics for Reception parents (and any Year 1 parents who would like a refresher)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – INSET day – children not in school

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 school journey week and 'Try something new' week at school

Week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – KS2 times table challenge

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, 9.50am – Music assembly

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, 3.40 – 7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evening

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Half term**

Week beginning Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – KS2 spelling challenge this week

**November**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friends Non-uniform day tbc

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Remembrance Service – school choir singing, all families very welcome

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Odd sock day: Focus on Anti-Bullying

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>, pm – Art Exhibition, details tbc

**December**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – Non-uniform day – bring a donation for the Fair

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am – Children in Church Service, school choir singing

Week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – last after school clubs this week

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Flu nasal spray vaccination offered to all children

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the Fair

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, 12-2.30pm – Christmas Fair

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Church – Infant Nativity Play for parents

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, am – Friends Present Sale

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Jumper day (non-uniform)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – School carol service in Church

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead – tbc

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, midday – children home for Christmas holidays**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan – back to school**

<p><b>School council 2023/24</b> Well done to Emilia (chair), Islay (vice-chair) and Rika (secretary) who were elected to these Y6 school council roles for this year in our school-wide election at the end of last term. Thank you to all the many pupils who stood in the election – there were some very impressive hustings speeches!</p>	<p><b>Charlie Chesser awards</b> Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the Charlie Chesser awards, recognising kindness, thoughtfulness and inclusion. Very well done to Marina (last year's Y6), Theo (Y6), Enzo (Y5), Santi (Y4), Elliot (Y3), Orson (Y2) and Arthur (Y1) who received their awards in a special assembly at the end of the summer term.</p>
<p><b>100% attendance</b> Well done to the 47 children who received a 100% attendance certificate for the summer term and, in particular, to Thea, Oscar, Sebastian, Ruby, Alexey, Jack and Daniel, who were in school 100% of the time all of last academic year. Super!</p>	<p><b>Year 6 fundraising</b> Congratulation to last year's Year 6 for an amazing fundraising total from their end of year production and enterprise businesses. They raised a very impressive £1115 to be split between Cancer Research UK and Brain Tumour Research Charity.</p>

**Happiness Project – September's themes**

**GOAL** Setting goals, and breaking them down into achievable steps, gives us a sense of direction and builds confidence.



**Giving** to others, in lots of different ways, also makes us feel better and supports our own mental well-being.



Maintaining a **healthy body** helps our mental well-being, too, and builds resilience so we are better able to cope in trickier times.



## Christ Church Primary School

# 2023/24 Term Dates

Please look carefully at these dates for the year, especially when you are booking holidays!

### Autumn term 2023

INSET day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

First day of Autumn term: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

INSET day: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Half term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### Spring term 2024

First day of Spring term: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Half term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Last day of Spring term: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Summer term 2024

First day of Summer term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

INSET day: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Last day of Summer term: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

INSET days: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

N.B.

Children are not in school for INSET days - these are used for staff training.