



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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November 2023
Newsletter 3

**Trainee teachers and
Try Something New!**

Dear parents, carers and families,

There are two main themes to look back on over our busy October in school: trainee teachers and Try Something New! First, it's a good opportunity to remind parents of all the work we do as a school supporting trainee teachers, working with the Teaching London training course. Each year, we host and train trainees working in school four days per week on School Direct placements – Miss Kaynak is training in Year 4 this year and previous trainees who have then gone on to work at the school include Mrs Manning-Bennett, Miss Brenta and Mrs Pagnello. We also welcome groups of trainees into school for 'Intensive Teaching and Practice Weeks'. Just before half term we hosted eight trainees in school for the week to observe and participate in our phonics and early reading provision – we know that the trainees learnt a great deal but it's also valuable professional development for our current teachers as they reflect on and explain their own planning and practice in the classroom. A super learning opportunity all round!

Second, see below and on the website [news page](#) for lots of super photos of our Try Something New week! This is always a very busy week of new experiences, overcoming anxieties and developing resilience and openness to new challenges. We all had a lot of fun, too! A reminder for parents that all the activities, workshops and trips for the Happiness Project are funded by a very generous parent donation to the school – thank you very much to this family. The Governors' annual letter explaining about parent donations to the buildings maintenance scheme and other ways to donate financially will be coming home to parents very shortly. If you are able to support the school in this way, please consider it. In a time of rising costs and falling pupil numbers locally, the school needs continued support from parents, whether financial or through giving your time, energy and ideas, like never before.

With very best wishes and many thanks, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Advice from our Year 3 class about trying new things:

- 'Give it a go - you might love it!'
- 'Let's do it together!'
- 'Take it step by step and don't give up!'
- 'Tell someone how you feel and ask for help if you need it.'

Try Something New highlights!

I TRIED SOMETHING NEW



We tried circus skills, kayaking, canal boat trips, over-printing, tie dying, virtual reality headsets, stop motion animation and macramé!



Trying new things keeps us curious and interested; it helps us overcome anxieties about new experiences for the next time; it helps build our resilience and helps us bounce back when faced with a challenge in the future.

Inspirational advice about trying new things:

- 'A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new' Albert Einstein
- 'I'm always doing things I can't do. That's how I get to do them.' Pablo Picasso

Welcomes!

Welcome to Yaroslav who has joined our Year 3 class and to Gera who has joined our Reception class. A very warm welcome to both of these new pupils and their families!

Staff news

At the end of term, we will all be sending our thanks and best wishes to Mrs Manning Bennett who is leaving her role at Christ Church to take up a part-time teaching post closer to her home. Mrs Manning Bennett is moving on after seven very successful years at Christ Church, including as a teaching assistant and as a trainee teacher here – we wish her all the best for the future!

Dates

November

Tuesday 7th, 9-10am – Parent workshop – Healthy friendships

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

Wednesday 15th – Odd sock day: Focus on Anti-Bullying

Thursday 30th, 2.45-4.45pm – Art Exhibition in school – every child's work on display and everyone very welcome!



Christmas Charity suggestions and Christmas boxes

Each year, the school supports a number of Christmas charities with fundraising at our nativity play, carol singing and Christmas Jumper day. School council have suggested we support World Vision and local children's charity, The Winch, this year. If parents have any other suggestions of charities to support, please let the school office know.



Look out for the information about our annual Christmas box appeal, too – where children fill a box with little presents for a child who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. Thank you very much in advance for your support of our Christmas charity events.



Year 6 school journey

Year 6 had a brilliant week away at a PGL activity centre in Dorset, getting the chance to take part in sailing, archery, fencing, kayaking, abseiling, giant swing, zip wire and much much more! They supported each other brilliantly, too!



Thank you very much to Mrs Pagnello, Mrs Maguire and Mr Dunbar who went with the class (and also had a brilliant week)!



Anti-bullying work

We will be focusing on anti-bullying learning in all classes in the week beginning 13th November. Our Year 5 class will be learning how to be Anti-bullying Champions and our Year 6 class, who were trained last year, will be supporting other classes with their anti-bullying work and leading an assembly to remind us all about how to be an 'upstander' not a

bystander if bullying is taking place.

Children are always very positive when they are asked about our anti-bullying work. The external report for our safeguarding audit visit at the end of last term, included that 'Pupils spoken to understand that bullying is unkind behaviour which is 'over and over again'. All pupils know to always report bullying to an adult and older pupils could explain the different types of bullying, including indirect bullying. One pupil was very keen for me to know that bullying doesn't happen at Christ Church.' However, we know that bullying behaviour can happen at any time, so it is important for us to continue our focus on this each year as part of our wider PSHE curriculum.

Information and reminders

No supervision in the playgrounds before school

Please stay with your children in the playground in the morning until the bell rings. There is no official supervision by school staff until the bells ring at 8.50am.

Punctuality please!

School and learning starts straight away at 8.50am. Arriving after this point, your child is late and missing out. Please make sure your child is in the playground – not still running up the hill or in the car – when the bell rings!

Christ Church Parents and Carers' Book Club

Monday Nov 6th, 8.15pm - Holly Bush Pub - First half of 'Demon Copperhead' by Barbara Kingsolver
Monday 4th Dec, 8.15pm - Holly Bush Pub – Second half of 'Demon Copperhead'
Everyone welcome!

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 10th November – Year 1 class assembly
- Tuesday 21st November – Year 2 class assembly**
- Friday 24th November - Year 5 class assembly
- Friday 1st December – Reception class assembly
- Friday 8th December – Year 3 class assembly

December

- Friday 1st – Non-uniform day – bring a donation for the Fair
- Sunday 3rd, 11am – Children in Church Service, school choir singing
- Week beginning Monday 4th – last after school clubs this week
- Thursday 7th – Flu nasal spray vaccination offered to all children
- Friday 8th – non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the Fair
- Sunday 10th, 12-2.30pm – Christmas Fair
- Thursday 14th, 10am, Church – Infant Nativity Play for parents
- Friday 15th, am – Friends Present Sale
- Monday 18th – Christmas Jumper day (non-uniform)
- Tuesday 19th, pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead
- Tuesday 19th, 6pm – School carol service in Church
- Friday 22nd, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church
- Friday 22nd, midday – children home for Christmas holidays**
- Monday 8th January – back to school**

Art Exhibition Thursday 30th November 2.45 – 4.45pm

As the end point of our Christ Church Arts Project this term, everyone is very welcome to our Art Exhibition at the end of November. Every child will have a piece of art work on display. Come before the end of the school day for a quiet look at the art work in the hall and then, from 3.20 onwards, go into every classroom to see all the masterpieces! Clubs will run as usual and children can bring their parents in to see the art work after their clubs, too.

Happiness Project – November's themes

We all experience different **emotions** all the time. Learning about how to identify and talk about our emotions helps us feel well, as does focusing on the good things!



Our **friends and family** are vital to our positive mental health – staying connected and spending time together supports us in so many different ways!

Celebrating differences – understanding that we are all unique, different and wonderful and, in particular, understanding our own strengths and weaknesses, supports our own and others' well-being.



Simplicity, which is also one of the school's core Christian values, is all about the importance of taking time for a moment of quiet, to focus on the present, without worrying about what's next, and to appreciate the wonders of nature around us.

Our final theme is **Belonging**: 'belonging to something bigger' by being a part of all sorts of different groups and communities, gives us meaning in our lives and brings happiness.

