



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

January 2024  
Newsletter 5

Happy New Year!

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Dear parents, carers and families,  
Happy New Year and welcome back to a new school term! I hope all families had a restful and happy Christmas break. I am sure that children are refreshed and ready to go at the start of 2024! Thank you to all children and families from all staff members for your good wishes and very kind cards and gifts at the end of term.  
Thank you, also, for all your support in a very busy December: some of our Christmas highlights are shared below, as well as some thank yous for your very generous support of our Christmas charity activities. It gets a bit quieter this half term, though look out for our very important PSHE week, learning about Keeping Healthy and Safe, coming up at the end of this month.

Next half term will get busy again, as we are very excited to be starting to plan a big whole school musical production for this term's Arts Project! It's quite a few years since we've undertaken such a big project but now is definitely the right time for the whole school to work together on an experience which the children will, hopefully, remember forever! We are working towards performances on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March (afternoon) and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (evening) – please keep these free! There will be lots more information for parents in the coming weeks...

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024,  
Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

## Christmas highlights!



Amazing Christmas DT products to sell at the Fair!



A beautiful Nativity Play



KS2 carol singing in the High Street



Y6 carol singing at the Royal Free Hospital



Pantomime performance of Cinderella!

### Welcomes

Welcome to Livia who has joined our Reception class and to Nina who has joined Year 1! A very warm welcome to these new pupils and their families!

### Staff news

We sent best wishes and thanks to Mrs Manning-Bennett at the end of last term as she moved to a post in a school nearer home, and also to Miss Foster, one of our Teaching Assistants, who is taking on more art and family freelance work in museums and galleries. We will still see Miss Foster in school from time to time, as we plan to ask her back in her new role to continue to support us with our Art and DT! This half term we also welcome a new trainee teacher, Miss Smith, who will be working alongside Miss Dalton in Year 1.

### Dates January

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – after school clubs start for this term

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – look out for this term's class curriculum leaflets coming home

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Children in Church, school choir singing

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – PSHE week: Keeping Healthy and Safe

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>, 9.50am – Music assembly



## Christmas charities – thank you

Thank you for your support of our children's gift box collection – our school community collected an amazing 153 children's gift

boxes to be distributed by the Salvation Army in Chalk Farm and by the Young Barnet Foundation. Thank you!

We also raised a magnificent total of £1,010 to be split between our two Christmas charities The Winch, a local children's and community charity in North Camden, and World Vision, who support

children in poverty and hardship around the world. What a brilliant example of the Christmas spirit of giving to others - thank you.



**World Vision**

**the Winch**

### Spring 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!

**Our class assemblies take place earlier in the term (and not always on Fridays) because of the whole school production later this term.**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January – **Year 6** class assembly

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – **Year 5** class assembly

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February - **Year 2** class assembly, with Y2 parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – **Year 1** class assembly

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – **Year 4** class assembly, with Y4 parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - **Year 3** class assembly, with Y3 parent workshop on writing beforehand at 9am

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March - **Reception** class assembly

### Parent workshops

We will be running three class parent workshops this term, (maths for Y2 and Y4 and writing for Y3 – dates to the left). These workshops aim to help parents understand our curriculum and how they can support children at home. Any parent is very welcome to attend any of them if you have previously missed one or would like a reminder!

### Sporting successes

There were lots of opportunities for KS2 children to represent the school at sporting events at the end of last term. We sent teams to a Y3/4 football event, the Camden Hockey tournament (where both teams were silver medallists), a Y5/6 dodgeball competition, Y3/4 benchball event and our football teams continued their football league matches, too!



### Information and reminders

#### Staff training and development

Lots of staff training goes on behind the scenes at Christ Church to ensure that teachers are up-to-date with the latest research and have the opportunity to see good practice in action in other schools. For example, teachers attend professional development hubs with teachers from across Camden and further afield – this year these hubs are focusing on provision for pupils with a diagnosis of autism and on the maths mastery approach. Learning from these groups is then shared throughout the staff team. Our teachers also lead and support training for other schools and for trainee teachers as well.

#### Parents evenings

Because of our whole school production at the end of this term, our spring term parents evenings will take place right at the beginning of the summer term on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Applications for Reception 2024

The closing date for applications for the September 2024 Reception class is **15<sup>th</sup> January**. If you are applying for a younger sibling, please remember that you need to complete both the online Camden application form and the Christ Church Supplementary Form (you can get this from the website or from the office).

#### Safety outside school

Please be safe and considerate as you arrive for school drop off or pick up. If you can walk or cycle to school, please do so, as this helps to reduce congestion outside school. Thank you if you always walk to school! If you need to drive, please park a distance away from school and please park safely and without obstructing local residents.

Camden council are planning a consultation on their Healthy School Street scheme for Christchurch Hill later this month. Information and how to comment on the consultation will be sent to all parents.

### February

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> – KS2 times tables challenge this week

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Half term**

Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> February – KS2 spelling challenge (not Mon)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, eve – Friends disco tbc

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Children in Church, school choir singing

Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> – Y1-6 individual poetry presentations

### March

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – children can dress up as a favourite book character. (We don't dress up every year, so if your children like to dress up, please make the most of it!)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friends second hand book sale

Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March – last after school clubs this week

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> pm and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> eve – Arts Project performance dates – all details tbc but please keep these free!**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Children in Church, school choir singing – Palm Sunday

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Wear a hat day! raising money for Brain Tumour Research Charity

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, after school – Friends Easter event tbc

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, 11.15 Easter Service - Fr Paul's last school service before his retirement - all families very welcome

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, midday – children home for holidays**

### April

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – back to school for the summer term**

#### Children in Church services

These are three Sundays each term when our school choir sings in Christ Church for the 11am service, children help with the reading and all families are particularly invited to attend. Of course, all families are very welcome at Christ Church any other Sundays, too!