



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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February 2024  
Newsletter 6

Spreading a little Happiness!

Dear parents, carers and families,  
It has been a busy start to 2024!

We are all very excited about our upcoming whole school production of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'! Rehearsals of songs and dances have started, and behind-the-scenes organisation of ticket sales, staging, costumes and even chariot building has begun in earnest! Thank you to parents for their offers of help and also financial support so far. This will be a big team effort!

This week is our PSHE week with a big focus on how to keep safe and healthy. This is some of the most important learning which takes place each year - including road safety, safety by water, what to do in an emergency and first aid training – and we ask parents to reinforce what the children have learnt in school by talking about their work when it comes home in a pack at the beginning of next week.

Thank you to everyone for joining in with our healthy start to the day with wake and shake every day this week, too!

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

## Happiness Stones – far and wide!

At the end of our Happiness Project last term, children created painted Happiness Stones and messages to leave somewhere over the Christmas holiday, to spread our happiness messages far and wide. Stones were left all over Hampstead, the UK and even made it to different countries around the world!

It was fantastic to receive some messages back from those who found them, too!



↑Happiness stones left on Hampstead Heath, at the Nobel Prize Headquarters in Oslo, on UK and French beaches and in a Brazilian park!

*'...We certainly need more happiness and this was a creative way to engage the children. It was appreciated.'* Message about stone found on Hampstead Heath.

*'.. I stumbled upon this on my walk on the Heath... Thank you. Keep doing what you are doing. You never know what soul it will spark.'* Message from a US tourist who found a stone on Hampstead Heath.

*'...As you can see in the photo, it made my day and really made me smile! It came to me that I'd better hide it, so I carefully placed it in a nearby bush by a bench for the next person to find.'*

Message from a 9-year-old who found a stone on Hampstead Heath



*Don't be afraid to show your true self to the world. Every one is different in every way whether it's their features, hair or beauty and much more. Nobody is the same and that's exactly what makes you special.*



*'...I found one of your school's happiness stones in Hollandsche Rading in the Netherlands. I think it's a really wholesome idea and it's cool that it reached a whole other country!'*

*'...Bringing a little happiness to others is the noblest of attitudes. Congratulations on the initiative!! I am 80 years old, I go to this park every day, in the morning, I found the stone with the message and I was immensely happy and grateful. I will keep the stone with great affection, as a kind of amulet.'*  
Translated message from Brazil

### Welcomes

Welcome to Lena who has joined our Year 5 class and to Arya who has joined Year 4 – a warm welcome to these new pupils and their families!

### Dates

#### 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

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

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

#### March

Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> March – parents and family members invited to read books to classes

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

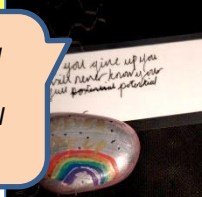
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> pm and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> eve – Arts Project performance dates – all details tbc but please keep these free!**

'...I came across this stone while out walking in Hartlepool. The stone brightened up my day. I would like to thank whoever left it.'

'Thank you for your beautifully-decorated stones and your message. They are spreading smiles and happiness!' Message from a mum and her three-year-old son on the Heath.

'...Thank you for your beautiful stone. You did a great job painting it. Well done! Your message really made me smile. Thank you so much. I will cherish it forever.'

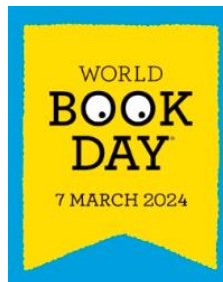
'I saw your beautiful stone today in Beaconsfield. And it made me feel sooo happy! Thank you for brightening my day!'



## Looking ahead to World Book Day...

Our World Book Day celebrations this term take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We will be celebrating and promoting reading in lots of different ways:

- Our annual second-hand book sale – children should bring in any books they are able to donate (3-5 books would be great, but you can bring any number) and five pounds in coins to buy new books. Money raised goes to the Friends Association.
- Dressing up as book characters – children are welcome to dress up if they would like to! Plus, it would be great if they could bring in a copy of the book they are inspired by to explain it to their friends. (We don't dress up every year, so if your child loves dressing up, please make the most of it!)
- World book day vouchers will be sent home with every child to buy more books!
- Parents and family members will be invited into school to read to their children's classes – perhaps you have a favourite picture book or chapter you would be happy to share?
- We will also be repeating our brilliant poetry presentations this year, with each child in Years 1-6 learning a poem to share with their class. (These will take place in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February.)



## Marvellous music performances!

Well done to the 28 children who played with great confidence and skill at our latest music assembly. We enjoyed performances on the piano, violin, cello, tongue drum, viola, guitar and kalimba!



## Information and reminders

### Safety in the car park

Children and families should not walk through the church car park but go around on the pavement and pathway. There are always cars moving around in the car park and there have been several near misses recently as children have been walking through with or without their adults. Please take the extra thirty seconds and walk around.

### 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. If you would like to meet with teachers before this for a quick update on progress, please talk to your child's class teacher to make an appointment.



### Punctuality please!

**School and learning starts at 8.50am.** Please make sure children are in the playground when the bell rings at 8.50am and not still rushing up the hill or in the car. Coming in after the bell has rung, even if the gate is still open, is still a late arrival.

Children take part in morning work as soon as they enter the classroom, which often helps them recap and review learning from previous days or prepares them for new learning to come. If children miss this part of the day, they are really missing out.

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 readings and all families are particularly invited to attend. Of course, all families are very welcome at Christ Church any other Sundays, too!

Thank you to our choir who sang really well in Church at the end of January. All of KS2 are very welcome to join the choir.

## Spring Term Class Assemblies

Dates for this term's remaining 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.**

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