



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

September 2024
Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

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Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back to the new school year at Christ Church and a very warm welcome to new children and families! I hope everyone had a brilliant summer break – I'm sure that children are returning to school refreshed and ready for another busy and exciting term and year ahead. It is wonderful to see everyone back!

The beginning of a new school year seems a good opportunity to remind parents and families that there are lots of ways to find out information about school dates, events and routines and what your child will be learning. These include:

- ❖ this monthly school newsletter, which is emailed out at the beginning of each month and also shared on the website – the dates in the right hand column below are updated each month;
- ❖ weekly homework sheets from class teachers, which come home in book bags each Thursday. These include detail about what your child has been learning that week and any upcoming dates or information for the class;
- ❖ class leaflets – these go home to parents at the open afternoon (Thursday 12th Sept – for Y1-6) or afterwards in book bags. They are also on the school website and include lots of curriculum information for the term;
- ❖ [school website](#) – including links to school uniform ordering and the online payment system as well as lots of information about our curriculum and photos of all our events on the 'news and events' page;
- ❖ home school book – this comes home to all families in book bags each September and includes lots of information about school routines at the front. Please have a look to remind yourself of this key information and please sign the home school agreement and return the contact information page;
- ❖ Parent meeting for Reception parents – Thursday 19th September, 6pm – where we will share lots of school and class information.

Also, please just ask! Mr Hollings and I are almost always on the gates at the beginning and end of the day and very happy to answer any questions. Mrs Connock and Ms Lo in the office do a brilliant job answering parent queries and emails – all emails to any member of staff should be sent via admin@cchurchnw3.camden.sch.uk, please. Class teachers collect and dismiss children from the playgrounds each day – this is a good time for a quick question, but please arrange an appointment if you would like a longer chat. All staff members are always very happy to help and we know there may be queries or questions at any point in the school year, but especially at the start, so please do ask.

With all best wishes for the new school year ahead, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Welcomes!

Welcome to new pupils and their families who are joining us this term: a warm welcome to Astrid, Nina, Luca and Freddie who are joining Year 1, to Jean who is joining Year 2, Lev who is joining Year 3 and to Gabriel and Emilia who are joining Year 5. Also, a very warm welcome to our new Reception class and their families: welcome to Daniyah, George, Luca, Lena, Oscar, Ernie, Anna, Ezra, Sophia, Gabriel, Ella, Aida, Otis, Isla, Hugh, Sadie, Charlie, Kinan, Benjamin, Como, Mia, Elliott, Louis, Louise, Eva, Emily, Violet and Clara!

Dates September

Thursday 12th, 3.20-4pm – Open classrooms for Years 1-6. Come to see where your child will be learning all year, to say hello to their teacher and collect the class curriculum leaflet.

Friday 13th, am – KS2 cross country trials event on the Heath

Monday 16th, after school clubs start

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th pm – Reception individual parent meetings

Thursday 19th, 6pm – Reception parent information meeting

Tuesday 24th, 6pm – Secondary transfer parent information meeting (and Y6 school journey info for Y6 parents) – Y4,5 and 6 parents welcome

Wednesday 25th, 6pm – Camden's 'meet the parents' secondary school event at Christ Church - meet parents and students from local secondary schools – for Y4-6 parents

Thursday 26th – 'Colours and Sparkles for Charlie' day – non-uniform, wear anything colourful or sparkly and bring a donation for Great Ormond Street

October

Tuesday 1st, 9-10am – Reception (and Year 1) parent workshop – phonics

'Making a difference' projects

An important part of being a Rights Respecting School is empowering children to know about and use the many ways they can make a difference to others, helping to ensure that children all around the world receive all their rights. Lots of classes finished their 'making a difference' projects at the end of last term,

learning that we can support others by campaigning, raising awareness, raising money or giving our time. Year 3 carried out their own litter pick on the Heath helping everyone to have a healthy and safe environment (linked to article 24), Year 6 fundraised for UNICEF school in a box kits providing education resources for displaced children (articles 28 and 29), Year 4 wrote to the local MP to campaign about climate change (article 24) and Year 5 planned and ran their own 'day of play' in school, promoting every child's right to rest, relax and play (article 31). Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were busy creating flags to promote children's rights – we hope you spotted them in the playground and along the railings!



Attendance and punctuality reminders



Punctuality please!

Please make it your new school year resolution to make sure children are at school on time! The bells ring at 8.50am – please make sure your child is in the playground by this point, not rushing up the hill or into the gate a few minutes later. Even being just a few minutes late means your child misses out on learning (and social time with friends) and disrupts the start to the day for everyone.

Attendance updates

Attendance last year was good compared to national figures – but could always still be better! Our school attendance target is 96.5% and last year we managed 96.2%. If children are well, they should be in school every day. National attendance policy has changed this year and we have updated our school attendance policy as well. These are some of the key national changes (see the policy on our website for more details):

- schools *must consider* penalty notices (legal action/fines) for unauthorised absence;
- schools cannot authorise any absence at all for holidays, which are defined as ‘for the purpose of recreation or leisure’;
- requests for absences can only be authorised for exceptional, one-off occasions – this means that, by definition, repeat requests to spend time with family abroad or in the UK cannot be authorised
- the way absences for visiting secondary schools, entrance tests and interviews are counted has been changed – please do everything you can to limit the number of sessions your child misses for these types of events as this will have a significant impact on your child’s attendance record and, of course, impacts on their learning in school.



Key attendance reminders

- please arrange all **appointments** (dentist, optician etc) outside school time – you **can** get appointments after 3.30pm and at the weekends! The only exception to this is specialist hospital appointments, which often cannot be moved or re-arranged.
- please **look carefully at our term dates** when booking holidays. There are 13 weeks of school holidays to arrange to spend time with family or to travel abroad. We work hard to make our terms finish on Fridays to help families make the most of the breaks and to encourage full attendance right to the end of term. This term ends on Friday 20th December. The full term dates are attached again with this newsletter.
- if you have a reason to ask for authorised absence for your child, please do this well in advance by sending an email to Mrs Forsdyke, setting out the **exceptional and one-off** reason for the absence
- **if your child is ill**, please let the school office know by email by 8.50am, and keep the office updated each day of your child’s absence. If your child is well, they should be back in school!

Autumn term class assemblies

Our class assemblies take place at 10am in the hall – all family members are welcome! Please wait by the main gate.

- Friday 18th October – Year 3 class assembly
- Friday 25th October – Year 6 school journey assembly
- Friday 8th November – Year 2 class assembly
- Wednesday 20th November – Year 1 class assembly
- Friday 22nd November – Year 5 class assembly
- Friday 29th November – Reception class assembly
- Friday 6th December – Year 4 class assembly

Thank you for all your support in making sure your child is in school on time and here every day.

Some well dones and thank yous from last term

School council 2024/25

Well done to Arabella (chair), Eric (vice-chair) and Evi (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!

Charlie Chesser awards

Congratulations to the 2024 recipients of the Charlie Chesser awards, recognising kindness, friendship, thoughtfulness and inclusion. Very well done to Rika (last year’s Y6), Evi (Y6), Max (Y5), Lily (Y4), Mathilda (Y3), Kenan (Y2) and Frank (Y1) who received their awards in a special assembly at the end of the term.

100% attendance

Well done to the 52 children who had 100% attendance in the Summer term and a special well done to Heath, Margaret, Esme, Vitalija, Elliot, Sebastian, Pablo, James and Oscar who managed 100% attendance for the whole year!

Friday 4th – INSET day – no children in school

w/b Monday 7th – Y1-6 individual presentations: ‘what’s important to me?’

w/b Monday 14th – Y6 school journey
w/b Monday 14th - Try something new week

w/b Monday 21st – KS2 times tables challenge this week

Tuesday 22nd – Nasal Flu spray vaccination offered to all classes. Information and consent forms will be sent home to parents

Wednesday 23rd, 9.50am – Music assembly

Wednesday 23rd, 3.40-7.30pm – parents evening

Thursday 24th, 3.40 – 6pm – parents evening

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November – Half term

November

w/b Monday 4th – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Mon)

Tuesday 5th – individual photos

w/b Monday 11th – PSHE week: Positive relationships and diversity

Thursday 14th – Odd sock day, Anti-Bullying Day

Thursday 28th, pm – Arts Project sharing event – details tbc

Friday 29th – Non-uniform day – bring a toy and filled jar for the Christmas Fair

December

w/b Monday 2nd – last after school clubs this week

Friday 6th – Non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair

Sunday 8th, 12-2.30pm – Christmas Fair

Thursday 12th, 10am – Nativity Play – involving all Reception, Year 1 and 2

Friday 13th – Friends present sale

Monday 16th – Christmas Jumper Day – fundraising for our Christmas charities

Monday 16th, 2pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead High Street

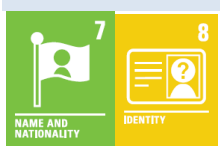
Friday 20th, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church tbc

Friday 20th, midday – children home for holidays

January Monday 6th – children back to school for Spring term

Rights Respecting Schools – Article of the month

To remind parents and pupils that we are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School we are including a different article from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in each month’s newsletter.



Article 7: Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognised by the Government. Children must have a nationality.

Article 8: Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them.