



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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January 2025

Newsletter 5

Happy New Year!

Dear parents, carers and families,

Happy New Year! I hope all families had a wonderful Christmas break and welcome back to the Spring term at Christ Church! Thank you again for all your support with our Christmas and end of term activities in December. Your support with all our events makes Christmas a very exciting and special time of year in school for the children – there are some highlights and photos below.

We will all quickly get back into our teaching and learning this week as we return to our usual routines in class and across the school. It promises to be another busy term ahead with our annual PSHE week focused on 'Keeping Healthy and Safe' taking place in February and an exciting two weeks focused on Reading coming up in March. Look out for more details in newsletters and the weekly information from class teachers. Also, look out for the class leaflet coming home on 17th January setting out lots of detail about the curriculum and also the dates of class trips for the term ahead.

With all best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2025,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Christmas highlights



Our fabulous Nativity Play



The choir carol singing at the Royal Free Hospital



KS2 carol singing in Hampstead



Pantomime performance!



Christmas hats for our Christmas lunch!

Dates January

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

Wednesday 8th – After school clubs and after school music start from now on

Wednesday 29th, 9.50am – Music assembly

February

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th – PSHE week: Keeping Healthy and Safe

wb Monday 10th – Times tables challenge this week

wb Monday 10th–Y3 swimming all week

Monday 17th – Friday 21st – Half term

wb Monday 24th – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Monday)

wb Monday 24th–Y3 swimming all week

Friday 28th, eve – Friends Disco

March

wb Monday 3rd and Monday 10th – reading weeks – lots of reading events!

wb Monday 3rd – Y1-6 individual poetry presentations this week

Thursday 6th – World Book Day (**no costumes this year**; we don't wear costumes every year), am Friends Book Sale

Tuesday 25th – Last clubs this term

Wednesday 26th, 3.40 – 7.30pm and Thursday 27th, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evenings

Friday 28th –Wear a hat day! Raising money for Brain Cancer Research charity.

April

Friday 4th, 11.15am – end of term service in Church

Friday 4th – children collected at midday for the Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd – all children back to school for the Summer term

Christmas Charities – thank you

Thank you very much for your generous support of our Christmas charity events last term. We sent 160 children's gift boxes to be shared between the Camden Food Bank and the Salvation Army – they were both incredibly grateful for our support.

We also raised £1043 to share between the Salvation Army and World Vision with our charity collection events - thank you for your generous donations.

Thank you so very much for all the gifts the children from your school donated to Camden Foodbank. Please do let the children know how grateful Camden Foodbank are for your wonderful donations and also the efforts yourself and the children put into the donations for people living in poverty at Christmas.



World Vision



Sports events

It was a busy end of term for sporting events with lots of different teams going out of school to compete against and play with teams from other Camden schools. Well done to everyone who represented the school and good luck to our football teams for the final matches in the Camden league this term!



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. Please make this your new year's resolution to support your child to be on time every day.



Information and reminders

Applications for 2025 Reception class

The application deadline for applying for Reception for 2025 is 15th January. If you are applying for a younger sibling, please make sure you complete the online application form on the Camden admissions website **and** return the school supplementary form to school. You can get a supplementary form from the school office or you can download a copy from the school website.

School policies

Governors and staff have recently reviewed the following school policies. You can find them on our website or ask for a copy from the school office:

- Equalities Policy and Equalities Plan

Admissions consultation

The consultation period for amending the school's Admissions Information and Criteria for 2026 onwards has now ended. The criteria for 2026 are now available on the admissions page of our website.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to Erik who has joined our Reception class and to Kamal who has joined Year 3. A very warm welcome to these new pupils and their families!

Spring term class assemblies

Please wait by the main gate just before 10am.

Wednesday 22nd January – **Y6 class assembly**

Friday 31st January – **Y2 class assembly**, with Maths parent workshop beforehand at 9am

Wednesday 12th February – **Y5 class assembly**

Friday 14th February – **Y1 class assembly**

Friday 7th March – **Y3 class assembly**, with Y3 Writing parent workshop beforehand at 9am

Wednesday 12th March – **Y4 class assembly**, with Y4 Maths parent workshop beforehand at 9am

Friday 14th March – **Reception class assembly**

Parent workshops

You will see from the list above that we are holding three parent workshops this term before our class assemblies: the Y2 and Y4 workshops will explain about the maths curriculum and the Y3 workshop will focus on how we teach writing. Please make time to come if you can, to find out about our curriculum and how you can continue to support at home.

Autumn attendance success

Whole school attendance in the Autumn term was a very good 97.3%, putting us at the top of the Camden attendance league! Let's keep this up in the Spring term, please!

There were only 8 children with attendance under 90% and we will be in contact with these families to offer support. On the other hand, there were an impressive 39 children with attendance of 100% in the Autumn term – wow!

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 2: All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or a girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe of do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

How do we ensure children receive this right?

At Christ Church we celebrate the fact that each one of us is unique and special – we do this with activities such as our Reception 'week in the spotlight' presentations and our individual presentations in Y1-6. We also teach and learn about discrimination, protected characteristics, fairness, equality and equity in our PSHE topics. We support others to receive this right by supporting organisations and charities which aim to ensure all children receive the things they need no matter where they live or who they are.