



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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February 2025
Newsletter 6

Rights Respecting GOLD!

Dear parents, carers and families,

It has already been a busy start to 2025 and we are all very excited about our upcoming Arts Project creating films this term! Each class will be spending time with professional film makers finding out about what they do, having a go at stop motion animation and using filming and recording equipment to create a class film about our school vision and values. We have booked the Hampstead Everyman Cinema for Tuesday 20th May for our 'premiere'! More details about how parents will be able to get tickets to see our films will be sent out nearer the time.

There are two key whole school communications to look out for in the coming weeks:

- the Friends and school are launching a joint **computer crowdfunding campaign** to fundraise towards the replacement of our school computers and lap tops. We need to renew them because of upcoming updates to the operating systems. Look out for information about this later this week and thank you in advance if you are able to donate to this campaign.
- I will also be sending out the link to the **annual parent survey** later this month. Please find time to complete this survey as it really helps us to receive feedback about what's going well and suggestions for things to change. We will use the Ofsted parent view questions and this year we are also seeking specific parent feedback on our school food and on the way we communicate with you. Thank you for your feedback – it really is very useful!

With many thanks for all your ongoing support,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



Gold Rights Respecting School!

We were delighted to receive our Gold Rights Respecting School report and accreditation from UNICEF at the beginning of term and to share it with the school community. This award recognises that we learn about, understand and promote children's rights across our school, not only for children at Christ Church but in the ways we try to make a difference for other children too.

We have been a Gold Rights Respecting School since 2009 and children's rights are firmly embedded in everything we do. This is our sixth reaccreditation visit and we are now

leading on developing the rights respecting programme in schools across Camden.

You can read the full report on our website [here](#). These are some of the highlights:

- **very articulate pupils** who demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding of rights

- **continued commitment and creativity by the whole school** in placing the

Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of policy and practice, notably the use of the arts to teach about rights

- **the caring and nurturing nature of the school**, where the **positive relationships** are built on knowledge of and respect for rights

- **a strong focus on the mental health and well-being of pupils** within the context of rights so that young people feel supported and protected

- **excellent opportunities for children to support the rights of others** through campaigning, advocacy and fundraising initiatives



Dates February

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

NEW: Tuesday 4th, 9-10am – Parent workshop on sleep – Ms Miller will lead this workshop on the importance of children's sleep and how to support good sleep for children. Parents from all year groups are welcome

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 and readathon – 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), Friends Book Sale

Sunday 16th – School choir singing in Church (10.40 rehearsal, 11am service)

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.

Friday 28th, after school – Friends International Food Fair

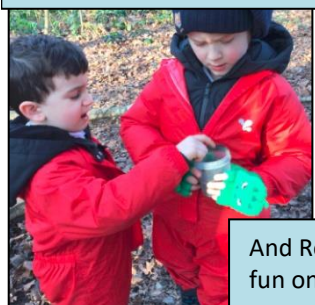


Trips and visits!
January was a busy month for trips out of school with several visits for classes and groups.



Y1 and Y4 went to St Albans Cathedral and took part in History, Maths and Art workshops.

KS2 school council representatives went to St Paul's Cathedral for the annual service for London church schools.



And Reception class have been having lots of fun on the Heath, exploring nature and bugs!



Sports teams have taken part in indoor athletics and dodgeball tournaments



Dates continued - 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

Summer term date for the diary:
Tuesday 20th May – film premiere!

Christ Church Hampstead

Each term there are two Sunday Eucharist services at Christ Church which are special 'children in church' services, where our school choir sings and children take part in the service by reading. All families in the school are especially invited to attend these services, but are, of course, always very welcome on any other Sundays as well. The dates for these services for the rest of this academic year are Sunday 16th March, Sunday 11th May and Sunday 15th June. The service starts at 11am and the choir has a mini rehearsal beforehand at 10.40am.

We will be welcoming Fr Yaroslav, the new vicar at Christ Church, into school before Easter to visit our classes and look at some of the children's Easter RE work alongside Mrs Forsdyke and class teachers.

Looking ahead to PSHE week!

The first week in February is our PSHE week focused on keeping healthy and safe. Topics taught in different classes include:

- safety in the home (safety with medicines, cooking, electricity etc) and online
- safety out and about (road and rail safety, safety around water, sun safety etc)
- first aid and what to do to get help in an emergency
- healthy bodies (the importance of a healthy diet, water, sleep and exercise)
- healthy minds (a reminder of our Happiness Project themes on how to support ourselves and others with feeling positive, and where to go for support if we need it)

We will be enriching our classroom learning on these PSHE topics with workshops on scooter training, safe bike riding, pedestrian training, first aid and healthy lifestyles as well as a visit to each class from the police. We also have a day of skipping workshops planned and a 'wake and shake' session every day!



Information and reminders

Bridget Jones film

Parents might catch a glimpse or two of the school in the new Bridget Jones film, 'Mad about the Boy' which is released in cinemas this month! Christ Church was used for the external shots of the primary school in the film.

Governing Body updates

Katya Shipster has been appointed as a new parent governor on the school's Governing Body – thank you to Katya for putting herself forward for this important role. Jacob Nell, one of our current parent governors, will also continue as a member of our Governing Body, in a PCC (Parochial Church Council) role. You can find information about all our current Governors on the school website.

Spring term class assemblies
Please wait by the main gate just before 10am.
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

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 4: Governments should do all they can to ensure that every child in their countries receives all the rights in the convention.

How do we support children to receive this right?

Our school's work on the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools award at Christ Church and the way that we are now working with other schools on their own Rights Respecting work supports this article in the convention. We are sharing Christ Church's work on rights with a much wider group of schools and children across the borough and beyond.

