



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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March 2025  
Newsletter 7

**We love reading!**

Dear parents, carers and families,

This month there will be lots of reading and filming!

Our Readathon takes place over the first two weeks of March and we have an activity linked to reading and books planned for every day over the two weeks. We are fortunate that we already have a brilliant reading culture at Christ Church, so we are using these two weeks to encourage all children to read even more, try reading something different and to talk about and discuss what they read with others at home and at school. Thank you in advance for your encouragement of reading, for your donations on the readathon page and, in particular, if you volunteer to come and share a favourite book with one of our classes!

We are now part-way through our filming days creating our exciting films sharing our school vision and values, but there are plenty more days to come with lots of stop motion, time lapse, audio and filming (in front of and behind the camera) to be completed by children from different classes. We will be sharing information before the end of this term about the screenings to share our films which will take place during the day on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Two thank yous to end with - for your generous donations already towards our computer crowdfunding campaign (see below) and for your time in completing the annual parent survey (there were an impressive 134 responses); I will send out a summary of all the responses in the next couple of weeks.

With best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher



### Computer crowdfunding campaign

We are running a joint school and Friends crowdfunding campaign to raise money towards IT upgrades which are needed in the coming months.

The more we raise through this campaign, the less we need to fund this IT work from our main school budget. It has been a brilliant start to the campaign with over fifty-five donations made already taking us a very long way towards our target – thank you! Donations of any amount are very gratefully received and you can donate using the QR code.



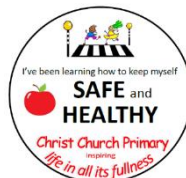
### PSHE week highlights!

We had a very exciting PSHE week in February, learning all about safety in the home and online, safety out and about, first aid and what to do to get help in an emergency, healthy bodies and healthy minds. The week was made memorable with a range of visitors and workshops, including skipping sessions, a visit from the police, scooter, bike and pedestrian training, first aid workshops and much more. We hope children have spent some time sharing their learning with parents and family members at home to help to reinforce these important topics.

Thank you to parents and families for joining in with our 'wake and shake' sessions every day during the week too!



First aid training, bikeability, pedestrian safety and skipping!



### Dates

#### March

wb Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – reading weeks and readathon – lots of reading events!

wb Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Y1-6 individual poetry presentations this week

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day (no costumes this year; we don't wear costumes every year), Friends Children's Book Sale

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

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Last clubs this term

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>, 3.40 – 7.30pm and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evenings

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

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, after school – Friends International Food Fair

#### April

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11.15am – end of term service in Church

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – children collected at midday for the Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – all children back to school for the Summer term

#### Summer term dates for the diary:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – film premiere!

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Fair

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June, pm – Sports Day (reserve for rain Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Open afternoon and Summer Serenade

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – last day of term



**We love reading!**

### Children's book sale – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

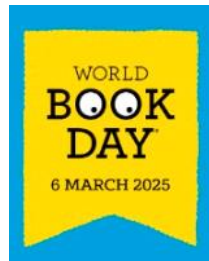
Our annual Friends second hand children's book sale will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please have a sort out at home and send in any children's books you can donate (3-5 per child would be great, but any number of donated children's books are welcome before or on the 6<sup>th</sup>). Please also send your child with £5 in coins so that they can buy new books to take home – any money raised goes towards our Readathon total.

### Readathon – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Please encourage your child to keep reading and maybe to try reading something different over the two weeks of our readathon. There will be lots and lots of reading and book-themed activities taking place over the two weeks, including visits from an author and a poet, a performance of 'The Wind in the Willows', a reading hour with biscuits and fruit and even some 'drop everything and read' sessions!

Parents and family members can get involved by

- posting an encouraging message or donation on the readathon page <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/christ-church-read-a-thon-2025>
- offering to come and read a favourite story or chapter in class
- giving us some new suggestions for the reading recommendation lists on our website – we'd love to hear your ideas, please email them to the office
- supporting with unusual (but safe!) activities for our extreme reading photo competition (deadline 9<sup>th</sup> March) and with our book-themed homework activities
- continuing to support your child's reading at home – parents are brilliant at this and it all helps to create our fantastic culture of reading and books at school – thank you!



### Information and reminders

#### Children leaving Christ Church

Please let us know as soon as you can if your child is leaving Christ Church (or even if this is a possibility). This really helps us to plan ahead and to offer places for next year where we can. Thank you.

#### Policies

The following policies have recently been reviewed by staff and governors. You can find all our policies on the school website or you can ask for copies at the school office:

- Policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy – this has included some very minor amendments to our homework guidelines so we are sending these out in homework folders for information for parents

#### PE kits

Please make sure your child has a full PE kit to change into on their peg each day. We are trying to ensure that all children change for any longer PE sessions from Y1 upwards and we have found that many children don't have the correct kit in school. Children should have a grey T-shirt, different trainers and different blue shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms to change into in their PE bag. If you need any support in getting these items, please speak to the school office or class teachers.

### Staff news

Mr Polidano has been offered an exciting part-time secondment opportunity to join Soho Parish School in Westminster as Assistant Headteacher from mid-March until the end of the academic year. He will still be at Christ Church two days per week teaching Year 3, with the rest of the week taught by Mr Warren and Mrs Pagnello. We wish Mr Polidano well in this exciting new role!

### Marvellous Maths!

Congratulations to our Year 6 team who recently won the Camden Maths Challenge! They scored points throughout a whole day of tricky maths challenges, competing against lots of other schools. A fantastic achievement!



### Filming so far....



Year 6 stop motion animation



Y5 filming on the Heath

### 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 15: Children can join or set up groups or organisations, and they can meet with others, as long as this does not harm other people.**

#### How do we support children to receive this right?

Children have access to a wide range of clubs at Christ Church, ranging from cookery, choir, coding and chess to gymnastics, fitness and music technology. We try to make our clubs as open and accessible as we possibly can and we offer support with paying for clubs for families who need this. We also offer the opportunity for children to be part of other groups such as School Council, CREW (our eco team) and our Well-being Champions team and every KS2 pupil is offered the opportunity to represent the school at a sporting event each year. When children create their own 'clubs' or groups for games, we make sure these are open and inclusive too – 'we include everyone in our games'.

