



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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September 2025

Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back (or welcome) to a brand new school year at Christ Church! I hope all families had a wonderful summer break. It is great to see children and staff back at school refreshed and ready to go for an exciting new year ahead! As always, we have a busy term ahead and the key dates for this term - for whole school events and for class assemblies - are set out below. There is also lots of information about this term's Happiness Project below.

Please remember that if you have any concerns or queries, in the first instance please get in touch with class teachers, or send an email or come into the school office where Mrs Connock or Ms Lo will be very happy to help, or ask me or Mr Hollings (our deputy head and inclusion leader). Mr Hollings and I are usually to be found on one or other of the gates each morning or afternoon or just email the office to set up a time to meet. We will hold our usual parents evenings towards the end of October and again at the end of the Spring term, but please don't wait for these occasions if you have a concern or question. Our school works best and children are the happiest and make the greatest progress when home and school work together!

With all best wishes for the year ahead,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Happiness Project!

This term we are excited to be focusing on our whole school Happiness Project, promoting lots of simple strategies to support our own and others' positive mental health. This is such an important topic we repeat and build on this project every two years to embed the learning as children move through the school. Ms Miller does an amazing job of organising the whole project over the term – look out for her updates about how parents and families can get involved and support at home.

Each week, the whole school will focus on one of ten themes teaching about skills and strategies to help everyone maintain positive mental well-being, alongside knowing when and how to seek extra help. It's not all about being happy and we know we can't be happy all the time, but we do want to give children the skills to be able to support themselves and others to maintain good mental health and well-being wherever they can.

We first developed and ran our Happiness Project in 2016 and then again in 2018, 2021 and 2023 and have since worked with schools across Camden and beyond to help them to develop their own similar school initiatives. We have also returned to these themes several times in the intervening years and there is lots of information about our previous projects on our website [here](#).

We will be sending out information about each of the themes to parents each week and there will be opportunities to get involved through parent workshops and homework activities, too.

Here are our ten themes to look out for coming up this term:

Setting goals, Giving, Healthy Body, Try Something New, Resilience (bouncing back), Emotions, Family and Friends, Celebrating differences, Simplicity and Belonging.



Dates

September

Tuesday 2nd – Years 1-6 back to school

Wednesday 3rd – Reception class starts

Thursday 11th, 3.20-3.50pm – Y1-6 Open classrooms

Week beginning Monday 15th – after school clubs start this week

Monday 15th, am – KS2 cross country trials event on the Heath

Tuesday 16th, 6pm – Reception parent information meeting

Week beginning Monday 22nd – Harvest Food collection this week

Tuesday 23rd, 6pm – Secondary transfer information meeting for Y4, 5 and 6 parents (followed by school journey information for Y6 parents)

Wednesday 24th – Colours and Sparkles for Charlie Day – non-uniform day raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital

Friday 26th, after school **tb** – Friends Cake Sale

Sunday 28th, 11am – Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Church – school choir singing

Tuesday 30th, 9-10am – Phonics Parent workshop – for Reception parents (and any Year 1 parents who would like a reminder)

October

Thursday 2nd – Our Christ Church Rights Respecting School Day

Friday 3rd – INSET day – no children in school

Week beginning Monday 6th – Y6 school journey this week

Welcomes!

A very warm welcome to children and families joining our school this term.

Welcome to Leonardo in Y1, Zachariah in Y2, Hibah in Y3, Sasha in Y4 and Takumi who is re-joining Y5!

Also, a very warm welcome to our new Reception class: Zoe, Miiya Coco, Wolfie, Harmony, Alex, Aylen, Violet, Henry, Bonnie, Flora, Laurence, Dasha, Eva Z, Ishaan, Sofia, Maia, Sabela, Niko, Daragh, Sia, Eva M, Elizaveta, Edmond, James, Denis, Aedan, Rivaan and Yasmine. Welcome to the Christ Church community!

Open classrooms – for Year 1 -6 families – Thursday 11th September, 3.20pm

Please come into school to see your child's new classroom, say hello to their class teacher and collect this term's class leaflet letting you know all about the curriculum this term and how you can support at home. Collect your child as usual from the playground after school on Thursday 11th September and then come back into school with them.

Some well dones and thank yous from last term

School council 2025/26

Well done to Hartley (chair), Rufus (vice-chair) and Nina (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 2025 recipients of the Charlie Chesser awards, recognising kindness, friendship, thoughtfulness and inclusion. Very well done to Albertine (last year's Y6), Blanca (Y6), Eddie (Y5), Lola (Y4), Esme (Y3), Heath (Y2) and Violet (Y1) who received their awards in a special assembly at the end of the term.

100% attendance

Well done to the 62 children who had 100% attendance in the Summer term and a special well done to Clara, Arabella, Heath, Anoushka, Isadora, Elliot, Isaac, Sebastian, James and Pablo who managed 100% attendance for the whole year! Very impressive!

Whole school attendance last year was the best it has been for a number of years at 96.85%. This is definitely opposite the national attendance picture and is a result of commitment from all Christ Church families to making sure their children are in school whenever they are well. Thank you very much and let's try to keep this up this year!

Congratulations to our cricket, rounders and athletics teams who did brilliantly in the Camden tournaments at the end of the summer term!

We work hard to make sure every child in KS2 represents the school in a sporting team or event each year and it is great to see our children representing the school with such pride and excitement, in competitive and non-competitive events and whether they win or lose.



Information and reminders

2025/26 term dates and good attendance right to the end of each term, please!

The full set of term dates for 2025/26, including all INSET days, are attached at the end of this newsletter and on the school website. We try really hard to make our term dates work for families, for example finishing at the end of a week in the summer term, rather than continuing into the following week.

Please look carefully at the dates when planning ahead for holidays this year – there are 13 weeks when your child is not in school! And please plan for your child to be in school right from the start to the end of each term. **The beginnings and ends of terms are important, too – even the half day at the end!**

School policies

Many of our school policy documents have recently been reviewed by staff and governors for their annual review. You can find all our school policies on our website or you can ask for a paper copy from the office.

Autumn term class assemblies

Class assemblies start at 10am; all family members are welcome; please wait by the main gate.

Friday 17th October – Y6 school journey assembly

Friday 24th October – Y2 class assembly

Friday 7th November – Y4 class assembly

Friday 14th November – Y1 class assembly

Friday 21st November – Reception class assembly

Friday 28th November – Y3 class assembly

Friday 5th December – Y5 class assembly

October dates continued

Week beginning 13th – PSHE week celebrating difference– including Y1-6 individual presentations

Week beginning 20th – KS2 Times table challenge this week

Wednesday 22nd 9.50am- Music assembly

Wednesday 22nd, 3.40 – 7.30pm and Thursday 23rd, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evenings

Monday 27th – Friday 31st – Half term

November

Week beginning 3rd – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Monday)

Tuesday 4th – individual photos

Sunday 9th, 11am – Remembrance Sunday service in Church, school choir singing

Week beginning 17th – PSHE week – focused on positive relationships

Thursday 20th – Anti bullying day, Odd socks day!

Thursday 27th, 3.20 – 5pm – Art Exhibition after school – tbc

Friday 28th – non-uniform day – bring a toy and filled jar for the Christmas Fair

December

Tuesday 2nd – Flu spray vaccination offered to all classes in school – information and consent forms will come to parents

Friday 5th – non-uniform day – bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair

Sunday 7th, 12-2.30pm – Christmas Fair tbc

Thursday 11th, 10am – Nativity performance for parents (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes)

Friday 12th – Friends Present Sale

Monday 15th – Christmas Jumper Day!

Wednesday 17th, pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead

Friday 19th, 11.15am – Christmas Service in Church

Friday 19th, midday – all children collected for the holidays

January

Monday 5th – all children back for the spring term

Happiness Project – September's themes



Setting goals, and breaking them down into achievable steps, gives us a sense of direction and builds confidence.



Giving to others, in lots of different ways, also makes us feel better and supports our own mental well-being.

Belonging: 'belonging to something bigger' by being a part of all sorts of different groups and communities, gives us meaning in our lives and brings happiness.





Christ Church Primary School

2025/26 Term Dates

Please look carefully at these dates for the year, especially when you are booking holidays!

Autumn term 2025

INSET day: Monday 1st September

First day of Autumn term: Tuesday 2nd September

INSET day: Friday 3rd October

Half term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 19th December

Spring term 2026

First day of Spring term: Monday 5th January

INSET day: Friday 30th January

Half term: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

Last day of Spring term: Friday 27th March

Summer term 2026

First day of Summer term: Monday 13th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May

Half term: Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

INSET day: Friday 19th June

Last day of Summer term: Friday 17th July

INSET day: Monday 20th July

N.B.

Children are not in school for INSET days - these are used for staff training.