



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

January 2026

Newsletter 5

Happy New Year!

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Dear parents, carers and families,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to the spring term at Christ Church! I hope all families had a very happy and restful Christmas break. It's great to see children refreshed and ready for 2026! Thank you from all staff members for the very kind cards, gifts and good wishes at Christmas and thank you for all your support over a very busy December. There are some super photos and highlights of our Christmas activities below and more on the news page of our website.

The coming half term is a little quieter, perhaps, and we will be straight back into the routine this week. However, we are still looking forward to a busy PSHE week focused on keeping healthy and safe; lots of trips, including to the Heath for Reception and to the Camden Learning Centre for coding workshops for all our KS2 classes; and lots of visitors in school, including some brilliant cooking workshops with a chef for Year 3 and more wonderful music from the Apollo Music musicians for Years 1-4.

Our Arts Project this term is all about dance! In the coming weeks, we will be starting to rehearse for a whole school dance performance which will take place in the afternoon of Friday 13th March – there will be lots more details to come, but please put this date in your diary now! If parents have any dance connections they could share with us, maybe for visitors who could come in to share their talents or performances we could watch, please do get in touch.

Please also take a look at all the dates below, including for class assemblies and parent workshops for this term, and look out for class curriculum leaflets coming home on 16th January which will give more information about class topics and trips for this term, as well as how you can support with key learning at home.

With all best wishes for a very healthy and happy 2026,

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

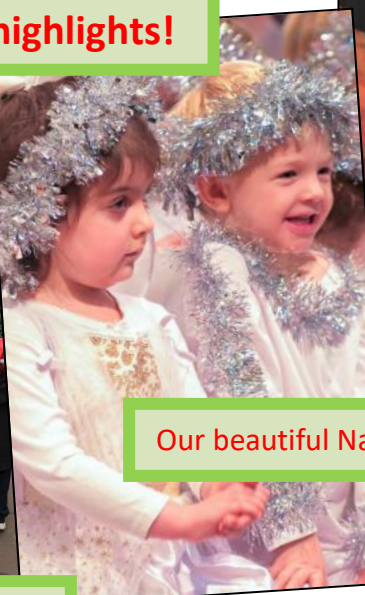
Christmas highlights!



Carol singing in the local community



Peter Pan Pantomime!



Our beautiful Nativity play



Welcomes!

A very warm welcome to Molly and Penny who have joined our Reception class and to Anna who has joined Year 1. A very warm welcome to these new families in our school!

Also, a warm welcome to Mr Jacobson and Ms Aga who will be spending the next five weeks working alongside our teachers in Year 2 and Year 1, completing short teacher training placements.

Dates

January

Monday 5th – all children back for the spring term

Wednesday 7th – after school clubs and after school music start

Wednesday 21st, 3pm – informal music sharing – Y3 and Y4 will perform their class band pieces in the hall and their families are very welcome to come in to watch

Friday 23rd, 3pm – informal music sharing – Y5 and Y6 will perform their class band pieces in the hall and their families are very welcome to come to watch

Sunday 25th 11am – school choir singing in Church

Wednesday 28th, 9.50am – Music assembly

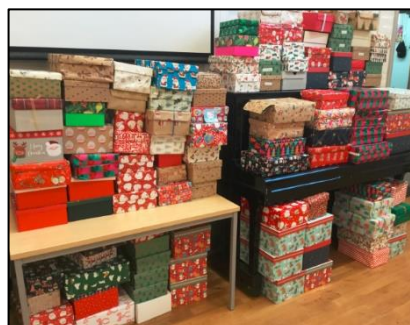
Friday 30th – INSET day – no children in school

February

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th – PSHE week – Keeping Healthy and Safe

Christmas Charities - thank you!

Thank you to the whole school community for your generous support of our Christmas charity events. We raised over £1270 to split between the two charities chosen by our school council: Toilet Twinning and Food Cycle Camden.



We also sent an amazing 192 Christmas gift boxes to be distributed by the Camden Foodbank and the Salvation Army in Chalk Farm. Thank you very much for your contributions, which will make a real difference to those in need locally and further afield.

**TOILET
TWINNING**

February dates continued

Monday 2nd – Online safety day

Week beginning Monday 9th – KS2 timetable challenge this week

Week beginning Monday 9th – Year 3 daily swimming sessions start

Monday 16th – Friday 20th - Half term

Week beginning Monday 23rd – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Mon)

March

Week beginning 2nd – individual poetry presentations from all children in Y1-6

Thursday 5th – World Book Day!

We are inviting children to dress up as a book character this year – we don't do this every year, so please make the most of it if this is something you love! We will also be holding a Book Day costume swop earlier in the term to make this as sustainable and manageable as we can for everyone – look out for more details.

Thursday 5th – Book Sale – second hand children's book sale organised by the Friends

Friday 13th, pm – whole school dance performance – all families very welcome – more details to come

Sunday 15th, 11am – school choir singing in Church – Mothering Sunday

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th – last after school clubs for this term

Wednesday 18th, 3.40-7.30pm – Parents evening for all classes

Thursday 19th, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evening for all classes

Monday 23rd – Christ Church Day of Sport! – led by school council

Tuesday 24th, 9am – Parent workshop on supporting with times tables, Y2-5 parents welcome

Thursday 26th – Wear a Hat day! Raising money for Brain Tumour Research charity

Friday 27th, 11.15am – Easter Service in Church – all families welcome

Friday 27th March, midday – children collected for the Easter holiday

Monday 13th April – all children back to school for the summer term

Spring class assemblies

These are dates for the class assemblies this term which all start at 10am; all family members are welcome; please wait by the main gate.

Thursday 15th January – Year 6 class assembly

Friday 23rd January – **Year 2 class assembly**, with Year 2 parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am

Friday 13th February – **Year 4 class assembly**, with Year 4 parent workshop on maths beforehand at 9am

Wednesday 25th February – Year 5 class assembly, with Year 5 parent workshop on arithmetic skills beforehand at 9am

Friday 27th February – **Year 1 class assembly**, with Year 1 parent workshop on maths and handwriting beforehand at 9am

Friday 6th March – **Year 3 class assembly**, with Year 3 parent workshop on writing beforehand at 9am

Wednesday 25th March – Reception class assembly



Healthy School Gold!

We are very proud to have been reaccruited as a Gold Healthy School, in recognition of all the work we do to support children's health and wellbeing!

Information and reminders

Term dates 2026-2027

Governors have recently agreed the term dates for 2026/27 and you can find these on the school website, plus they are also attached at the end of this newsletter. Please check the term dates carefully if you are booking holidays ahead and please make sure you are looking at the correct year.

We work hard to make the term dates support good attendance, with each term ending on a Friday whenever we can. We've also arranged the INSET (staff training) days for 2026/27 to ensure there are a full six weeks holiday in Summer 2026 and Summer 2027. This makes our term dates slightly different from some other Camden schools, but hopefully it allows families to make the most of the break if they are travelling abroad or to see family. Our attendance at Christ Church is generally very good but it definitely dips at the end of terms when it's still important for children to be in school. Please do stick to the holiday dates for trips away and please remember that absences can only be authorised in advance and for one-off or exceptional circumstances.

Website news pages

We have lots of fantastic photos of all our Autumn term events on our website, including all our trips and class assemblies last term. You can keep up to date with everything which is going on at school [on our news and events page here](#).

Applications for 2026 Reception class

The application deadline for applying for Reception for 2026 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 download a copy from the website.



Christ Church Hampstead

'Children in Church' services

These are two Sundays each term when our school choir sings in Christ Church for the 11am service, children help with the readings and all families are particularly invited to attend. Of course, all families are very welcome at Christ Church any other Sundays, too!

For the spring term 2026, these two Sundays are 25th January and 15th March (Mothering Sunday)



Christ Church Primary School

2026/27 Term Dates

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

Autumn term 2026

INSET day: Tuesday 1st September

First day of Autumn term: Wednesday 2nd September

Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 18th December

Spring term 2027

First day of Spring term: Monday 4th January

Half term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

Last day of Spring term: Thursday 25th March

Summer term 2027

First day of Summer term: Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Last day of Summer term: Friday 16th July

INSET days: Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st July

N.B.

Children are not in school for the five INSET days each year - these are used for staff training.

There is one further INSET day to be set. This will be shared with parents before the start of the 26/27 academic year.