



# Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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January 2026

Newsletter 5

Happy New Year!

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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



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 5<sup>th</sup> – all children back for the spring term**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – after school clubs and after school music start

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup> 11am – school choir singing in Church

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, 9.50am – Music assembly

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – INSET day – no children in school**

### February

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – PSHE week – Keeping Healthy and Safe



Peter Pan Pantomime!



## 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.



### February dates continued

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Online safety day

Week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – KS2 timetable challenge this week

Week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 daily swimming sessions start

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Half term**

Week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Mon)

### March

Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> – individual poetry presentations from all children in Y1-6

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – 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 swap earlier in the term to make this as sustainable and manageable as we can for everyone – look out for more details.

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

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> pm – whole school dance performance – all families very welcome - more details to come

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 11am – school choir singing in Church – Mothering Sunday

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – last after school clubs for this term

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, 3.40-7.30pm – Parents evening for all classes

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 3.40 – 6pm – Parents evening for all classes

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Christ Church Day of Sport! – led by school council

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

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

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, 11.15am – Easter Service in Church – all families welcome

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, midday – children collected for the Easter holiday**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 class assembly**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Reception class assembly**

### Healthy School Gold!

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

### Information and reminders

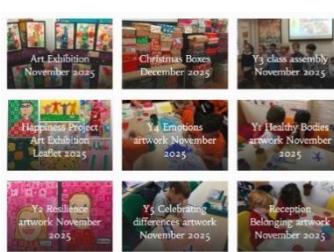
#### Term dates 2026-2027

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September

First day of Autumn term: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### Spring term 2027

First day of Spring term: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Half term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Last day of Spring term: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

### Summer term 2027

First day of Summer term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Half term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Last day of Summer term: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

INSET days: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.