



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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Newsletter 6

Dear parents, carers and families,

We have had a busy January, with lots of dancing and sports events – including a super third place for our indoor athletics team at the Camden competition – and also lots of music, with over thirty wonderful performances at our music assembly, brilliant class band pieces from each KS2 class and some inspirational visits from the professional musicians from Apollo Music, as well as the organist (and portable organ) from St Paul's Cathedral! Classes have also been taking part in the RSPB Big Birdwatch event, listening and looking out for birds on trips to the Heath and we've also been enjoying reading the messages we have received from people who have found our Happiness Stones, far and near (see below).

Events coming up in February include our busiest PSHE week of the year, full of workshops and visitors helping everyone to learn about how to stay healthy and safe, and plenty of trips for different classes and groups, including to Belsize Square synagogue, the Camden maths challenge, St Paul's Cathedral for the London Church Schools Annual Service, the Camden Green Dragons Den event and an inter-faith RE event with other schools. We will also be welcoming over 70 children from 14 different Camden primary schools to Christ Church for the morning for an exciting Rights Respecting Schools event! We are looking forward to a busy month ahead as we edge towards the lighter, brighter days of spring!

With all best wishes, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Happiness stones – spreading happiness far and wide!

We have loved hearing from those who have found our Happiness Stones, nearby on the Heath and as far afield as Paris and Lapland! One of the aims of our Happiness Project is to share what we've learnt and to spread a little bit of happiness to others and we've certainly managed this with our stones!

Hi kids! 😊 Hello from Madrid! We want to tell you a beautiful story about a little stone that you painted with love. Yesterday, we were in Santa Claus Village in Lapland and while we were walking and looking around, something colourful caught our eyes. It was your painted stone! We stopped, looked at it, and smiled right away.

We felt so happy and surprised. We could not believe that someone had left such a kind gift for a stranger. It made our day brighter and warmer, even in the cold Arctic weather.

Your stone made us feel joy, kindness, and love. It reminded us that small things can make a big difference. Just a painted stone made our hearts very happy.

We hope you know that your idea is wonderful. You are spreading happiness, smiles, and good feelings to people you don't even know. That is very special. Best regards, Adrián and Esther

Good morning
I am at Heathrow Airport working into the early hours taking down Christmas decorations, and I have found your stone under a Christmas tree. It is in the British Airways check in area and I just wanted to say that it put a smile on my face.
Kind regards, Diane

Found by a former Christ Church pupil on the Heath! →



Thank you for this lovely surprise! It really made me happy and I love the message about kindness on the label I have left it there for someone else to enjoy.
Angela x



Bonjour!
I am from London but am visiting Paris and saw this beautiful stone in Buttes-Chaumont Park in the 19th arrondissement. Please pass on my congratulations to the artists- it certainly spread happiness!
I decided to leave the stone on the bench so others could share the joy, but thank you so much for bringing some happiness to a drizzly French weekend! Abi x

Dates

February

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th – PSHE week – Keeping Healthy and Safe – Wake and Shake all week!

Monday 2nd – Online safety day

Tuesday 3rd, 3-4pm – Parent First Aid workshop–contact the office to sign up

Week beginning Monday 9th – KS2 timetable challenge this week

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

Tuesday 10th, 3.20 – Christ Church Eco Team's Costume swap event – donate any costumes that are too small and maybe pick up a new one for World Book Day!

Monday 16th – Friday 20th - Half term

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

Friday 27th, 5.30-6.30 (infants) and 7-8 (juniors) – Friends Disco

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 be holding a Book Day costume swap on Tuesday 10th February 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



Organ from St Paul's Cathedral!

We had a great day welcoming an organ and organist from St Paul's Cathedral to the school. We loved hearing the organ music throughout the day (even while eating lunch!), singing to the organ accompaniment, and lots of us even got to try playing the organ too!



Staff team at St Paul's Cathedral!

As part of our recent INSET day, the staff team took part in a workshop at St Paul's Cathedral on using special buildings for teaching and to support spiritual development. We even got to lie on the floor to admire the ceiling and climb to the top of the Dome!

Spring class assemblies

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

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**

Information and reminders

Church car park safety

Please do not walk through or let children play in the Church car park – the mechanised gates are dangerous to play around and there are likely to be cars moving around or entering at all times. There have been a couple of near misses recently – **please take care.**

ELSA diabetes study – thank you and update

We were recently sent a thank you by the team who carried out the ELSA diabetes research study in school last academic year. They also sent a link to a [news article](#) providing positive updates on the study and how it is now being scaled up. Thank you to all the children and families who took part.

Uniform reminders

The school has a deliberately wide-ranging and quite flexible uniform policy – we want uniform to be affordable, comfortable and practical for all, but still to create a sense of belonging and identity in the school. However, uniform standards have slipped a bit recently and this is a good opportunity to remind all families of the uniform policy and ask you to help us to stick to this. The full uniform guidelines are attached at the end of this newsletter and are also on our website [here](#). Please take a look and check that your child is wearing correct uniform each day.

A few gentle reminders of areas we would love to improve:

- there should be no hoodies at all (apart from Christ Church-branded hoodies which are an optional item for Y5 and Y6 for PE activities only)
- children should be wearing sensible shoes of black or navy (no boots)
- children can wear blue trousers, tunics, skirts or jogging bottoms (no jeans, dungarees or other blue dresses)
- PE kit needs to be in school for all children – this should be a Christ Church (or plain) grey T-shirt, plus a change of jogging bottoms/shorts/leggings and a change of shoes
- please try to replace Christ Church t-shirts or jumpers where the logo has worn off
- long hair should be tied back
- please name everything – we have a lot of red jumpers in school!

We have a good supply of very cheap (or free, if needed) second hand uniform in school. Please speak to Mrs Connock if there is something you need. You can buy the branded uniform via the school website [here](#) or you can buy all the plain items quite cheaply in supermarkets instead. If you have any questions about our uniform policy, please just come and ask.

We will be reminding the children of the importance of our uniform, as well as talking to them about what is and what isn't correct uniform. Please help the children to wear our uniform correctly and with pride! Thank you.



March dates continued

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

Welcome!

A warm welcome to Miss Spagnoli who has joined our Teaching Assistant team this term!

100% attendance – congratulations!

Congratulations to the 66 children who managed 100% attendance for the Autumn term – that is a third of the school! A reminder that, if children are well, they should be in school learning and playing with their friends right up until the half term break and right until the end of term, please.



Indoor athletics – third place↑

Some of our very happy Y5 and 6 athletics team, with their bronze medals at the end of the Camden indoor athletics tournament!

Year 6 coding trip→

Year 6 Lego Mindstorms coding workshop at the Camden Learning Centre!



Christ Church School Uniform Guidelines

Christ Church School has a school uniform which should be worn with pride by all children in the school. The basic colours are red tops and navy-blue bottoms. All children need to have a red t-shirt and jumper/cardigan/fleece (preferably with the school logo) to wear when they are going on a school outing - for easy identification.

WINTER UNIFORM

- Navy-blue trousers (not jeans), jogging bottoms or navy-blue skirts or tunics
- Plain red jumpers or cardigans, school sweat-shirts* or fleeces*.
- Socks or tights in plain red/white/navy-blue.
- White polo shirts*, white shirts or blouses
- Sensible shoes (not boots) of black or navy. They should be plain, single coloured and with dark laces when appropriate.

SUMMER UNIFORM

- As winter, or children can wear navy blue shorts or red and white checked summer dresses.
- Plain red or white t-shirt, or with the school logo*
- Open-toed shoes are not allowed for reasons of health and safety.
- Red caps* are available as an optional item

SCHOOL BAG/BOOK BAG

All children need a sensible bag (not too big) to carry reading books, homework etc back and forth from school. All infants and the majority of children in other years have a school book bag with the school logo.*

P.E. KIT

All children are expected to change for PE. They will need:

- navy shorts or tracksuit trousers
- grey t-shirts*
- plimsolls or light-weight trainers and spare socks (for children wearing tights)
- hoodies* - optional item for Y5 and 6 only and only for PE
- kit needs to be kept in a drawstring bag*

JEWELLERY, HAIR AND PHONES

Jewellery is not allowed with the exception of watches, which remain the responsibility of the child. For health and safety reasons, children with pierced ears must only wear studs. Long hair should be tied back.

No smart watches/devices or devices which take images/recordings are permitted in school. If children in the oldest year groups travel to school on their own and need a phone for safety reasons, these must be handed in to the school office on arrival and collected when the child leaves school (including at the end of any after school activities). Phones left in the school office for the day are left at the owner's own risk and are not covered by school insurance policies.

**These uniform items are available online with the school logo*

Parents can also purchase plain items at supermarkets/other shops. There are also regular second-hand uniform sales in school - please ask in the school office if you would like to see our second-hand uniform stock and please donate good quality items if your child has grown out of them.