



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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March 2026
Newsletter 7

Keeping healthy and safe!

Dear parents, carers and families,

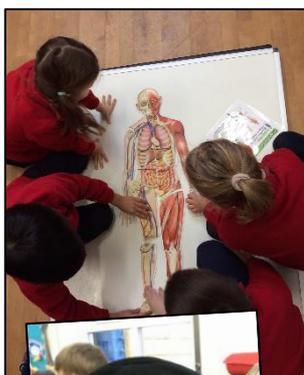
We had a brilliantly busy PSHE week just before half term, learning lots of very important information about keeping ourselves healthy and safe – safe at home, safe out and about and safe online. I hope families found the time to talk through the work in the children’s PSHE folders which came home after the week; we think this is such important learning we want to send it home straight away so that families can back it up at home as soon as possible! There are photos and highlights of PSHE week below.

In the remaining weeks of this shorter second half of term, we will be polishing our routines for our dance performance on 13th March, celebrating books and reading on World Book Day and focusing on Easter in our RE learning, as well as in our assemblies about the life of Jesus. Remaining dates and events for this term are set out below.

We will also be completing this term’s set of class assemblies and parent workshops. Thank you to the many, many parents who have come to our class workshops so far this term – we hope you found them helpful. Still to come, there is Year 3’s parent workshop on writing this month, plus Mrs Pagnello will be running a parent workshop on supporting with the vital skill of learning times tables for parents in Years 2-5 on 24th March. We hope lots of parents will be able to join us. Also, after positive feedback about the First Aid parent workshop, we are investigating whether the trainer can return to lead a longer, practical session for parents later this year – we’ll let you know if this is possible.

With best wishes and many thanks for your ongoing support, Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Keeping Healthy and Safe!



Highlights of our PSHE week, focusing on keeping healthy and safe, included:

- daily wake and shake to get us all started with some exercise!
- visits from the police and a visit to the local fire station for Year 4;
- travel safety training for pedestrians, bikes and scooters;
- learning about looking after our eyes, teeth and bodies;
- plus, lots of learning about how to be safe and respectful online, including how to stay safe with AI



Dates

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! Thank you to those who participated in CREW’s sustainable costume swop before half term.

Thursday 5th – Book Sale – second hand children’s book sale organised by the Friends. On the day, children should bring in as many second-hand books to donate to the sale as possible (3-5 books per pupil would be great) and £5 in coins to spend on new books!

Friday 13th 2pm – whole school dance performance – all families very welcome – no tickets needed but we will be collecting donations at the end for local charity ‘icandance’ and for the school’s Arts Project.

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

Brilliant representatives of our school!

Several groups of pupils have recently represented the school wonderfully at local events with other schools, sharing what we do at Christ Church and learning from and with others.



School council went to the LDBS schools service at St Paul's Cathedral and took part in the Church schools service with over 1600 pupils from across London.

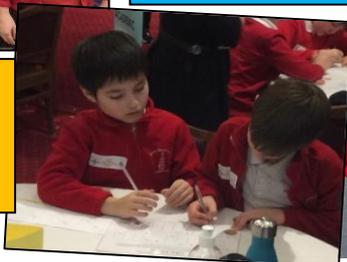


CREW took their pitch for a reusable cup for our fairs to the Camden Green Dragons' Den – we hope they secure some funding!



A group of pupils from Year 4 and Year 6 took part in a Rights Respecting Schools sharing event for thirteen different schools, hosted at Christ Church. It was lovely to welcome so many other pupils and staff to our school for the morning!

Groups from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in two inter-school maths challenge events, taking part in some fun and tricky challenges. Our Year 6 group came third in the Camden Maths Challenge event!



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.**

Are you eligible for any of these government benefits?

If you are claiming any of the benefits listed below, you can support the school by applying for Free School Meals. Although meals are actually free for all London primary pupils at the moment, Free School Meals eligibility also gives families free or reduced clubs and holiday provision locally, as well as access to other support. It also supports the school by providing funding for the school. If you think you might be eligible, you can apply at this link [Free school meals - Camden Council](#) or Mrs Connock or Ms Lo will be happy to help. Please get in touch or apply if you are currently claiming:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit – your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including benefits)
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

Policies

The following school policies have recently been reviewed by Governors and school staff:

- Policy on Physical Contact with Children
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy

You can see all our policies on the school website or you can ask for a paper copy from the office.

Uniform – thank you

Thank you for your support with tidying up our school uniform standards over the last few weeks. Please remember you can ask in the office to buy second hand uniform if you need to (or bring any good quality items in to donate if your children have outgrown them).

Annual Parent Survey – thank you for all the positive feedback

Thank you again for all your responses to the parent survey last half term. The summary of all the responses and comments are attached again at the end of this newsletter in case you missed them on the email. Your feedback is really important so please remember you can raise any concerns or questions with class teachers, Mr Hollings, Mrs Forsdyke or the school office at any time.

March dates continued:

Wednesday 25th – Friends after school Easter event – details tbc

Thursday 26th – Wear a Hat Day! Any hat will do – the funnier the better! Collecting cash donation 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



Year 3 super swimmers!

A big well done and congratulations to every single member of our Year 3 class for their fabulous progress over the two weeks of daily swimming lessons in February. Everyone showed amazing determination and resilience building their confidence and ability in this vital skill!



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

Wednesday 25th March – Reception class assembly

Online safety agreements

As part of our work learning about being safe, respectful and responsible online, all the children agreed and signed updated online safety agreements. We emailed copies of the agreements to all parents, along with some helpful [links](#) for parents about supporting your children to be safe online, but if you would like another copy, please ask.

Year 1 trip to a synagogue

Year 1 had a fascinating trip to Belsize Square Synagogue, to enrich their learning in the classroom about Shabbat and what it is like to live as Jewish person.



Christ Church School - Parent Survey Results Spring 2026

Headlines from our parent survey:

99% of parents say their child feels safe at school.	98% of parents say their child is happy at school.	99% of parents say they would recommend Christ Church to another parent.	95% of parents say that the school makes sure children are well behaved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 94% of parents say that the school communicates well. - 93% of parents say that the school makes decisions with the child's best interest at heart. - 95% of parents agree that the school supports their child to learn well. 	<p>90% of parents say that any concerns they have raised have been dealt with properly or they have not raised concerns. A similarly high percentage of parents say we deal with any bullying effectively.</p>	<p>These very positive response figures remain consistently high compared to parent surveys carried out in previous years.</p>	<p>Parents' top four areas which are important in our school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care (91%) - our school community and a feeling of togetherness (81%) - creativity, performance and arts activities (77%) - academic excellence (70%)

All the data from our parent survey:

137 responses in total

2026 results in bold (2025 results in brackets, where the question remained the same)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	
My child is happy at Christ Church School	73% (75%)	24% (23%)	1%	1% (1%)	0 (0)	0 (1%)	
My child feels safe at Christ Church School	79% (81%)	20% (19%)	1%	0 (1%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Christ Church School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	57% (61%)	37% (35%)	4%	1% (1%)	0 (0)	0 (3%)	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	7% (4%)	11% (18%)	13%	1% (4%)	0 (1%)	10% (16%)	58% (57%) My child has not been bullied
The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know	64%	30%	4%	1%	1%	0	
When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly	32% (35%)	29% (29%)	7%	1% (6%)	0 (0)	1% (2%)	29% (28%) I have not raised concerns
When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart.	63%	30%	5%	1%	0	2%	
Christ Church School gives my child the right support to enable them to learn well.	53%	42%	4%	1%	0	0	
Christ Church School supports my child's wider personal development	63% (57%)	30% (37%)	4%	1% (3%)	0 (0)	2% (3%)	
I would recommend Christ Church School to another parent	Yes 99% (99%)			No 1% (1%)		Figures all rounded to nearest % Neither agree/disagree option was new in 2026.	
What is really important in our school? (parents could tick as many as they liked)	Academic excellence						70% (70%)
	A wide curriculum						68% (65%)
	Emotional well-being, positive relationships and pastoral care						91% (90%)
	Our Christian character and ethos						45% (38%)
	Inclusion and celebration of diversity						63% (62%)
	Making a difference to others						57% (61%)
	Creativity, performance and arts activities						77% (71%)
Our school community and a feeling of togetherness						81% (78%)	

Thank you for all your survey feedback

See next page for information about some of the comments made

Summary of key areas and actions from our parent survey:

Thank you very much to the 137 parents who responded to our online survey. There are 150 families (and 194 pupils in total) in our school, so this represents a very impressive response rate, which hopefully shows you really care about our school! Thank you very much for taking the time to respond.

Parents are, of course, very welcome to bring any concerns, issues or suggestions to class teachers or to Mrs Forsdyke or Mr Hollings at any time. Please feel free to make an appointment to meet with us if you need to.

If you are one of the very small number of parents who strongly disagreed with one of the statements or who would not recommend the school to other families, we would really like to explore why this is and try to resolve any issues if possible. Please arrange to talk to a staff member or, if you would prefer not to talk to a member of staff about this, you could let the school office know and we could arrange for you to speak with a governor or an external adviser to the school instead. The school's leadership team are very pleased with the continuing very positive results and feedback from parents and we are particularly delighted that children feel safe and happy at school. Comments about our provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs, where this was relevant, were similarly positive and very good to see.

The Ofsted questions have changed slightly this year, so we can't make comparisons with figures for previous years for all of the questions. However, where we can compare, the percentages have remained consistently high when compared to last year's responses – this shows we are continuing to do the right things for the children and families in our school!

51 parents recorded additional comments about the school at the end of the questionnaire. 39 of these comments included positive feedback (there are a flavour of them below) and, amongst the comments, there were also 23 varied suggestions for improvement. We can't respond to every suggestion individually but please be assured they have all been read and we will take action where we can.

Over all, the survey provides the school with very positive feedback, however there are always areas for improvement and parents' comments provide us with very valuable feedback about areas we could develop. As always, the vast majority of areas were raised by only one parent, however, there are two themes discussed below.

In this year's survey: lots of events and requests in the Autumn term

There were three comments from parents about the high volume of activities, events and requests in the Autumn term. We know there are a lot of exciting events taking place, especially in the run up to Christmas, and this year there were even more than usual with our Happiness Project as well. This is very helpful feedback and we will consider what more we can do to coordinate between whole school events, class events and Friends events, especially any financial requests. We could also do better to remind parents that none of this is compulsory and families should only donate and contribute where they are able to.

In this year's survey: school food

There were five comments from parents about our school food provision. We continue to work hard with our lunches contractor, Caterlink, to ensure that their published menu choices are available from the first to the last lunch served. As one parent acknowledged in their comment, this is definitely a 'work in progress', but we will keep up our monitoring, feedback and discussions at all levels – from our own catering staff to Caterlink managers and regional teams. We will also continue our efforts to encourage all children to try new foods and to link our learning in the classroom about healthy eating to the food children are offered and eat at lunchtime.

Helpful suggestions – thank you

There were also some quite specific helpful suggestions from parents, such as the need to provide more explanation about how we select children for sports events and how we can offer more opportunities for children in different years to work together – both of these are examples of suggestions we will certainly

A flavour of the many positive comments received:

'We are very happy with this school. The staff are always helpful, supportive and well-informed. Whenever we have a question or concern, they are quick to help and communicate clearly.'

'Our children are incredibly happy at the school. We are so grateful for the wonderful care and attention the teachers and staff give to each individual child. We feel very lucky.' *'Thank you for your continuous efforts and enthusiasm!'*

'The school does an outstanding job of educating its students while setting and maintaining high standards for both academic achievement and personal growth. Communication is excellent, the sense of community is strong, and I've deeply appreciated the emphasis on teaching diversity, inclusion, respect for different religions and emotional awareness.'

'It's clear that a lot of heart and hard work go into making this such a wonderful community.'

'We are so lucky to have had all our children here over the years, a really unique and special place. Keep up the amazing work you do – it has made a huge difference.'

Thank you very much for your positive comments – these have been shared with the staff team and they mean a lot to our staff members who all work incredibly hard to do their best for your children.