

General Information and Reminders

Top tips for supporting at home this term:

We have thought carefully about some key areas of the curriculum that can be supported at home. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

- Please ensure that children can recall the four phonic sounds sent home each week. Daily practice using their phonics flipbooks will support fluency. Playing games that incorporate the four focus sounds will consolidate learning-these can be sound hunts around the home or card games like snap.
- Support early reading by becoming a robot! Blending is a key skill to develop when learning to read and giving children ample opportunities to blend words each day will support with sound discrimination. Try sounding out simple words (constant-vowel-constant) such as sun, pen, dog or hat and adding them into instructions or daily games. e.g. Can you pass me a C-U-P?

PE

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE uniform in school every day from after October half term: blue shorts/tracksuit trousers, a grey t shirt, plimsolls or a change of trainers for outside. PE in Reception is taught by Mr Spadaccini

Please ensure all clothes and shoes are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Trips and key dates for this term - put in date order

- * Thursday 26th November, 3.20pm: whole school Art Exhibition
- * Thursday 10th December, 10am: Infant Nativity
- * Visiting Hampstead Heath
- * Visiting Christ Church



Our Heath outside learning will be every other Wednesday afternoon after October half term. If you are available to help on any of these outings, I would be grateful if you could sign up on the sheets outside the Reception classroom after half term.

Class assembly

Our class assembly this term will take place on Friday 27th November at 10am. All parents, carers and family members are warmly invited!

Homework -

Homework will be sent home on Thursdays and is due back the following Tuesday. This term it will consist of a creative activity, reading practice and a phonics sound flipbook. You could also support your child's learning by hunting for objects that begin with these sounds. The reading diaries will be used in order to carefully monitor progress in reading as well as being a useful home-school link. Each week your child will bring home one book from our phonics scheme - Little Wandle. Please keep this book in their bags for us to access throughout the week. You can also help yourself to picture books and additional decodable books from other reading schemes from our reading trolley outside the Year 2 classroom!



HOMEWORK

Reminders

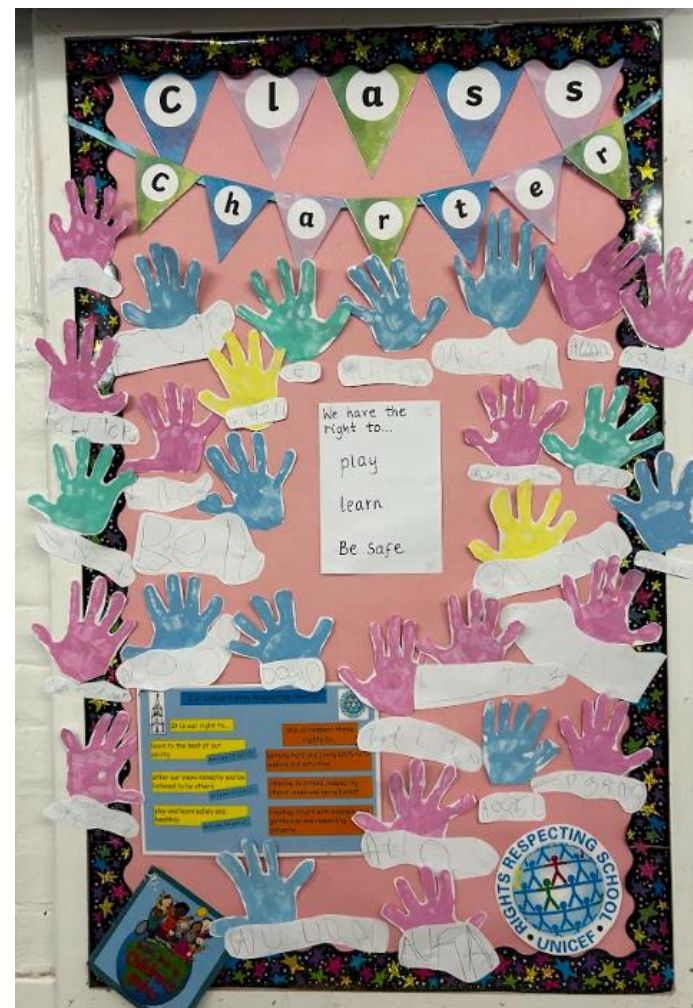


- Please ensure all school clothes are named to prevent items getting lost.
- If your child is absent from school, please email the school office on the first day of absence and keep us updated on any further days of absence.
- Your child has been given a Christ Church water bottle. Please make sure your child's water bottle is in school every day.
- Please do not send sweets or any food/non-food items into school to celebrate birthdays, we are unable to hand these out to the other children in the class. Thank you.



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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



Welcome to Reception

Autumn Term 2026



Reception

Class Teacher: Miss Innes and Miss Hammond

Other teachers working with Reception: Mr Spadaccini (PE), Mr Oliver (Music), Ms Miller

Main support staff working with Reception: Miss Mardon, Miss Cooper and Miss Ahmed

NB: Our whole team of excellent teaching assistants work in classes and playgrounds across the school.

Welcome to Reception and an exciting school year ahead!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. This letter outlines our learning, trips and general information for this term. All the staff in Reception are very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year. If you have any worries or concerns, or would like further information about this term's curriculum, please do not hesitate to book an appointment to meet with us.

Remember the school day starts at 8.50am when the bell rings in the playground - please help your child to be on time every day!

Kind regards, Miss Innes and Miss Hammond

'Try Something New' week!

I TRIED
SOMETHING
NEW

Look out for 'Try something new' week between 12th - 16th October! Year 6 will be trying lots of new things during the week at their residential trip to a PGL activity centre in Dorset while all the other classes will be trying lots of new activities at school and on local trips.

We know that trying new activities helps to keep us interested and curious which helps our well-being and positive mental health. We use the week to talk to children about how they feel before and after trying something new and to help children to build resilience and overcome any anxiety about new activities. Look out for curling, kayaking and bread-making!

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NEW

Literacy



Children will develop their emergent reading and writing skills. Children will quickly develop their phonics knowledge as we begin our daily phonics programme-Little Wandle. Children will be learning to write each letter in print and to develop a correct pencil grip. Children will enjoy a range of topics based on picture books such as The Little Red Hen and The Gruffalo.

Reading



The children are encouraged to take home a story book from the book case and, when they are ready, a book from our decodable reading scheme. Please enjoy sharing stories with your child as regularly as you can, to cultivate and reinforce a love for reading. Please use the reading diary as a useful home-school link. Our daily phonics sessions will help to develop the initial stages of sounding out and blending consonant, vowel, consonant words to support reading.

RE



The children will be learning about the creation story; thinking about what is precious to them and considering what makes the world a special place. In the second part of the Autumn term the children will learn about the Christmas story with a focus on how Christians prepare for Christmas through advent. We will bring the Christmas story to life taking part in the nativity play.

Numeracy



Children will develop their knowledge of numbers, shapes and measures. We will look at saying number names in order; understanding the value of, recognising and ordering numbers 0 - 10; counting objects reliably and sorting them; finding one more/one less than a given number; exploring shapes and patterns.

Understanding of the World



We will be exploring and investigating the changes in the environment that take place in Autumn and Winter. Children will also learn about different celebrations and festivals including Harvest and Diwali. We will be exploring the topic of light and dark; learning about light sources, shadows and nocturnal animals.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



PSHE week will take place in the week commencing 9th November and will focus on positive relationships, friendships and celebrating differences. There will also be a whole school Anti-Bullying Day. In Reception, we will be learning about school routines, developing friendships, sharing and taking turns, developing confidence and self-esteem and becoming more independent.

Physical Development



The children will be encouraged to develop their gross and fine motor skills and to move confidently and safely in a range of ways. We will practise using equipment effectively including pencils for writing and scissors for cutting. The children will take part in daily sessions of dance and movement and weekly PE sessions to develop their balance, co-ordination and spatial awareness.

Expressive Arts and Design



The children will develop their creative skills through art, music, role-play, drama and dance. They will be encouraged to experiment and practise a range of skills including drawing, painting, collaging, printing and stencilling. In music the focus will be I've Got A Grumpy Face - The song explores emotions and feelings using voice and facial expressions. It provides the starting point for experimenting with timbre using voices and instruments. Children also compose new verses.

Communication and Language



We will encourage children to listen attentively and to respond with relevant comments, questions or actions. Children will also develop their interaction skills with others and be encouraged to express themselves effectively.

Please see the reverse for general reminders and some key dates!