



Christ Church School, Hampstead

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

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Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome back to a new school year at Christ Church and a very warm welcome to all new children and families joining us this term!

I hope all families had a wonderful summer break, full of sunshine, new experiences and time to relax with family and friends – it is great to see everyone back at school excited and ready for the new term and year ahead. It will be a busy term, as usual, so please make a note of any key dates for school and class events below. Our Open Classrooms session after school on Wednesday 9th September will give children in Years 1-6 the opportunity to show their new classroom to their family, give parents the chance to say hello to new class teachers and receive the class leaflet including information on this term's curriculum and how you can support at home. For Reception parents, there will be lots of information shared at the Parent Meeting on Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm but, in the meantime, please ask on the gate or make an appointment via the office if you have any questions.

With all best wishes for the year ahead – it's exciting to be back!

Katy Forsdyke, Head teacher

Welcomes!

A very warm welcome to new children and families joining our school this term! A warm welcome to Alice joining our Year 1 class, James and Sophia joining Year 3 and to Savva and Alexandra joining Year 4. Also, a big welcome to our new Reception class: Claire, Aura, David Douglas, Andreas, Aiden, William, Alexander, Sandra, Freya, Milne, Enzo, Elio, Leo, Max, Quentin, Alma, Parijat, Ben, Lukas, Patrick, Auggie, Ayla, Margarita, Ella, Michael, Neo, Kipras and Atlas.

Also, a very warm welcome to Miss Hammond who is joining our staff team as a school direct trainee teacher, working alongside Miss Innes in Reception.



Attendance – thank you and please keep it up!

Our whole school attendance for last academic year was an excellent 97%, with nearly half of the children across the whole school having only three, two, one or zero days absent last year. This is a brilliant achievement by the school community, showing real commitment to children being in school every day they are well.

Thank you to everyone for the part they played in this – high attendance supports positive friendships and great progress for all children.

Reminders to help keep up the great attendance this year:

- **Please make any appointments out of school time** – optician, dentist and medical appointments (with the exception of specialist appointments) cannot be authorised
- **Please book holidays in the school holidays** – there are 13 weeks of holiday to coordinate with work commitments. The term dates are on the school website [here](#).
- Absence in term time can only be authorised for exceptional, one-off circumstances – please ask in advance by email to Mrs Forsdyke and please consider carefully the number of days of absence requested. Children's attendance record will be taken into account, alongside the circumstances of the one-off event, when making a decision about authorising any absence requests.
- If your child is ill, they should be at home recovering until they are well enough to be in school, but please don't keep children at home for every sniffle or cold. Remember that we can administer the end of an antibiotics course at school, if needed, and if the correct permissions are completed at the school office.



Punctuality please!

This year, we are going to focus a little more on good punctuality for all, so please don't be surprised if staff members ask parents to make sure their children are on time. It is so important both for children's learning and for their feeling of a settled start to the day that they are in school and ready to learn on time. **School and learning start at 8.50am when the bells ring and children should be in the playground ready to line up before 8.50am.**

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We fully understand that there are good reasons for the very occasional late arrival, but if you are still regularly rushing in the gate when other parents are already coming out or running up the hill after the bell has rung, please make every effort to set off a little bit earlier this year. Thank you – this makes a real difference to how your child starts the day.

Dates for this term

September

Wednesday 2nd – Years 1-6 back to school

Thursday 3rd – Reception class starts – half days

Wednesday 9th, 3.20pm – Open classrooms for Years 1-6

wb Monday 14th – after school clubs start this week

Thursday 17th, 6pm – Secondary transfer information meeting – for Y4,5,6 parents, followed by school journey information for Year 6 parents

Tuesday 22nd, 6pm – Reception parent information meeting

Tuesday 29th, 9-10am – Phonics parent workshop – for Reception parents (and any Year 1 parents who would like a refresher)

October

Thursday 1st – Rights Respecting Schools Day

Friday 2nd – Colours and Sparkles for Charlie Day – non uniform, wear anything bright or sparkly and bring a cash donation for Great Ormond Street Hospital

Monday 5th – Friday 9th – Harvest collection – collecting non-perishable food for the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen

Thursday 8th – Houses Day – wear house colour top (red, green, yellow, blue)

Friday 9th, 9.50am – Music assembly

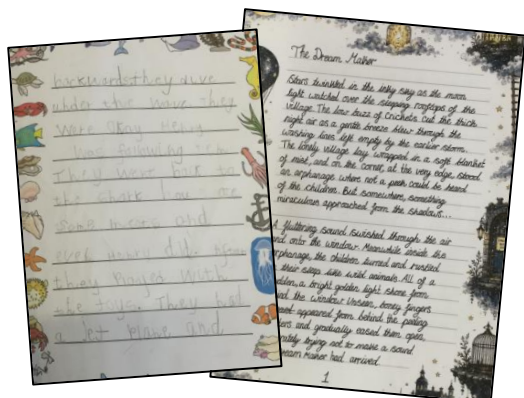
Sunday 11th, 11am – Harvest Festival service in Church, school choir singing

wb Monday 12th – Try something new week!

wb Monday 12th – Y6 school journey

100% attendance congratulations

Many children are very proud to work towards a 100% attendance certificate at the end of each term – we gave out certificates to 53 pupils for 100% attendance at the end of the summer term! Each new term is a new start and a chance to work towards a certificate. Special congratulations to the thirteen children who managed a very impressive 100% attendance all year: Miiya (Y1), Max, Hugh and Sophia (Y2), Ottilie, Mira, Max and Diana (Y3), Agnes (Y4), Thea and Anoushka (Y5), Sebastian and Iaroslav (Y6). Amazing!



Wonderful writing!

Congratulations to the winners of our annual writing competition at the end of last term – governors and class teachers had a very difficult task to judge all the wonderfully creative entries!

Congratulations to all the winners:

Last year's class	Best personal effort	Best story
Reception	Wolfie	Yasmine
Year 1	Luis	Ella
Year 2	Heath	Max
Year 3	Marina	Agnes
Year 4	Oliver	Isadora
Year 5	Ruby	Nicole
Year 6	Mateo	Hartley



Sporting success!

At the end of last term our teams had some brilliant results in Camden sports tournaments, often battling the very

hot weather as well as their opponents!

Congratulations to our Rounders teams who won the B league and were just beaten in the A league, to our boys and girls Cricket champions (see photo) and to our Year 5 and 6 Athletics champions!

After a brilliant year of sports participation and achievement, where every child in Years 3-6 was invited to take part in a sports team or event and where many took part in multiple tournaments, we certainly deserve our Camden Small Schools Champions award and our School Games Platinum Mark! Thank you very much to Mr Spadaccini, Mrs Maguire, Mrs Pagnello and other staff for making our sporting enjoyment and success for all children possible!



Information and reminders

School Policies

Staff and governors have recently reviewed the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy
- Relationships Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Physical Contact with Children Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical conditions

You can access all our policies on the website [here](#) or you can ask for paper copies from the office.

Free school meals – expanded criteria

The national criteria for eligibility for Free School Meals have changed from the beginning of September to include all families eligible for Universal Credit. Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium). Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.
 - **Expanded FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)
- You can check your eligibility here: [Free school meals - Camden Council](#) or ask Mrs Connock for more information. Please note that **all** primary school meals continue to be free in London at the moment in any case, but we do encourage all families who are eligible for Universal Credit to sign up.

October dates - continued

wb 19th October – KS2 times table challenge this week

Wednesday 21st – Flu spray immunisation offered to all classes – consent form and information to come
Wednesday 21st, 3.40-7.30pm – Parents evening

Thursday 22nd, 3.40-6.00pm – Parents evening

Monday 26th – Friday 30th – Half term

November

wb Monday 2nd – KS2 spelling challenge this week (not Monday)

Tuesday 3rd – individual photos

Sunday 8th, 10.45am – Remembrance Service in Church, school choir singing

wb Monday 9th – PSHE week: Positive relationships and celebrating difference

wb Monday 9th – Y1-6 individual presentations this week: Marvellous Me!

Thursday 12th – Odd socks day! Wear uniform with odd socks to celebrate our differences. We will be collecting donations for an anti-bullying charity.

Thursday 26th, 3.20 – 5pm – Christ Church Arts Project whole school art exhibition after school

Friday 27th – non uniform day – bring a second-hand toy and jar filled with sweets/mini toys as a donation for the Fair

Friday 27th, 2.50pm – Y3 and Y5 informal music sharing

wb 30th – last after school clubs this week

December

Wednesday 2nd, 2.50pm – Y4/6 informal music sharing

Friday 4th – non-uniform day – bring a bottle donation for the Fair

Sunday 6th, 12-2.30pm – Christmas Fair

Thursday 10th, 10am – Nativity performance for families (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children)

Friday 11th – Friends Present Sale

Monday 14th – Christmas Jumper Day – non-uniform day

Wednesday 16th 2pm – KS2 carol singing in Hampstead High Street

Wednesday 16th, 6pm – School Carol Service in Church

Friday 18th, 11.15pm End of term Christmas Service in Church

Friday 18th, midday – children collected for the holidays

Monday 4th January – children back to school for Spring term