



# Christ Church School Newsletter

*Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance*

**Love    Courage    Honesty    Faith    Forgiveness**

## **Autumn 1**

Dear Parents and Carers,

All schools are required in law to have a time of Collective Worship every day. Children in Reception have their own quiet time in the classroom each day so that this time can be made appropriate to their needs. The rest of the children and all staff meet together as a school family in the hall. This time of reflection and togetherness is what nurtures and strengthens our strong sense of community.

In Church of England schools, there is a requirement that the content of worship is distinctively Christian. However we do work to make sure that this is inclusive. We take great care in our presentation to ensure that those who are from other faith traditions can participate. When telling stories of the Christian faith and exploring the application in our day to day lives, we always make sure that we preface our comments, where relevant, with the words 'Christians believe'. This is helpful for all children as it raises an understanding that different people have different beliefs. When we pray it is always invitational. A speaker will usually say something like I am going to pray and if you want to join you can say 'Amen' at the end. Sometimes children will be invited to lead prayers.

Our Collective Worship gives a really positive start to the day. Here are some extracts from our last Church School Inspection:

*Irrespective of their personal faith or belief, all adults and learners are affirmed by worship, regard it as an important part of their lives and know what it means to be a person of faith.*

*Parents say that it builds in their children a sense of who they are, drawing on the Christian values that the school promotes. Pupils of all faiths value worship and say that it helps them to draw close to God and care for each other.*

We would like to invite you to any of our whole school Collective Worship sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays at 9.05 am. Please ask at the school office to sign-up to any session/s you would wish to attend. They last for about 15 minutes.

### **Harvest gifts**

From the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September, before the harvest service, children are encouraged to bring a tinned meat, fish or soup which we donate to a local charity. Piles of tins are placed on the stage and we see which class can collect the most!

### **Harvest service – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.30 am**

Our Year 4 children will be leading our harvest service at 9.30 on this day. Children in Year 1 to 6 will be going over to the church to take part in this celebration. Parents are welcome to attend. The church welcome parents to come over for tea and coffee in the foyer before the service. Please do not take photos or videos during the service. Also please remember that children are planning to help us to reflect on what God has given us. This is a service, not a performance, so generally the space between items is to give us time to hear what God is saying, rather than for applause. There will be an opportunity to thank the children at the end of the service.

### **New Prefects**

Congratulations to our new prefects; Viktor Hubert, Alexandra Loizou, Haydn Privett and Zoe Sinclair. Prefects are elected by their peers who consider them to be reliable, trustworthy and helpful. I am

confident that they will be excellent role models as they fulfil their duties and responsibilities around school.

### **Primary Quality Mark**

At the end of the summer term the school achieved the primary quality mark. The assessor reviewed evidence, looked round the school, and spoke to teachers, governors, parents and children. Here are some extracts from the report:

*Teaching assistants work in close partnership with class teachers to ensure the learning needs of these pupils are met. Pre-teaching is used to prepare small groups of pupils for the next steps in their learning. Sometimes the children ask if they can have extra support when they are confused about an aspect of mathematics for example. Staff provide pupils with immediate feedback and encourage self-assessment and peer to peer assessment. Pupils' self- assessment is checked by teachers and this informs future planning. When the assessor spoke to children and looked at their English and mathematics books it was clear that feedback was having a significant impact on their learning.*

*Christ Church has a creative curriculum in which reading, writing and mathematics skills are applied across the curriculum. Children are encouraged to pose "I wonder" questions and research the answers. The school uses a balance of whole class, focus group and individual approaches to teaching. Free flow together with focused group teaching in the reception classes ensure that standards in language, communication and mathematics are strong.*

*A particular strength of the school is pupil led learning conferences instead of traditional parent-teacher consultation meetings. Using their work, children discuss their progress and strengths in reading, writing and maths and talk through their next steps with their teacher and parents. Assessment of progress is therefore an ongoing and collaborative process. Children take greater care over their work in class because they know they are going to share this with their parents and carers.*

*Pupil achievement has improved since the Quality Mark support and guidance visit in 2018. The 2019 Year 2 results show that in reading, writing and mathematics children at Christ Church achieve very well compared with those in most other schools and exceptionally well at greater depth in reading and mathematics. The adoption of Maths Mastery is deepening understanding in Key Stage 1. The current whole school focus on reading, with its motivational approach to reading at home, is enhancing reading skills and a love of books. All staff are very committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities for all pupils and are well informed about effective practice in the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics.*

### **Behaviour concerns**

If your child reports concerns about the behaviour of another child towards them, please let us know. If this seems to be more persistent, it is really important that you keep us informed. Do not be worried about seeking our support, even for things that seem small as they may be quite a problem to your child. We can help if you keep us informed about your concerns.

Is it bullying or just a fall out? There are three agreed defining features of bullying:

- the victim is targeted by an individual or group on a regular basis
- there is intention to harm or humiliate
- there is a power imbalance, the victim is fearful of those targeting him or her

When all of the above are happening, it is highly likely that this is a bullying situation.

If the situation is a fallout between friends, but you remain concerned, please discuss with your child's teacher and ask them to monitor things.



### **After school clubs**

Children going to after school clubs are expected to go to the toilet before they go out and take their change of clothes with them. They should leave their possession in the pavilion. They **are not allowed back into the building after the end of the school day** as we have cleaners working and we need to maintain the security of the building and the safety of children.

### **Beginning and End of day**

Parents and carers are welcomed into the Reception Y1, and Y2 classrooms from 8.45am but must leave by 8.55. Please note the gates are locked at 9.00am.

Parents of KS 2 children should not be coming into the building. Please do not knock on a door to ask children to let you in. We will be reminding children that they should not open external doors to adults even if they know them as this compromises the safety of the building.

### **Idle free zone**

As you may have noticed, we have got some help protecting our children from car pollution. There are now signs on Montpelier road declaring that this is an 'Idle free' zone. We have had some positive feedback that this is making a real difference. Thank you for your support in creating a safer environment for all of us and especially for the children whose growing lungs are so much more susceptible to pollution.

### **Online safety for children: what parents need to know**

An article in the Telegraph, written by Tony Stower, the NSPCC's head of child safety online, looks at what parents need to know about online safety for their children. Topics covered include: online grooming; social media, online gaming and messaging apps; and cyberbullying. The article describes the NSPCC partnership with mobile network operator O2 which has created an information hub offering tips and advice to parents about online safety and ways to start conversations between parents and children. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/child-safety/internet-dangers-tips-parents/>

### **Late collection**

Owing to the fact that we have had a number of parents who are late to collect children, we now have to pay a member of staff to take care of those children who are collected late. As a result there is a charge of £5 for the care of children uncollected after 3.20pm. This will increase by £5 for every additional half hour. If you do not have money with you we ask that you pay this the following day or we will arrange to deduct the money from your parent pay account. This practice has been applied since Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### **NO sweets for birthdays**

This is a kind thought but we would ask that you **do not bring sweets or cakes to school** for your child's birthday.

- Some children have allergies and inevitably feel left out when they cannot have the same as the others.
- In the past when sweets were regularly distributed for birthdays, children inevitably put parents under pressure to buy sweets for the class and some families struggle to afford this.
- We need to help children to establish healthy eating patterns so it is good to minimise the association with sweet food as treats.

### **Celebrate a birthday with a new book for the class collection**

A suggestion for marking a birthday is that your child could choose a new book for the class collection. We will put a special label in the front of the book indicating that the book was given by your child to celebrate their birthday.

## Update from the governors

Asha Fowells has written the following report on behalf of the Governing body.

The full governing body (FGB) met on September 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss and agree who would sit on which committee over the next academic year. There are three committees, each of which looks after a certain area for both Christ Church School and Purley Nursery School:

- **The finance and personnel committee** is responsible for overseeing budgets, and reviewing staffing and salaries.
- **The curriculum committee** has oversight for the attainment and progress of pupils.
- **The health, safety and premises committee** oversees maintenance of the school buildings and grounds so they are safe for everyone using them.

Each committee also regularly reviews policies relevant to their area, with some areas – safeguarding, for example – regarded as so important that they are considered by all governors at FGB meetings, which are held every half term. Every non-staff governor was allocated one or more subjects taught at Christ Church and/or areas identified as high priority under Purley Nursery School's Improvement Plan at the meeting, and agreed who was going to sit on the various other groups such as admissions. While it may sound mundane, having done this means the structure for the next year is clear and enables governors – all of whom give their skills and time for free – to have a sound grasp of what it is that they will be doing at each of the schools that sit under Purley Partnership Federation.

## Parking with consideration

Please be considerate to our neighbours when parking. The other day, a **silver car, registration WV12 HUJ**, blocked a neighbour's drive. The neighbour was trying to take her daughter to a medical appointment but was unable to do so due to this inconsiderate parking and was understandably very upset. Please allow more time for your journey so you can park at a distance and walk. Thank you

## Diary Dates

Thu	Sep	26	Welcome to EYFS meeting 9.05am
Wed	Oct	02	Year 4 leading Harvest Service at Church 9.30am
Thu	Oct	03	EYFS Reading meeting 9.05am
Thu	Oct	10	EYFS Writing meeting 9.05am
Mon	Oct	14	TEMPEST Individual and Sibling Photos
Tue	Oct	15	TEMPEST Individual and Sibling Photos
Tue	Oct	15	Parents' Evening for 2W (5-8pm) & 6N (3.30-6.30pm)
Wed	Oct	16	Parents' Evening 5-8pm (All classes except 2W)
Thu	Oct	17	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm (All classes except 6N)
Fri	Oct	18	School closes for half term

## Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Oct – Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct: Half Term

Tue	Oct	29	School opens for Autumn 2
Fri	Nov	08	FCCS Disco
Fri	Nov	15	Class 5B Assembly 9.05am
Fri	Nov	22	Class 1HB Assembly 9.05am
Fri	Nov	29	Class 5C Assembly 9.05am
Fri	Nov	29	Mufti Day
Sat	Nov	30	FCCS Christmas Fair 11-2pm
Fri	Dec	06	Class 6N Assembly 9.05am
Fri	Dec	13	Class 1E Assembly 9.05am

**Term Dates:  
2019/20**

**Autumn Term 2019**

Open Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
HALF TERM  
Open Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Close Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at normal time  
Close Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm

**Spring Term 2020**

Open Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
HALF TERM  
Open Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Close Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at normal time  
Close Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 1.30pm

**Summer Term 2020**

Open Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
HALF TERM  
Open Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Close Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at normal time  
Close Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 1.30pm

**Please note:**

Bank Holidays:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Staff Training (subject to change):

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2020