



Christ Church School Newsletter

Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance

Love **Courage** **Honesty** **Faith** **Forgiveness**

Spring 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of this term, the focus for our collective workshop has been compassion. We have been looking at bible stories which demonstrate compassion such as the four friends who helped their paralysed man to bypass the crowds to be able to see Jesus, letting him down through a roof. Children have been considering what it means to be a compassionate person and have been learning a verse from the bible which reminds us that our care for others needs to show in our actions:

1 John 3:18 - Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

For Christians the desire to care for and serve others arises from the example Jesus set for us.

We were very impressed to hear, in response to our survey, how children have been living out the school values in their day to day life at home. Please do keep sharing those stories with us as we would love to celebrate them with the children either privately or in assembly.

Christ Church children have been showing care for others in their fund raising.

Just-a-desk, an African revival project

This year, instead of the shoe box appeal, the children worked to raise money for 'Just-a-desk'. They made Christmas items to sell at the fair. We have received a certificate from the charity thanking the school for the £194.56 donation. Thank you for your support for the children in their fund raising initiative.

Mayor's ambassadors

Children from Croydon schools were invited to become junior ambassadors for the mayor to help generate support for his chosen charities. Some of the school council were selected to go and meet the mayor. Mrs Edser accompanied the children and reported that they were exemplary ambassadors, representing the school in a way that did themselves proud and rising to the occasion with an admirable combination of attentive listening and off-the-cuff presentation skills. They initiated the pyjama day held at the end of last term and raised £326.40.

The mayor's charities are:

- Mind in Croydon, which promotes good mental health and seeks to empower people to lead a full life as part of their local community.

- Croydon Vision helps those who are blind or visually impaired and their families, encouraging greater independence, confidence and development.
- Apasen International (Croydon branch) is a social care provider offering personalised support to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

- Ashdon Jazz Academy provides support to vulnerable young women and girls who may be suffering from self-esteem issues, feelings of isolation, peer pressure, relational bullying, family breakdowns, stress and anxiety.



- Croydon Refugee Day Centre is a safe, friendly meeting place offering practical advice and support to all asylum seekers and refugees.

Thank you for supporting these junior ambassadors in their fund raising.

New Prefects

Congratulations to our new prefects; Sam Buckley, Sapphire Rose Findlater, Valentina Pazmino Mora and Sydney Holdsworth. Prefects are elected by their peers who consider them to be reliable, trustworthy and helpful. The prefects have been introduced to the school in assembly. Children have been advised that if ever they need any help to look out for our prefects with their yellow badges.

East Surrey Museum – half term activities

This half term, on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th February, we will be making simple but colourful bracelets and armlets inspired by the art of the Ancient World. This activity is suitable for primary school age children with accompanying adults. Activities run from 10.30am to 12 noon and 2.00pm to 4.00pm. All materials supplied. Activities are free but donations to museum funds are always welcome.

East Surrey Museum. 1 Stafford Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6JG, Tel: 01883 340275, Web: www.eastsurreymuseum.org.uk

Forgotten items

Office staff are not able to deliver forgotten items to children. You may leave things in the office for children to collect, but the office staff do not have capacity to go round the school to deliver messages or forgotten items.

Helmets

If your child is coming to school on a bicycle or scooter, please ensure they wear a helmet; this must be the correct size for them and must be secure so that it stays on their head in case they fall. Bicycles and scooters should be parked in the storage rack on the field and collected at the end of each day.

ParentPay

Have you considered Auto top-up? This new feature is now available. Ensure your child's dinner money account is never short of funds by setting up auto top-up on ParentPay.

Coronavirus – Advice for all early years providers, schools and further education providers issued by the Department for Education.

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad. The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate. However we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting China. Public Health England and the Foreign Office have issued advice for anyone travelling to the area. This can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

Latest information and advice can also be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus. Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

Governors

At January's Purley Partnership Federation meeting – the first under new chair of governors Asha Fowells – the main topic discussed was recruiting an executive head teacher to replace Mrs Pike when she retires at the end of the summer term. Governors received a comprehensive briefing from Marcus Cooper, primary adviser and assistant to the director at the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, and took the opportunity to ask many questions about the process in order to inform their work going forward.

Recruiting a new head is regarded as the most important task a governing body will ever do, and rightly so: school leadership is hugely influential on how successful schools are. All governors, whatever their role in the process, are fully committed to finding the right person, and giving it due thought, care, time and attention. The governing body is also fully committed to complying with relevant legislation and guidance – from equal opportunities and safeguarding to information provided by the diocese and Department of Education – and ensuring the process is conducted in a fair and open way with a view to selecting an individual based on their merits, abilities and suitability for the role.

The meeting was, of course, an opportunity to thank Mrs Pike for her longstanding dedication and service. In addition, Miss Jones was warmly welcomed as the new head of Purley Nursery School: a timely reminder that while it is tempting to look back in wonder at all Mrs Pike has achieved during her tenure, the focus should always be about looking to the future.

Asha Fowells

Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

We warmly invite any parents who would like to join us praying for the school every Monday at 9am for 15 minutes in the meeting room next to School Reception. Not only is it wonderful to pray, it's also a fabulous way to start off the week! For any more information or to ask us to pray for you or your family, please speak to Charlotte Hunn who can be found in the infant playground Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings.

May bank holiday reminder

Normally, the Early May bank holiday falls on the first Monday of May. However, in 2020, the first May Bank Holiday will not be on May 4, but instead **will take place on Friday May 8**. This means the first three day weekend in May in 2020 will take place from Friday May 8 – Sunday May 10. You were first notified of this change last summer 2019 when the government announced the early May bank holiday in 2020, originally set for Monday 4 May, would be changed to Friday 8 May. The reason for this unusual change in calendar dates is to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. VE Day, which stands for Victory in Europe Day, was the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. The bank holiday on Friday May 8 will be the beginning of a three-day weekend of commemorative events in the UK to mark this date.

Diary Dates

Tue	Feb	11	Parent/Carer evening 3.30-6.30pm (Year 6)
Wed	Feb	12	Parent/Carer evening 5-7.30pm
Thu	Feb	13	Parent/Carer evening 3.30-6.30pm (all except Year 6)
Fri	Feb	14	Class 1B assembly 9.05am
Fri	Feb	14	School closes at 3.10pm for half term
Mon	Feb	24	School opens for Spring 2 term
Wed	Feb	26	Year 3 Battersea Park Zoo visit
Fri	Feb	28	Class 6N assembly 9.05am
Mon	Mar	02	FCCS Meeting 7.30pm
Fri	Mar	06	Class 3O assembly 9.05am
Fri	Mar	13	Class 2L assembly 9.05am
Tue	Mar	17	Year 4 Blacklands Farm visit
Tue	Mar	17	Year 5 Ashdown Forest visit
Wed	Mar	18	Year 2 Hever Castle visit
Fri	Mar	20	Class 1E assembly 9.05am
Fri	Mar	20	School Disco KS1 5-6.15pm & KS2 6.30-8pm
Mon	Mar	23	Year 1 Chessington Zoo visit
Fri	Mar	27	Class 4S assembly 9.05am
Mon	Mar	30	TEMPEST Class Photos
Wed	Apr	01	Easter service – Year 5 leading
Fri	Apr	04	School closes at 1.30pm

Term Dates: 2019/20

Spring Term 2020

Open Tuesday 7 th January	Close Friday 14 th February at normal time
HALF TERM	
Open Monday 24 th February	Close Friday 3 rd April at 1.30pm

Summer Term 2020

Open Tuesday 21 st April	Close Friday 22 nd May at normal time
HALF TERM	
Open Tuesday 2 nd June	Close Tuesday 21 st July at 1.30pm

Please note:

Bank Holidays: Friday 8th May 2020

Staff Training (subject to change): 20th April 2020
1st June 2020

**Term Dates:
2020/21**

Autumn Term 2020

Open Thursday 3rd September
HALF TERM
Open Tuesday 3rd November

Close Friday 23rd October at normal time

Close Friday 18th December at 1.30pm

Spring Term 2021

Open Wednesday 6th January
HALF TERM
Open Monday 22nd February

Close Friday 12th February at normal time

Close Wednesday 31st March at 1.30pm

Summer Term 2021

Open Tuesday 20th April
HALF TERM
Open Tuesday 8th June

Close Friday 28th May at normal time

Close Friday 23rd July at 1.30pm

Please note:

Bank Holidays:

Monday 3rd May 2021

Staff Training (subject to change):

2nd September 2020

2nd November 2020

5th January 2021

19th April 2021

7th June 2021