

Christ Church School Newsletter

Spring 2021

Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance

Love Courage Honesty Faith Forgiveness

Message from Mrs Richardson (Executive Headteacher)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work this half term. The last minute news that school would be remote for the majority of pupils came as quite a surprise to everyone, but you have all taken it in your stride and have been working hard. I know the teachers have been very pleased to see the children on their google meets.

Thank you to the many parents who have swapped shifts in order to care for their children at home. Everyone at Christ Church School has been making a valiant effort to follow the Government's advice to stay at home and only leave for essential journeys.

At this difficult time, I am sure you will join me with your prayers and thoughts for all staff, pupils and their families who are currently unwell. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

I would also like to thank the parents, carers, staff, governors and pupils for the kind welcome I have received to the school. It has been a very busy first half term, and certainly not the start I envisioned, but I definitely feel like part of the Christ Church family!

I'm sure, like many of us, you will have been disappointed to hear the government announcement that schools will reopen on 8th March at the very earliest. It is an improvement that at least we have been given this information well in advance, however we still don't have a clear route or idea of what might happen after this point and what the conditions need to be before we can start allowing more children back to school. As soon as we have any further information, we will be in contact.

I hope you have all had the opportunity to enjoy the snow this week during your daily exercise.

I wish you all a restful, safe and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 22nd February 2021, where we will resume our remote learning (with school places only available for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils).

Please remember, there will be no remote learning set during the February half term. Although you could begin planning your World Book Day entries.

Mrs Jo Richardson

Curriculum News

School may have moved to remote learning for many pupils, but staff and children have still been incredibly busy with their learning. We hope you are enjoying the work uploaded onto SeeSaw and Google Classrooms, the children in school are certainly amused by their teachers appearing on videos in class, especially when they can see them in person too!

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EYFS

The children in Reception have been exploring Traditional Tales this term and are now moving on to look at People Who Help Us.

They have also been looking at growing numbers 6, 7 and 8.

It was also lovely for me to see so many of them on our story time.

Key Stage 1

The children in Year 1 have been exploring polar and desert regions, whilst in Year 2, the children have been finding out about Knights and Castles.

Key Stage 2

The children in Year 3 are learning about Brazil this term, whilst in Year 4 the pupils have been investigating Explorers. In Year 5 pupils have begun learning about the Stone Age and in Year 6 pupils have been considering refugees and how our Christian Values might support the way we approach different situations.

Collective Worship across the school has focused on 'Love is...' Please encourage your children to send their responses in to go on display in our school hall.

Well Being Week

A huge thank you to Mrs Sutton, who has organised our well-being week this half term:

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week 2021 between **1st and 7th February** at Christ Church. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week was **Express Yourself**.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

We encouraged children to dress up in colourful clothing to express themselves on Friday the 5th February in school and in line with their class Google meet days remotely. In addition the staff team devised additional PSHE and well-being activities during the week.

This is such an important cause as around three children in every primary school class has a mental health problem, and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement.

In light of the current climate now more than ever our children's mental health and well-being is a very important focus. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you or your children require any support.

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Lap Tops

Many of you will be aware of the many comments in the media about the importance of children having access to a digital device to be able to access remote learning.

We have been able to access 26 laptops from the DfE for our pupils, but we still require more devices.

If you have an old laptop, Chromebook or tablet at home that is able to use wifi, please consider donating this to our school by contacting jelfred@christchurch.croydon.sch.uk.

We have also applied for some additional routers through the DfE and families will be contacted as soon as these arrive.

Safeguarding

Whilst school is working remotely for many of our children and families, we are still available to support you and your family. If your circumstances have changed or if you are concerned about any of our pupils you can contact us in school by telephone (020 8660 7500) or email the safeguarding team via (office1@christchurch.croydon.sch.uk).

At this time, on-line safety is really important as we are all accessing the internet much more frequently than usual. A useful website for you to look at is:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday>. Here you will find lots of tips about the games and apps the children use on their phones and tablets with ideas to help you keep them safe.

You can also download their app which is now available for free across the Google Play and Apple App Stores. Download it today and get #OnlineSafetySavvy! Simply search for National Online Safety in your app store.

A number of children are telling us that they have their own social media accounts, including WhatsApp, Instagram and TikTok

Please be aware that the age limit for social media accounts is 13 and for WhatsApp it is 16. The [NSPCC's net aware site](#) will help you to stay informed.

If you are happy to allow your child to use your own account, then that is your decision. However, if a child has created their own account, they will have provided a false date of birth and that is contrary to our school value of Honesty.

If you are happy to allow your child to break the rules to have their own account, then please ensure that the privacy settings are "private" so that they cannot contact or be contacted by people they don't know offline. Make sure that you know what they are doing, whom they are in contact with and what the dangers are. **Above all, please check what they are posting.**

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Parents Evening

Initially our parent's evenings were scheduled for this half term. However with much regret we have decided to move them to next half term.

We are looking into how we can best meet with all of our parents to discuss their child's progress, much of this progress will be based on their remote learning. These are likely to be either telephone calls or virtual meetings.

The school office will be in touch after half term to arrange parent teacher meetings.

Food Vouchers

Parents in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals should have already received their food vouchers during this term.

If your financial circumstances have changed recently and you feel you may now qualify for these, please contact the office who will be able to direct you to the appropriate application forms.

Diary Dates

Friday 12 th February 2021	Last day of Spring 1
Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February 2021	Half Term holidays
Monday 22 nd February 2021	Spring 2 begins remotely for most pupils and in school for those children accessing our Emergency provision
Thursday 4 th March 2021	World Book Day
Wednesday 31 st March 2021	Last day of the Spring term 1:30 finish
Thursday 1 st April to Friday 16 th April 2021	Easter Holidays
Monday 19 th April 2021	INSET Day School is not open to any pupils
Tuesday 20 th April 2021	Summer 1 begins
Monday 3 rd May 2021	Bank Holiday
Friday 28 th May 2021	Last day of Summer 1
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term
Monday 7 th June 2021	INSET Day School is not open to any pupils
Tuesday 8 th June 2021	Summer 2 begins
Friday 23 rd July 2021	Last day of the Summer term and academic year 1:30 finish

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News

Thank you for the kind financial donations towards our electronic devices appeal - we have purchased 2 new chromebooks so far.

Thank you also for the donations of unwanted laptops and i-pads, they are very much appreciated by us and the families that are using them.

Some people will remember an ex pupil of ours, Caleb Williams. He is starring on 'The Dog Ate My Homework', which you can catch on CBBC i-player (episode aired 7th February 2021).

A final word from Asha Fowells

Since the start of term, the governing board of Purley Partnership Federation met twice in January, and was due to meet in mid-February as this newsletter was being written. The two January meetings were not planned, but instead were a direct response to the dramatic rise in Covid cases, the latest government lockdown and the changes that meant for the ways in which schools needed to operate. The main focus of the two extraordinary meetings was ensuring the schools were able to function safely and effectively, both on-site and remotely, keeping a close eye on the safety and wellbeing of all children, families and staff members. Governors were diligent in their scrutiny and questioning of school leaders, but also respectful and supportive - the coronavirus pandemic continues to be an extremely challenging time for everyone, both at work and at home, with unexpected and sudden twists and turns that require adaptability and sometimes compromises.

It wasn't quite the welcome governors had planned for Mrs Richardson, who only started as Executive Head Teacher in January, but we are all in a situation where everyone has to tackle whatever is thrown at them to the best of their abilities... So that's what we've done, are doing and will continue to do, as a governing board working alongside the leaders of the two amazing schools that make up the Purley Partnership Federation.

Asha Fowells
Chair of governors
Purley Partnership Federation
Christ Church C of E Primary School and Purley Nursery School

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