



# Christ Church School Newsletter

*Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance*

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

**Spring 2**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Easter 'holidays' are nearly upon us and this year they are set to be very different from usual. In our Christ Church family some staff and children of key workers will be in school over the break, other families may be in isolation and all of us are socially distancing over a holiday which ordinarily might involve time outside and opportunities to be with extended family and friends.

We will certainly need God's peace and grace to get us through the days and weeks ahead. The beautiful words of Psalm 23 can provide some encouragement. Christians do not believe that God will necessarily keep them free from trouble. After all, we are all in this troubled world together. However Christians do know that they have the comfort of God walking by their side whatever they are going through.

We pray that you will find some of God's peace in your hearts this Easter time.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

*He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

## **Child Care Provision for Key workers and vulnerable groups**

At Christ Church we will be offering child care for the duration of the holidays, including Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday. We are truly grateful to all the staff who have worked in our teams at school. They have been adaptable, supportive and committed to the children in their care. We are pleased to be able to play our part in this crisis situation by being able to offer this provision but it has only been possible thanks to their selflessness.

We are aware that demands on key workers are constantly changing. Please email the school office to let us know if you need a place or you have changes to your expected shifts.

## **Food Hampers**

If your child usually has a free school meal and did not sign up for this originally, but find that you now need a food hamper, please email the school office and we will let you know when this can be provided. Thank you to Jude Barber from the church and school staff who have been involved in the distribution of these and to families who have supported one another by collecting hampers for those who can't get out.

If your family circumstances have changed, it may be that you are now entitled to benefits related free school meals. The eligibility criteria for benefits related free school meals can be found on [apply for free school meals](#). Please email the school office at [office1@christchurch.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office1@christchurch.croydon.sch.uk) if you think this applies to your situation.

**If you are in Year R, 1 or 2 and your financial circumstances have** and you are entitled to benefits related free school meals (as opposed to Universal free school meals all children get anyway), please let us know as we may be able to access additional provision for you at this time.

## **Would you like a new school sweatshirt or cardigan free of charge?**

Governors have agreed to buy a new school jumper for any eligible child when you register for free school meals. This only applies to new registrations for this service. Eligibility is outlined in the link above. This offer includes children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 whose families meet the criteria.

## **Home Learning**

Thank you for all your hard work supporting children in accessing the learning that teachers have uploaded. It has been great to look through their responses and have contact with them day to day. We have had some lovely feedback from you about how you have found it useful to have this work to help structure their day. This has been passed on to staff for their encouragement.

We recognise the challenges that many of you face in suddenly being expected to work from home and become teachers to children with different learning tasks for different ages, alongside running your home. Trying to achieve all of this whilst maintaining some sanity is very challenging! We are all trying to find our way through this situation as best we can.

At Christ Church we were ahead of many schools in working remotely as Seesaw was already embedded and we had some training on Google classroom prior to closing the school. However, this has still been a huge undertaking for all of the staff and Christ Church families as we become familiar with new technology and new systems. Gradually this way of working and living is becoming our new normal. There has been such commitment from all parts of our school community which has made this transition more manageable.

We thought it might be helpful at this point to share some key home learning updates for term time learning:

### Google Classroom

- Staff will upload work once a day for children to access by 10am

- Work might have a Literacy, Maths, Science or topic focus. Literacy and Maths tasks will be short and due the next day. Topic activities might be a weekly project and children should be encouraged to take their time with these
- On Google Classroom, staff will look at all the 'turned in' work once a day and return any received with a brief comment.
- Children are free to complete learning from previous days that they have not done but this will not be commented on

#### Seesaw

- Staff will set daily challenges from which the children can choose.
- Staff will aim to comment on responses uploaded once a day. This may be general feedback to the whole class or individual and may be from the class teacher or a member of the support staff who work with your children

### **Holiday arrangements for Home learning**

Whilst we recognise the benefits of setting daily work we would like to use these two weeks as an opportunity for a break both for the children and the staff. We would like to protect the rest time for staff at home so we will not be setting and responding to daily work. This will resume the week beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Each class will offer some holiday learning suggestions for a range of Easter activities that you might like to try with your children. This is intended for those families who have appreciated the routine and would value the structure of continued challenges for the children to complete. As with the current term time home learning, there is no requirement to do these activities and you do not need to post anything on Seesaw unless you would like to.

### **Science news**

Before school closed we were very lucky to have some science workshops organised by Mrs Ofori and Miss Coleman.

Davene Chattersingh, a professional geologist, ran workshops on Geology and the environment for Years 3 to 6. She gave the children an introduction to rocks, fossil and minerals. She showed the children a geology map of Great Britain and also brought in some rock samples for the children to look at. This inspired the children and there are now several budding geologists in school.

There were also workshops for all ages run by the science museum:

#### Bubble Show - Reception, Years 1 & 2

Quotes from the children

"The bubbles going to the ceiling was the best part ever. They went to the ceiling because they added helium" - Ella 1B

"Can you blow a cube bubble?" – Jahnari 1B

"I didn't know you needed soap and water to make bubbles" - Wrochelle 1E

"I didn't know that if you put air in it, it goes down, if you put helium in it, it goes up" - Thomas 1E.



"I didn't know that if you change the shape of the wand the bubble still comes out a sphere" - Anton & Clara 2I

#### Feel the Force - Years 3 & 4

"I didn't know that about the different types of forces. I only knew push and pull before." - Tate 3F

"I liked everything because it was really funny and amazing" - Poppy-Bell 3O

"It was very interesting and funny with the popstar and he made Science fun!" - Yusuf 4S



#### Out of this World - Years 5& 6

"I learnt that the earth is tiny in proportion to the sun." - Caleb W 6N

"How did the solar system begin?" - Aimerod 5C

"It was really interesting." - Alexandra S 6N



### **Congratulations to the Croydon District Girls Football Team**

The Croydon District team (made up of the Year 6 girls, selected from nearly 100 schools in Croydon) has had an unbeaten run of 5 wins and one draw, finishing top of the regional table. The star goal-keeper, with several "clean sheets" is Christ Church's very own Ruby (6N)! Ruby has been playing in 3 teams this season (school, Crystal Palace FC girls U11, as well as Croydon District. She played up to 3 games each week supported by training 4 times a week. Well done Croydon girls!

### **COVID-19 Parenting tips**

Can't go to work? Schools closed? Worried about money? It is normal to feel stressed and overwhelmed. [This link](#) has some good tips and advice to help you manage family life at home.

### **Thank you to the staff team**

As a final point, we are extremely fortunate to have such a committed staff team at Christ Church. They are working very hard to stay in contact with the children and offer them a link to their 'normal' lives at school. They are endeavouring to ensure contact with all children which has great benefits but is also extremely time consuming. Please bear with us if there is a delay to responding to your messages.

Wishing you all a peaceful break and we hope you will find a chance to enjoy this time together.

Mrs Pike, Mrs Hudson and Mr Lane