



Christ Church School Newsletter

Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance

Love Courage Honesty Faith Forgiveness

Summer 2

Dear Parents and Carers

We do sincerely hope that this letter finds you, and all those you love, keeping well in these challenging times.

I know that this time has been extremely challenging in so many ways for so many people. Christians draw strength from the belief that God is always with them when times are tough. God promises to be with us. He won't take the difficulties away but he does promise us his presence and strength to help us through.

Isaiah 43

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the school staff over these last weeks. We really do appreciate the very kind comments we have received about the work the teachers have set for children, the emergency child care provision, the collective worship, the distribution of hampers and all the other assistance staff have been able to give families during this time. Our staff have found this encouraging as it is hard to keep working without feedback, not knowing if your efforts are appreciated.

Please do continue to contact us on office1@christchurch.croydon.sch.uk if you are struggling and need some further advice and we will do what we can to help you.

Phased reopening of school

Christ Church C of E School is this week reopening to those children in Reception and Year 1 whose parents said they wanted them to return, and is continuing its provision for children of key workers and those who are regarded as vulnerable as it has done throughout the wider school closures. This is in line with government guidance in terms of the year groups that should be prioritised, with "bubbles" being created for all children and staff in school, and has been carefully risk assessed and planned with many new measures in place, for example, staggered drop off and collection times and a one way system to reduce

congestion at the gates and in the playgrounds. Keeping children and staff safe is our highest priority. Christ Church Governors were rigorous and thorough in their examination of the plans and related risk assessments.

All parents in the eligible year groups, Years R, 1 and 6, were surveyed before half term and asked to let the school know if they wished their child to return to school. Parents could choose whether or not to send their children back to school, and were made aware that it would not be school in the same way as it was before lockdown. Children are only able to mix with the children and adults assigned to their bubble. Some are not in their usual classrooms and some do not have their usual teacher. Parents will not be penalised or fined if their child does not attend. However the school has a duty to follow up absences where parents have taken up allocated places.

The Government guidance states: *"We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account"*. Young children are not accustomed to staying apart and will find social distancing very difficult, confusing and potentially upsetting, and strictly imposing it would be detrimental to their health and wellbeing. So although staff will encourage and teach social distancing where possible, for example when lining up or sitting on the carpet, it is recognised that this will not be possible throughout the day. There will, however, be other procedures in place to support keeping children safe such as keeping them in small group sizes, additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, ensuring children wash their hands thoroughly and regularly, and training in good respiratory hygiene such as catching sneezes in tissues. Children within the same bubble will play and eat together, collaborate in their learning and share resources. Adults who work with children will only work within one bubble and not move across groups.

We are unable to reopen to more year groups at the moment as the bubbles require more staff than is normally the case - staff cannot move between bubbles, so at least two members of staff are required per bubble in order to provide cover for each other for first aid, toilet trip, breaks and so on, plus bubbles cannot contain more than 12 children at a time in order to maintain a level of social distancing - and we have several staff members who cannot return to work at the moment because they are more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19 if they catch it.

The Government directed that key worker and vulnerable children, then the younger year groups, should be prioritised. They also instructed that schools should not plan on the basis of a rota system, either daily or weekly.

Some parents have asked why other schools are working differently, and there are several reasons for this:

- Each school setting is different and every school has to complete its own risk assessments.
- The Government guidance is extensive and constantly changing. Our plans for the phased reopening of school was based on the latest guidance. Some schools developed plans ahead of some of the guidance being released and have decided to stick with their original plans.

- Some schools have relatively few key worker and vulnerable children. More than half our children in this first phase of reopening are in this priority group.
- Schools will have varying numbers of staff who are clinically vulnerable or living with people who are clinically vulnerable. Schools cannot risk them working in an environment where the Government acknowledges that primary children cannot be expected to operate strict social distancing measures.

Government guidance is changing all the time, so we are continually reassessing what we are doing for children and families in order to keep them and staff as safe as possible. If your child is Reception, Year 1 and **you now wish them to return to school let us know as we will create a waiting list so we are ready to accommodate your children if the situation changes or we can create extra spaces.** We do have a list of Year 6 children whose parents would like them to return. Again please let us know if you would like your child added to this list. Please rest assured that we will do all we can to support your children at this time and to get them back to school as soon as we can manage to do this safely.

Year 6 leaving primary school

Usually at this point in the year, our Year 6 children would be participating in a school production, a leavers service and a final sports day as well as preparing for transition to secondary school. Even if we are able to get them back into school in the next couple of weeks, they will be in socially distanced groups of 12 will not be able to have these experiences to mark the end of their time in primary school in the same way we had all anticipated. However plans are being formulated to mark this important milestone and transition in their lives and we will be in touch in due course with further information.

Home learning

All year groups have teams of staff who will continue to support the ongoing home learning which will continue this half term. Where a class teacher is now working full time in school, other staff working from home have been assigned to support the learning for those classes.

Reports

Christ Church was one of the schools that was fortunate enough to have been able to fit in a parents and carers evening before the restrictions on meetings were introduced. Many schools lost these spring term meetings as result of the pandemic. At these meetings you should have received an update on your child from the teacher and a copy of their spring term report. As, the children were only in school for a couple of weeks after these reports were issued, we are not planning to issue summer term reports this year.

September 2020

None of us know how life will change over the next few weeks, whether more children will be in school before the summer break and what school will look like in September, however we are starting to make plans for the new academic year. As you will now be aware, I have agreed to stay in post until October half term to continue to support the school through this exceptionally difficult time. In the next few weeks, we will be able to let you know the class teacher and classroom allocations for September. Plans will be made to support the children with transition to their new class later this term.

All staff are very mindful of the fact that plans for learning and the start back to school will need to meet the children's needs. Many schools are talking about a 'recovery curriculum' and we will plan our Christ Church curriculum very carefully for children as they return to school after this prolonged period of absence.

Goodbye and Thank You

Mr Richards and Mrs Wooldridge left the school at the end of the spring term, and in all the haste of the Covid-19 closure of the school two weeks before the Easter break we did not get to say goodbye and thank you to them. Mrs Wooldridge has only been with us since September but the family are moving away. She worked mainly in Year 6 and has given a lot of time helping us to get the library in order.

Mr Richards has been associated with the school for a very long time: his three daughters attended the school with the youngest leaving in 2009. At this point Mr Richards started volunteering and helping out with school PE and games and he officially became a member of staff in 2013. Mr Richards has always wanted the best for the children and has worked hard with them to improve their skills in a range of sporting activities. He has really held up to account for the quality of PE teaching and has also made sure that we always had the resources we need ready for teaching. His willingness to give of his time has significantly contributed the quality of provision and our participation in school sport. This resulted in our being awarded the school games silver award for the last two years. He also ran several after school clubs on a completely voluntary basis, which afforded many children the opportunity to participate in sporting activities at no cost.

We are very grateful to them both for all they have given to the school. Mr Richards has continued to offer support on voluntary basis during this period of school closure and phased reopening.

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 below. This offer includes children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 whose families meet the criteria below. Please contact the school office in confidence if this applies to you.

CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS/CARERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS:

- Income support
- Income-based job seeker's allowance (not contribution based)
- Income related employment and support allowance
- Guaranteed state pension credit
- Child tax credit (where there is no element of working tax credit AND the total household income for tax credit purposes is assessed to be less than £16,190 per year)
- Financially supported by NASS (National Asylum Support Service)
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earned income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and Ni not including any benefits you get).

IMPORTANT: - Please note if you are in receipt of working tax credits you will not be entitled to a free school meal.

Governors – an update from Asha Fowells, Chair of Governors

It has been a busy time for the Governing Body of Purley Partnership Federation in recent months, as there have been a lot of strategic decisions to be made regarding the Covid-19 crisis. While a lot of what children and families see going on is operational – the day to day activities taking place in school and the learning activities that are delivered through electronic platforms such as Seesaw and Google Classroom – the Governing Body is very often involved behind the scenes in many different ways, for example by considering the safeguarding implications of schools closing and then reopening, and looking at risk assessments and asking questions to ensure that everyone is being kept as safe as possible.

Other activities are also continuing apace, such as scrutinising and approving school budgets, ensuring the buildings and grounds remain fit for purpose, and of course undertaking the detailed process involved in recruiting a new Executive Head Teacher to continue Mrs Pike’s work after she retires. Strong leadership is fundamental to the success of a school, and so governors have also been keeping an eye on and supporting the hardworking leadership team in order to make sure that their wellbeing doesn’t slip off the radar at this extremely stressful time.

We are very lucky to have so many engaged, dedicated and skilled individuals on our Governing Body – including three new additions since January in Yuan Choong, Sally Marvin and Rebecca Pickering – and we have adapted quickly to virtual meetings: remote ways of working may mean distance, but we are doing everything we can to ensure that is physical only, rather than mental and emotional as well.

Diary Dates

Tues Jul 21 School closes for children at 1.30pm.
Home learning stops for the summer holiday

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

Close Friday 28th May at normal time

HALF TERM

Open Tuesday 8th June

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