



Christ Church School Newsletter

Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance

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

Summer 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn term 2020

There are so many unknowns for us all about the new academic year; how the term will unfold and how Corona virus and keeping one another safe will impact on our day to day lives. The words of a favourite poem of mine known as "The Gate of the Year" spring to mind and offer some comfort at this time. It was written by Minnie Louise Haskins and she called it "God Knows".

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Further Government guidance for schools has been published today. This should set out for us how schools should work next term. I will be writing to you further once we have had time to process this guidance, complete risk assessments and make comprehensive plans for Covid 19 secure opening.

Teacher training, as we move to the end of this term, includes thinking very carefully about the sorts of provision and learning opportunities that children will need on their return to school. Teachers will be very mindful of the fact that all children will have had very different experiences of lockdown, life and learning. In the early days back in school, teachers will be working creatively on supporting children to redevelop connection with one another and a re-instilling that sense of belonging in a class. Class teaching will also involve nurturing and developing positive attitudes to learning.

As a starting point for our planning for September, we have worked on the assumption that school will be open, all staff will be able to return to face to face working with children, and that each 'bubble' will have 30 children. Whilst none of us know what will change between now and September we have worked on this assumption for now, and allocated each class a class teacher as follows:

Current Class	New class	New classroom	New teacher
5C	6LA	Spare Year 6 classroom	Mr Lane is our Assistant Head Teacher, currently teaching 2L, will teach the class three days a week. Mrs Amer is an experienced Christ Church teacher and will teach the class on the remaining two days each week.
5B	6P	Current 6N	Miss Preston is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching Class 4P.
4P	5B	Current 5B	Mr Burke is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching Class 5B.
4S	5L	Current 5C	Mr Lyne joins our staff as an NQT.
3F	4S	Current 4C	Mrs Sutton is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching Class 4S.
3O	4G	Current 4P	Mrs Gravett is an experienced teacher who has worked here at Christ Church School before in her career. She will be the acting Deputy Head Teacher from after half term in the autumn term until the new Executive Head Teacher takes up post. She will continue as the class teacher after this time.
2L	3O	Current 3O	Mrs Ofori is an experienced Christ Church teacher currently teaching Class 3O.
2I	3F	Current 3F	Mrs Flood is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching Class 3F. She will be teaching four days a week and Mrs Howell , who is already known to this class, will teach them on Fridays.
1E	2I	Current 2I	Mrs Imana is an experienced Christ Church teacher currently teaching 2I
1B	2NM	Current 2L	Mrs Newman is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching 6N. She teaches 4 days a week. Mrs Marro, another experienced teacher will teach the class on the 5 th day.
RJ Macaw Class	1B	Current 1B	Mrs Boyd is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching 1HB. When she goes on maternity leave in October, Miss Miller will return to teach this class again. The class will then be 1M .
RL Toucan Class	1E	Current 1E	Mrs Emery is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently teaching 1E
NEW intake Starling Class	RC	RH side reception class	Mrs Chukwudinma is new to Christ Church school but an experienced Early Years teacher and will be the Early Years Leader.
NEW intake Kingfisher Class	RL	LH side reception class	Miss Longworth is an experienced Christ Church teacher, currently the Toucan Class teacher.

Transition to New Classes

Normally we would give children and parents an opportunity to meet the new teacher. We are working on various options for this and I will be giving you further information about this before the end of term.

Return of school books

Does your child have any school reading books in their book bag? Have you got a small collection of books on your shelves at home? Has your child borrowed any books from Mrs Edser's reading club collection? Please could you return these to the school. They can be left in the entrance vestibule at any time or could be brought when you come to collect your child's possessions. A box will be available in each classroom for returned books.

Collections of personal possessions

When the school closed suddenly at the end of March, I think we all hoped that the lockdown would be over in a few weeks and all children would be able to return to school, so there are many PE kits and jumpers in classrooms which I am sure you would like to have back before the summer holiday.

Plans for collection of belongings require strict social distancing. If there is a queue to collect belongings when you arrive, please stand at least four large paces apart from the next person in the queue. Whilst your health may allow you to operate within the 1m+ rule, 2m is safer and strict social distancing may be essential for the next person in the queue. We will be operating a 'one in one out' rule for those collecting from the main entrance area. Please wait at the entrance until the previous person has collected their possessions and left the building. Mr Daniels will be supervising the arrangements for collection from each classroom allowing one or two in at a time to collect possessions and managing the flow of parents in and out so there is no congestion in doorways. In some year groups teachers reminded children to take PE kits home so please check whether they have all their possessions at home before making the trip to school.

Each class has been assigned a day for collection. If you are unable to collect your child's possessions on that day, consider asking another family to collect these for you. Collection sessions run from 4.00pm – 5.30pm on the following days:

Class	Collection Date	Location for collection
5C	Friday 17 th July	Main Entrance vestibule
5B	Thursday 16 th July	Main Entrance vestibule
4S	Wednesday 15 th July	Main Entrance vestibule
4P	Tuesday 14 th July	4P Classroom Door
3O	Monday 13 th July	3O Classroom Door
3F	Friday 10 th July	3F Classroom door
2L	Thursday 9 th July	2L Classroom Door
2I	Wednesday 8 th July	2I Classroom Door
1B	Tuesday 7 th July	1B Classroom door
1E	Monday 20 th July	1E Classroom Door
RL	Monday 6 th July	RL Outside Area
RJ	Monday 6 th July	RJ Outside Area

Black Lives matter

Following the death of George Floyd and the manner of his death, it was very clear that there should be a significant response from schools. Our response to children asking

questions was that this is a very important matter and we have followed this up with some teaching sessions for older children. We also included a Christian response to this within one of our collective worship sessions. Children were encouraged to watch this with a trusted adult. If you have not yet seen this, please follow this link - [Collective Worship](#)

Mr Lane will be leading on developing our school curriculum to ensure significant and sustainable school response. He writes:

'These recent events in America have particularly highlighted the injustice and inequality of opportunity for Black communities, and at the same time raised awareness of the challenges facing many other ethnic communities within Western society. This seems like a significant moment in history, with people from many different ethnicities and cultures protesting for change. But for change to come, it requires us all to be willing to listen and respond. As a school, we are committed to being a place where people of all cultures and ethnicities are represented well and where, throughout their school lives, children have positive learning experiences about people that they can identify with. A huge part of this is learning about and listening to the experiences of those members of our community who are directly affected by this. We don't want to just issue a statement about our views on racism or discrimination and then to continue in the same way. Without action, it would merely be a platitude or virtue signalling.

We recognise that our curriculum is not fully representative of the communities that we serve. Our children deserve and need to see people that look like them celebrated in art lessons, class reads, history lessons, science lessons, and English work. In 2017, the Church of England published some guidance for schools called 'Valuing All God's Children'. In it, the Archbishop of Canterbury wrote: 'The way forward needs to be about love, joy, and celebration of our humanity; of our creation in the image of God, of our belonging to Christ – all of us, without exception, without exclusion.' I believe that this is so important and that we can do better to celebrate the humanity of all of our pupils through our curriculum. Sustainable and intentional changes to how we plan and present learning to include better representation of different ethnicities can have a significant positive impact on our children as it is vital that all children can see positive representations of other ethnicities and learn to celebrate each other's cultures.

I will be starting a Working Group for Curriculum Diversity and positive Inclusion, with the aim of making a meaningful and sustainable change that will increase the diversity and positive inclusion within our curriculum. This will be building upon some work on our curriculum that has already begun. The working group will meet every half term and will begin to write additions to the school's curriculum intent statement, write policy for ensuring diversity within the curriculum, and review the range and quality of diversity currently within our curriculum. Supported by one of our governors, Lola Bejide, this will be a group that will provide accountability for how frequently and how well different ethnicities are represented in what we teach.'

Participation in competitions and festivals

In the latest Croydon Schools Sports Partnership Newsletter, Christ Church Primary School was given a "**Recognition Award**" - for our commitment to attending competitions and festivals in the Autumn and Spring Term. They always attend with a smile, thanking event organisers and including all their team members in events.

Hampers

As, you will be aware, this week was the last week of food hamper provision. I am very grateful to all those who have helped to manage this each week. Particular thanks go to Jude, the children and families pastor from Christ Church and Mrs Jane Smith. Mrs Smith is a member of our staff team. She has unfailingly supported families in this way at this time, including delivering hampers for some who were unable to collect. Thank you Jane.

Summer Food

As you will be aware, the Government has created the Summer Food Fund to enable families whose children are eligible for free school meals due to financial reasons to receive vouchers over the summer period.

The Covid Summer Food Fund will ensure eligible children registered for free school meals by 10th July can continue to access support over the summer holidays.

The Government has published guidance which states that schools can support eligible pupils with a £90 voucher to cover the 6-week holiday period (or a £105 voucher for a 7-week holiday period).

Any child currently in receipt of benefits-related FSM or who becomes eligible during the summer term is eligible for the Covid Summer Food Fund. Please let us know straight away if you think this applies to your child so that we can ensure your eligibility is registered by the closing date.

Seesaw

Seesaw classes will be archived during August so that we can set up the new classes for September. Parents, carers and family members can download their child's portfolio if they wish to. [These are the instructions here.](#)

You do not need to do this before the class is archived, you will always have access to your child's portfolio whilst your child is at Christ Church School. **If your child is leaving the school then you will need to download the portfolio by the end of July.**

Goodbye and Thank You

Miss Coleman will be leaving her post of class teacher at Christ Church School at the end of this academic year. She is relocating to Devon and has secured a job working as a class teacher at a local primary school. This is a Church of England Primary school that describes itself as 'nestled in the heart of Dartmoor National Park'. Miss Coleman has worked at Christ Church School for the last 7 years. She started working with our current Year 6 when they were in Reception. During this time she has qualified as a teacher, she has taught French to a number of classes and become a class teacher. She is much loved by her pupils and colleagues and will be greatly missed. I would like to thank her for all she has contributed to our school community and wish her well as she begins her new adventure in Devon.

Thank you parents and carers

I know that the last few months have been incredibly challenging for all our families. I would like to thank you for working with us and supporting your children's ongoing education during this period of school closure.

However, I would also like to reassure you that we are not expecting parents and carers to have filled the gap of school. Please do not worry if you haven't been able to do as much as you wanted of the set learning with your child. We are also aware that many children who started off well at home, have become increasingly disillusioned with home learning and have become harder to motivate. They clearly miss the social interaction with peers and teachers which is a vital tool to keep children engaged and motivated.

Children are resilient and will recover, probably more quickly than we expect, from this extended absence from school. As a school community, we are blessed to have a dedicated, passionate and caring staff, and they will address how COVID-19 has affected children's education and plan steps to address missing skills when normal school life resumes.

Mary Pike

Mary Pike
Executive Head Teacher
Christ Church C of E School
Purley Partnership Federation

**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