



Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is with great joy that we welcome back all the children for the Autumn term. We have had a wonderful start to the term, and it has been heartening to witness the enthusiasm and energy that the children bring to our school community.

Compassion

This term, our focus has been on the Christian value of **compassion**. We have been proud to observe the children, parents, and staff demonstrate this value through various initiatives, including warmly welcoming new children and families to our school, collecting donations for Harvest, and participating in our sponsored walk for Asthma UK. Our collective worship sessions have centred around the theme of compassion, and we encourage you to discuss with your child how they can embody this important value in their daily lives.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the parents who are working with our Parent Staff Association (PSA) in organising the upcoming International Food Evening. Your willingness to devote time to cook and donate food for this event is greatly appreciated and will surely foster a wonderful sense of community.

Learning

In terms of learning, our teachers have been diligently embedding classroom routines. The 'soft start' to the school day has proven beneficial, as it allows children the opportunity to practice their maths skills while teachers check in to ensure that everyone is ready for the day's learning. **Please ensure your children arrive on time to school so they don't miss out.**

Reading continues to be a high priority, and I am pleased to report that the children are thoroughly enjoying their reading lessons. Please keep reading at and with the children at home. It is an indicator of success.

This term, we are also focussing on handwriting and spellings. Children in Reception and Year 1 are learning to form their letters correctly in a non-cursive script, while those in Year 2 and above are being taught the cursive script to enable them to join their letters. If you have concerns regarding your child's pencil grip or their letter formation, please do not hesitate to speak with their class teacher for advice.

Fitness and healthy Lifestyle Initiative

As part of our commitment to promoting fitness and healthy living, we are particularly focused on supporting children's fitness skills this year. National reports indicate rising levels of obesity among children, exacerbated by increased screen time and the accessibility of fast food. To address this, we kicked off our fitness theme with a sponsored walk, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We are also



evaluating children's packed lunches; we kindly ask you to refer to the school's Healthy Eating Policy available on our website for guidance on suitable lunchbox items. Please note that any sweets or chocolate brought into school will be removed and held in the office for collection at the end of the day. We appreciate your cooperation in promoting healthy eating habits and encouraging your children to engage in physical activities such as daily walks or sports.

Building upon the success of our tooth brushing programme, we are pleased to announce that Reception and Year 1 will commence dry tooth brushing next half term, accompanied by a parent workshop from the dentist—details to be confirmed.

Pupil Parliament

We held our elections for Head Girl and Head Boy this half term. Well done to all the candidates that took part and presented speeches. Congratulations to the year six children who were voted in for Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. You will see these year 6 children wearing a yellow tie. In addition, congratulations to all the children that were voted in as pupil parliament members for their class. Next half term there will be opportunities for KS2 children to become Reading Ambassadors and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Other News

Regrettably, we must bid farewell to Mrs Qutab, who has been working at Christ Church as a teaching assistant and recently as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant for the last eight years. We thank her for her dedicated service and wish her every success in her new role. We hope to see her visit us in the future.

Parent Information

I would also like to remind you of some important information for parents:

- **Wrap Around Care:** We will continue to offer breakfast and after-school club services. Please contact the office for policies and registration forms.
- **English Language Classes:** Our classes have seen a positive turnout and will continue to run on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am.

Please make a note of the following key dates in your diary:

- **Monday 3rd November: School Inset Day** – Children to return on Tuesday 4th November.
- **Thursday 6th November – Year 1 trip** to the Science Museum
- **Parents' Meetings:** Scheduled for **Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th November** after school. Teachers will provide sign-up lists on Tuesday 4th November.
- Week commencing **10th November: Anti-Bullying Week** – During this week, children may wear odd socks to signify their support.



- **Tuesday 11th November: Remembrance Day** – Year 4 will attend a service at Paddington Cemetery.
- **21st November:** Year 2 will visit the library.
- **Thursday 11th December:** PSA Christmas Fair.
- **Friday 12th December:** St Elizabeth Class trip to the Science Museum.
- **Tuesday 16th December** at 9:30 am: Reception / Year 1 Nativity.
- **Wednesday 17th December:** Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch.
- **Wednesday 17th December** at 2:00 pm: Carols at Christ Church.
- **Friday 19th December:** End of Autumn Term (commencement of Christmas holidays). **School finishes at 1.30pm**

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your child's education. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Shah
Interim Head of School
Christ Church School