

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

We are back in full swing of things now, and every time I wander around the School there is a brilliant buzz of pupils working. We have a new handwriting session each Monday afternoon for the whole school, and I enjoyed popping

in to a few of these, to watch the skills of letter formation begin taught. Technology is an undeniable fact of everyday life and is useful to support pupils' learning. However, there are limits to that: completely replacing handwriting instruction with keyboarding instruction can be detrimental to children's literacy acquisition. School days are packed with many priorities, and it would be easy to let handwriting fall by the wayside; however, with our dedicated focus on this, we hope to help our pupils' letter formation skills improve, and that it leads to positive outcomes for overall literacy development.

I really enjoyed chatting to many of you over a cup of tea (and one or two biscuits!) at our New Parents' Coffee Morning, on Thursday. It was lovely to see new faces in our school community as well as more established ones. Thank you to everyone who came along; I hope you enjoyed it too. As always, the SCA are marvellous, and I am particularly thankful to them for giving up their time to help host this event. Following this theme of 'meetings', I hope the 5min remote meetings with your son/daughter's class teacher this week were useful. I think it is so important to have a little one-on-one time with the class teacher at the start of the academic year, as this is the person your child is going to be spending a large portion of their time with, not to mention all the formative educational and social input this person will provide.

This week, I started my end of the day session with each class where I will share a story with them. I was so happy to spend some time in Reception, where I read, "Dogs Don't Do Ballet" by Anna Kemp, which is one of my favourite books about a small dog with a big personality and even bigger dreams. The children loved the story, which really stresses being proud of who you are, and that differences are good things! I am looking forward to going into Year 6 next week!

I have also started seeing pupils with their work on Wednesdays. This is a time when I ask all pupils

with a specific register number to come and bring their work to show me. This week, all those children who are number 1 in the register piled into my office, and they were so delightful to speak to. They were enthusiastic about the start of term, and had lots to tell me about the work they had done in their books so far! Getting to see the awe and wonder of young people about their learning each day is really what makes my job the best in the world.

Sports fixtures resumed this week, with two netball matches (Year 4 v Eltham College and Year 6 v Croydon High). On Monday, the Year 4s took two teams, so all girls got the opportunity to play. Even though it was a coaching match the girls played extremely well, particularly considering it has been some time since they had played. On Wednesday, Year 6 also played well and whilst they weren't victorious, we were proud of their team work.

Today, Year 6 were on the campaign trail in their bid to be Head and Deputy of the School. 15 of the Year 6 cohort decided to stand, and gave speeches in front of the whole school. In a bid to be more inclusive and modern, we are not prescribing the titles Head Boy and Head Girl anymore, but instead leaving it for the pupils to all vote today for the candidates who will be the voice of the pupils, and help to make school improvements. Standing in front of your peers to make a speech is a daunting task, but I cannot tell you how my heart swelled with pride today as I listen to the speeches which were both articulate, forward-thinking and amusing. Politicians and world leaders of our future, no doubt. With votes cast today, we will be announcing the results of our school election on Wednesday.

As mentioned in my email to you all earlier this week, Monday 19 September is a bank holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday 20th September.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Carter

Head



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Queen's Memorial Display in our entrance hall

The School pulled together brilliantly on Friday to reflect on the life of Queen Elizabeth, and it was overwhelming to see the creativity and sensitivity in school, as teachers produced some very effective work at very short notice. We now have a memorial display in our entrance hall which looks beautiful, and is a fitting tribute to the Queen.

Do come in to see it if you would like to.



Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story! You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehall) on insta and Twitter, as well at [@stchristhehallsport](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehallsport) to get all the inside info from school life!

School Photographs Individual and Siblings

We were due to have our school photographs taken on Monday 19th. Obviously this now has to be re-scheduled. It will now take place on **Thursday 22nd September in the morning.**

Year 5 and 6 will be photographed before they go swimming at 11:00.

Pupils should arrive in school uniform including blazer (and tie for boys) even if they have PE. They will change for PE during the day.

European Day of Languages

We are excited to announce that on Monday, 26th September, the children and staff at St. Christopher's will be celebrating European Day of Languages to promote the importance and benefits of language learning.

All children (including Pre-school) are invited to come into school wearing traditional clothing or colours of the flag linked to the country or culture that they are representing. The children can choose any country they wish and the staff will be dressing up too!

For those in Reception to Year 6, there will be an assembly in the morning where the children will have the opportunity to learn more about the significance of this day. We will be embracing the diversity of languages spoken in our very own school community, so children will be teaching one another words from languages that they may speak at home and all registers will be taken in different languages. The children will also have the opportunity to listen to a story in a different language during their storytime.

In lessons, children from Reception to Year 2 will be participating in a French Disney sing-along. In Years 3 and 4, children will be taking part in a 'Marvellous Menu' competition, designing their own menus based on foods from around the world and Years 5 and 6 will be developing their geographical and research skills by undertaking an ICT research project on a country of their choice.

Finally, in order to help us celebrate the day, as well as the launch of Spanish as a new subject at school this year, the kitchen staff will kindly be serving a Spanish themed menu at lunchtime. The menu is as follows:

Taste of Spain

Spanish meatballs in tomato sauce
Vegetarian paella
Spanish potatoes/ rice
Spanish omelette
Pisto
Churros

We are sure it will be an enjoyable day for everyone and look forward to celebrating it with your children.

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Newspaper Club

As part of our Wednesday club time, a fantastic group of roving reporters have joined Mr Carter, and over the next few weeks, they will be writing articles which interest them, to give you a pupil's perspective!

This week, we want to introduce you to the team:

William (6C): "Hi, I am William, and I am looking forward to getting an opportunity to write about things in our school!"

Anya (6C): "My name is Anya, and I am absolutely ecstatic to be in the newsletter club because I love the ideas of getting to report on different stories. I don't have any experience in journalism, but I'm excited to learn!"

Ella (5R): "I'm Ella, and I am really excited about being part of our group of reporters, as I love writing"

Maya (5R): "My name is Maya, and I am delighted to be in the newsletter club. I cannot wait to inform the School community on everything that happens from a pupil's perspective."

Cian (6c) I am looking forward to being part of the team with the responsibility of communicating with parents.



Grandparents' Tea

You know we always enjoy a new initiative at school, and this term, we will be hosting a new event: **Our Grandparents' Tea.**

This will be an event where pupils' grandparents (or elderly relatives) will be invited into school, for tea and scones, as well as to see their 'grandchild' perform and have a look at his/her school work.



The date for this event is on **Wednesday 2nd November**, which is our first week back after half term.

There will be three timings for this event:

- Reception-Year 2: 10:00 - 11:00
- Year 3 and 4: 13:30-14:30
- Year 5 and 6: 14:45-15:45

If your child's grandparents/elderly relatives would like to attend, please can you fill out this initial Google Form (below) , to give us some idea of numbers. There will be a limit of four guests per child.

<https://forms.gle/1UFUeDrgSUE5fi2r5>

Mr Carter will send an email with a link to this form.

Curriculum Overviews

The curriculum overviews for the Autumn Term, for each year group, can now be found on our website, in the parents' area under Curriculum and Resources <https://www.stchristophersthehall.org.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+and+Resources&pid=26&postLogin=true> and we hope these, alongside the Welcome Meetings, give you a sense of what the teachers will be covering until Christmas.

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Prep School

All the Prep School children have returned to their new classes this academic year with enthusiasm, renewed vigour and determination to have a happy and successful year.

Our Year 3 children, who have transitioned into the Prep school, have all made an excellent first impression; our Year 5 classes are working well as team players with a new cohort and our amalgamated Year 6 have hit the ground running with their exam season in full swing. Our Year 4 children have not only grown physically over the summer, but are demonstrating greater maturity in their outlook towards their learning around the School. We are also excited to have welcomed new children and new members of staff into the Prep School and they have already settled in so well to our school community; you wouldn't know any of them had only been with us for two weeks!

Our Prep school clubs have started this week. Science Club was excited to make volcanoes from coke bottles and watch them 'explode lava' when adding mentos sweets as a catalyst and Nature Club enjoyed talking about their summer reflections and painting pebbles.

Congratulations to everyone in the Prep School for such a positive start to the school year!

Mrs Rudge
Head of Prep



Preschool

The children have settled into their new surroundings brilliantly, and have taken all the changes in their stride. The new buildings are looking fantastic and we cannot wait to be in our new classrooms, which are still on track to be completed at half term.

It has been lovely to see the children enjoying all our activities and playing and chatting with their friends. Our topic this half term will be 'All about me' and we look forward to sharing our experiences with each other. We have also been having lots of fun in our drama, music and PE lessons!

Mrs Jones
Head of Preschool



What's Happening Next Week

- 🕒 **Monday 19th September**
- BANK HOLIDAY
- 🕒 **Tuesday 20th September**
- U10 Netball v Farrington (14:30-15:30)
Year 6 11+ Meeting (17:00-18:00)
- 🕒 **Wednesday 21st September**
- U8 Netball v Farrington (14:30-15:30)
- 🕒 **Thursday 22nd September**
- School photographs (am)