

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week has flown by, only being four days! However, despite being a day shorter, we seemed to still have managed to pack plenty in. In assembly on Wednesday, we announced our various pupil roles in school, from School Council

Reps in each class, which will change termly, to our Year 6 taking on the lofty position as House Representative in either Blyton, Hillary, Johnson or Campbell, to the vaulted role of Pupil Head and Deputy within school. Our young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives, and it is important that we provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them. The curriculum requires that young people are provided with opportunities to participate in school and society, and giving roles and responsibilities to pupils is an excellent way in which to increase participation, teach them about democracy, local and global citizenship and accountability. There is an article below about how the pupils gained election this year. As I said last week, I am so proud of all the children who put themselves forward for a role in the School.

Obviously, not everyone can be elected, but herein also lies an important life lesson, a hard one to learn, but an important one nonetheless. As I said to the children, for those who perhaps didn't quite get what they wanted, they must remember that it is fine to feel disappointed, but that disappointment is not meant to destroy us. If taken in our stride, it can strengthen us and make us better. Hopefully, in time, the experience will have been useful whatever the result.

It was lovely to see our Year 6 parents on Tuesday at our 11+ Information evening. Year 6 and 11+ can be a daunting experience, but I hope all of our parents felt the meeting was useful to make them aware of the process and how we are preparing the pupils. I know I always end up saying the same thing over and over, but often at this stage of the year, parents will always ask what they can do to help their child.

Sometimes the answer I give isn't what they want or expect; my advice will always be spend time with your child; to listen to them read and discuss the book; to talk about world events; to take them to interesting places such as exhibitions. There is absolutely no replacement for time spent with your son or daughter – end of story, and it is the single most impactful thing you can do. This trumps trials and tutors twenty fold, and ensures that the pupils are well rounded and calm as they move forward. I have seen too many times in my career pupils becoming overwhelmed and exhausted if they are having to do extra 11+ workshops/interview prep, tutoring or loads of practice papers leading up to the exam etc etc. out of school and then not be able to show off their best come the real exam. We want to ensure that the process for our Year 6s is as seamless and as non-bruising as possible. I know they will be amazing. Over the next few

weeks, I will be meeting with Year 6 parents one-to-one and discussing the best possible options for their child's next step as they look to move on to secondary school. I hope it is useful advice to guide and steer all of our parents through this process - you are as important to us as our pupils, so I am always delighted to give help.

We had our first RE trip out this academic year, as Year 5 went to visit the Synagogue to supplement their

curriculum. I always think that a well-chosen trip has the power to breathe new life into a classroom topic. These activities add an element of excitement to learning, which are especially effective in engaging visual or hands-on learners. I know that trips support and enhance the curriculum, whilst providing new perspectives and wider context for the children to think about, and we have many more planned for this year for all year groups.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday in their non-school uniform when they dress up for European Day of Languages - see the reminder below. Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Carter
Head



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Elections

Following our strong Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) ethos and focus on the British Value of Democracy within the School, every child from Reception to Year 6 has been involved over the last two weeks with our new varied voting system.

Last Friday, in our whole school assembly, the Year 6 cohort presented their election speeches for Head and Deputy of school. Following this, every member of the school community voted for their preferred two candidates on voting slips, complete with nominees' photographs and names, then posted them in our school 'Ballot Box'.

Tuesday saw House Representative elections which took place within our first House Meeting of the year. Speeches were presented by our Year 6 candidates, followed by a silent vote by all House members for their preferred candidate. Once again, voting slips with names and photographs were placed in the School's Ballot Box.'

Also, on Tuesday, all classes held speeches for candidates who wished to stand as School Council representatives, as well as voting once again on voting slips and taking their votes to our school 'Polling Station'. Those elected will be in post for a term, and then the pupils will vote again for a Spring School Council member, and once again in the Summer Term, to give as many pupils as possible the chance to hold a responsibility.

All votes were counted and the results were announced by Mr Carter on Wednesday in our whole school assembly.

St Christopher's The Hall School

Head of School:

Lexi Mullane

Deputy of School:

Evie Scotting

Blyton House Representative:

Mila Poulton

Campbell House Representative:

Otis McMordie

Johnson House Representative:

Lillie Richards

Hillary House Representative:

Wilfie Byrne



Congratulations to everyone who had the courage to stand for election and to those children who were elected.

European Day of Languages Reminder

A reminder that on **Monday, 26th September**, we will be celebrating European Day of Languages at school. Your child is invited to come into school in their own clothes for the day. They may wear 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.



The teachers have been busy preparing their outfits and we are really looking forward to celebrating the day together.

Social Media

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



Exciting News!

We are so delighted that our school has been selected as a finalist for the ISA Award for Excellence and Innovation in Mental Health and Wellbeing. This is such an integral part of the ethos we have created in school, so we are thrilled to have this recognised. The awards ceremony will be held in November; watch this space for more news!



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Parents' Forum

The Parents' Forum would like to welcome back all children and parents and to extend a warm welcome to all new children and parents to the school. The aim of the forum is to provide a communication platform to raise topics for discussion for the improvement of the School. This is not intended for the raising of individual issues as these should be raised directly to the School through the correct channels.

The Parents' Forum is run by parents, in conjunction with Mr Carter. Issues and topics for discussion should be emailed to forum@stchristophersthehall.org.uk.

This email is managed by parents and not the School, and anything raised will be anonymised prior to discussion.

We would like to invite parents to the next Parents' Forum due to take place on Wednesday 12th October from 6.30pm for a 7pm start for one hour. This will be open to all parents from all years with a maximum of 20 participants (with a waiting list).

If you are interested in attending, or would like to raise any discussion points, please send these across to the above email by the 5th October. Alternatively, please do use the Google form below to express your interest. We will look through the topics that have been raised as potential points for discussion and these will be collated, and the two/three which are most highlighted will be taken to the forum.

We look forward to you on the 12th!

<https://forms.gle/YGQZFceGPdwSiZc18>



Grandparents' Tea

Don't forget to register your interest for **Our Grandparents' Tea** on **Wednesday 2nd November**.

This is not an event for parents, but an event for our pupils' grandparents (or other relatives). We recognise that some grandparents may not be able to attend, so if there is another relative who would like to come, we would like to extend this to them. We also recognise that there may be children who cannot have anyone there, and we will make the hour-event special for them by giving them important roles in the proceedings!

Please fill out this initial Google Form, to give us some idea of numbers. There will be a limit of four guests per child.

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



Reviews

We cannot get enough of reviews, so if you have a Google account, and feel inclined, please leave a review for us by using the link below or the QR code. This would be particularly great for those parents who have joined us this year!

<https://g.page/r/Cd0V7pg2h8TCEAg/review>



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Year 3

After the successful diary writing produced by Year 3 linked to the story Traction Man, Year 3 have started a new story in English called 'Troll and the Oliver'.

Every day, when Oliver goes out, Troll tries to eat him. But catching Oliver is very tricky - he's fast, sneaky, and just too clever! It is only when it looks like Troll has given up and Oliver celebrates victory that... (we won't spoil the plot!)

What do you think might happen next? How do you think the story ends?

Using the text, Year 3 have started to build a bank of descriptive language that they will use next week when designing and describing their own trolls ahead of writing their own character profiles.

Some examples of Year 3's descriptive ideas include:

Fola - 'Troll is cunning and quick and his nose twinkles like a star.'

Ashton - 'Troll's fur is as blue as the sky and his teeth are as sharp as metal scissors.'

Phoebe & Olivia - 'Troll is a greedy, hungry and fat beast with tiny, skinny legs.'

Joanna - 'Troll is hot with rage at The Oliver and his eyes are as huge as saucers.'

Alfie - 'Troll is a resilient character who never gives up, just like in our school Character Values.'

Junior - 'Troll is as hungry as a giant and his eyes are as green as leaves.'

Year 3 are enjoying using this story as a new hook for their writing and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of their creative writing.



Reception

The Reception children have all really enjoyed their first few weeks, exploring the Reception classrooms and engaging with all of our activities and resources. They have all settled in so well and are already an essential part of our Pre-Prep School community. Well done to all the Reception children we are all very proud of you.



What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 26th September**
 - European Day of Languages - *come into school wearing traditional clothing or colours of the flag linked to a country or culture.*
 - U8 v Royal Russell Netball (15:45-16:45)
- Tuesday 27th September**
 - SCA Meeting in SCAMPS - all welcome (08:15 - 09:15)
 - U10 v Royal Russell Netball (15:45-16:45)
- Thursday 29th September**
 - ISFA Tournament (all day)
- Friday 30th September**
 - U11 v Pointers Netball (14:30-15:30)