

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

October has rushed to meet us and has brought with it a chill in the air! We are seeing more coats, gloves and scarves in the morning as the pupils come in, and I will definitely have to get my winter coat out soon for standing by the gate!

October also signals the start of our celebrations of Black History Month. At St Christopher's, we have a wonderful opportunity to be part of the national celebrations and events to honour the too often unheralded accomplishments of Black Britons in every area of endeavour throughout our history. As a little history for you, Black History Month was first celebrated in London in October 1987 after being organised by Ghanaian analyst Akyaaba Addai-Sebo. I still wonder whether the National Curriculum goes far enough in teaching young people comprehensively about Black history, culture or experiences; however, we really want to immerse ourselves in this over the next coming weeks. This week, our Equality and Diversity Team gave a great assembly to the pupils providing them with the history of why we celebrate this month, and the key links to equality from the pupils' PSHE lessons. Over the course of this month we will have linked activities in class; however, to really highlight this special month; we also have workshops coming into school. Preschool and Reception pupils kick-started this when the Freshwater Theatre Company came in today to entertain them with interactive activities based around the stories of *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne, and *Island Counting* by Lessac Frane. Additionally, the rest of the School will have other activities which will take place after the half-term: a day of activities from drumming, dance and printing. There will be a bumper newsletter that will

have a focus on Black History Month coming up in the next few weeks. It is important to mention that, at school, whilst we think it is paramount to celebrate Black History Month, we must also equally commit to long-term changes when looking at our curriculum and the books that we read in class so that Black contributions are weaved into pupils' everyday experiences.

Another thing that we celebrated this week was National Poetry Day. This is the annual celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. I feel that poetry is so important for children as it offers a huge opportunity for innovation, especially with sentence construction, and allows experimentation, free from rules which helps improve writing skills and creative thinking. Poetry is also the perfect genre for introducing creative and

interesting vocabulary to children. If any pupils decide to write any type of poem, do ask them to bring it in to show me, or Miss Johns and Mr Pretara, who are our English coordinators.

On this note, I wanted to leave you with a poem you can listen to on YouTube (link below) which ties in both elements of our week. The poem I have selected is by Tami Charles who was a teacher who found there weren't nearly as many diverse books as she'd hoped for, and this spurred her on to write her own. In the poem, called *All Because You Matter*, it assures the reader that

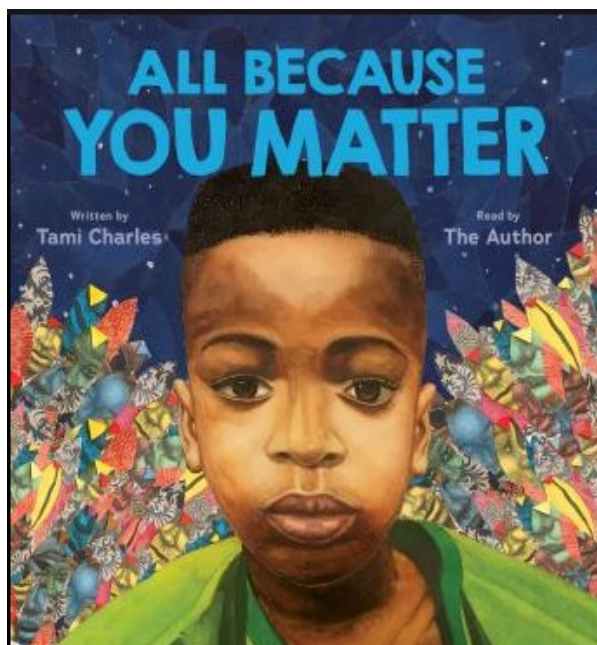
they always have, and always will, matter, and promotes loving the skin you are in. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do, and the powerful and poignant message it gives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4Xvkw2da4I>

Have a lovely weekend, as we move into our final week of the half-term

Mr Carter

Head



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Final reminder about Grandparents' Tea and sign up

This is the **last chance** to sign up for our **Grandparents' Tea** on **Wednesday 2nd November**.

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

Please fill out this initial Google Form (below) if you haven't done so already. There will be a limit of four guests per child.



<https://forms.gle/1UFUeDrqSUE5fi2r5>

National Poetry Day

During our assembly celebrating National Poetry Day on Tuesday, we created a whole-school poem about autumn, with extra help from some of our Year 6s. We thought we'd share it with you:

*Autumn is here!
Crunchy and colourful leaves.
Autumn is here!
Shiny and round conkers.
Autumn is here!
Juicy and orange pumpkins
Autumn is here!
Brutal and chilly air.
Autumn is here!
Fluffy and fleece-lined coats.
Autumn is here!
Dark and starry nights
Autumn is here!*



Year 2

Year 2 has been looking at the work of Yinka Shonibare, a British-Nigerian artist. They enjoyed looking closely at his technique and taking time to replicate his work through their own interpretations.



Preschool

The work on the new Preschool building is almost finished now, and we are very excited to be moving in during the next few weeks. Therefore, after the half term holidays, Preschool children will need to come in through the SCAMPS gate as usual, but then be brought straight to the new classrooms, which will be clearly signposted. Before Christmas we will be arranging a morning when we can welcome our Preschool parents into the classrooms for a look round, when we have had a chance to settle in.

We also look forward to seeing our Preschool parents next Wednesday in the classrooms at 8.15 until 8.45 to have a look at their child's Early Learning Journey

Reviews

Word of mouth is the best form of advertising our school, and you are our best ambassadors. Therefore, we are grateful should anyone wish to write 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/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAg/review>



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Year 6

How do our CHARACTER Values help us?

As you can see from the pictures, Year 6 has been go, go go, and the children of 6C have stepped up to the challenges and gone above and beyond. With amazing lessons each day; brilliant specialist learning in the arts, MFL and sports; 11+ grammar and independent assessments, applying for the roles of Head of School, House Captains and School Council, the fast pace of life at the top of the school have required the children to dig deep and rely upon what they have learnt from St Christopher's.

When we asked three pupils in 6C about how these values have helped them, this is what they said:

Common Sense: *It is a key skill to have when you are in the test. Some questions that you may not know the answers to, you have to make an educated guess, or just use common sense - Olivia*

Honesty: *My speech had to be honest, from the heart, very creative to appeal to everyone. It was all about teamwork and being true to myself - Digby*

Ambition *is having goals and dreams. I had to be ambitious when I was writing, rehearsing and performing my head and house speeches. I had to believe in myself to give me confidence to stand up in front of all my friends and deliver the speeches - Lexi*

Respect: *You have got to respect others' ideas and contribution, whether they are right or wrong. In the speeches all of the students showed respect as well - Olivia*

Adaptability: *Exams!!! Well, adaptability was needed. Enthusiasm may have been lacking but I'm resilient and mixed with a bit of common sense. I knew that, if I tried my best, I'll be okay! - Digby*

Creativity: *I am going to be doing JAGS in a short time and there I will have to use my creativity to do a creative writing assessment. Also, while writing my speeches I had to do the same - Olivia*

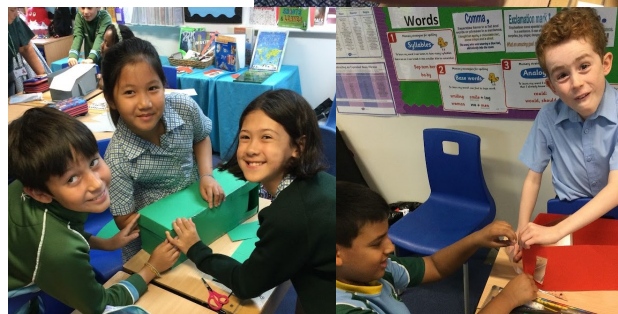
Teamwork: *Also, in JAGS I will have to cooperate with people I don't know, to solve a puzzle, while showing lots of teamwork - Olivia*

Enthusiasm: *Leading up to my tests, speeches and learning I have to show enthusiasm in what I am doing, especially if I want to pass the test. Com-*

ing in with a positive mind-set will make me do much better - Olivia

Resilience *is bouncing back, being strong and keeping going. The first few weeks of Year 6, there was a lot to think about; upcoming exams, getting organised for the new school year, keeping up with work and elections. At times I thought my brain might 'pop' but I knew I had to keep powering through. We've been doing lots of mock tests and sometimes they are challenging. It can be frustrating at times, especially if you can't do something as quickly or as easily as your friends. Resilience has helped me to remember to keep going, we are not all the same and we do things at different speeds - Lexi*

In 6C, we have learnt to always look for the best in ourselves. It doesn't matter if we do something incorrectly; we can't go back in time, but if we could, we would say to ourselves, "It's OK. Everything will go fine."



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Computer Puzzle Club

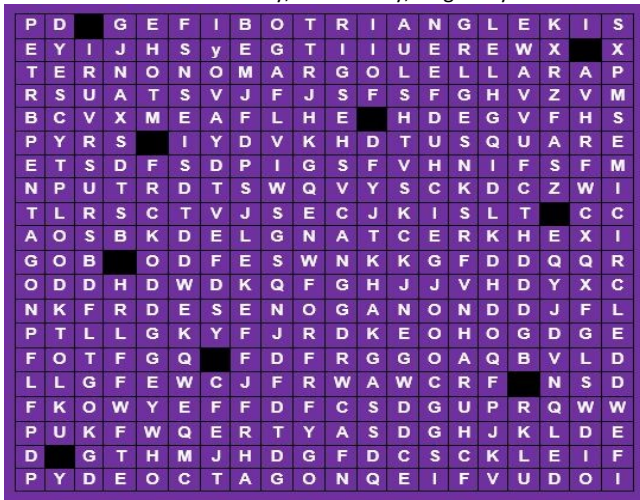
In their Wednesday clubs, some children have been creating puzzles and games with Mr Jacobs. We thought it would be lovely to share them with you, so for the next few weeks the newsletter will include a puzzle created by our pupils so you can read news from school and also enjoy a brain teaser!

Wordsearch

by By Matteus Hamoda and Daniel Watson

Find these words: *Rectangle Decagon Pyramid Nonagon Semicircle Triangle Square Parallelogram Pentagon Octagon*

Words can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally & backwards



Charity Reminder for Monday and Thursday next week

CHARITY EVENTS- REMINDER FOR NEXT WEEK:

YOUNG MINDS

#HelloYellow

I'm wearing yellow

To school for young people's mental health

BRING £2

MONDAY 10 October 2022

Living Well Bromley

BRING AN ITEM

Harvest Festival

- tinned fruit
- tinned tomatoes
- pasta
- shampoo
- jam
- tinned meat

THURSDAY

PE and Games

On Tuesday 4th October, our U11 Girls football team took part in the ISA National Football Tournament. Our journey took us to another lovely part of the world in Ascot. In preparation for this, the girls needed to get some Astroturf trainers to help them get to grips with the new surface. In our initial group, we won three matches and drew one which qualified us for the semi finals. Unfortunately, we lost against Holme Grange, but we then had one more match for the 3rd/4th place play off, in which we played St Mary's School, Hamptead. This was a gruelling battle finishing with a 1 – 1 draw, and resulted in some nail-biting penalties. Our girls scored all their penalties, and St Mary's missed one which meant the girls brought home the bronze medals. Well done girls; an amazing achievement.



What's Happening Next Week

- 📅 **Monday 10th October**
 - U9 Netball v Royal Russell (15:45-16:45)
- 📅 **Tuesday 11th October**
 - Year 6 Parents' Meeting (14:00-17:00)
 - U11 Netball v Royal Russell (15:45-16:45)
- 📅 **Wednesday 12th October**
 - Preschool Open Morning for Parents (8:15-8:45)
 - Year 2 Gymnastic Competition at Bromley Valley (8:30-11:30)
- 📅 **Thursday 13th October**
 - Year 3 Trip to Horniman Museum (all day)
 - Year 6 Parents' Meeting (14:00-17:00)
- 📅 **Friday 14th October**
 - Pre-Prep Trip to Horniman Museum (all day)
 - Year 3-6 Cross Country selected pupils (12:30-15:30)