

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn Term. I hope you all had a lovely relaxing two weeks, in what was very mild weather!

We have returned after half-term to several new features to the School. Preschool pupils and staff are now in their new building, which is looking fabulous, and little by little, over the next few weeks, both staff and pupils will be embedding themselves into their new environment. Once everything is as we want it, we will be inviting parents to come and see the space and to enjoy some wine and cheese! Additionally, our Library refurb, and Prep School Playground trim-trail have been completed, and I must say they both look better than I could have hoped for. I know the Prep children were very excited to see the playground upgrade, and were all desperate to practise their balancing skills on the equipment all week. There is a lovely video of the trim trail on our Instagram account and pupils' reactions if you'd like to see more.

As you know, I am always keen for parents to come into school and to feel part of our community, so I have a date for your diary! On **Friday 18th November**, we will be having a parents' social for you to come in from **15:20-16:45** to see these new areas, enjoy a refreshment with us, and socialise! Your children are welcome to join you, so we look forward to seeing you then.

With over 250 through the door, our three Grandparents' Teas on Wednesday were very well attended with music and drama performances to entertain. I know the pupils were all eager to show off their school, and show their grandparents their classroom and the work they have been doing. I want to particularly thank Mrs Gay and Miss

Wooderson, as well as the whole staff for their efforts in preparing the pupils and classrooms for this event. I would also like to thank the SCA for their help ranging from the flower decorations, to helping with the serving of tea, coffee and treats. I know some grandparents had travelled a long way to come and do not normally have the chance to come into school, so I really felt it was a lovely occasion for the whole School community, and I hope our visitors enjoyed it too. Please see the video clip on Instagram about this event

Miss Heselwood (for the Prep School) and Mrs Cornish (for the Pre-Prep) discussed the idea of Respect in the Phase Assembly on Tuesday. It is one of our key Character Values, and such an important value to have throughout life. We know as adults that being valued and treated

respectfully helps to promote a positive ethos, both as a work culture and in our personal lives, where we feel fulfilled, loyal, engaged, and motivated to perform at our very best.

On Wednesday, Mrs Wanstall gave a whole school assembly about Guy Fawkes night. I am sure that throughout the week-end the skies will come alive with bright colours, big bangs and lots of fizzes - all of which will fascinate

the children. However, as well as the history and excitement behind this event, it is also important to remember that Bonfire Night is one of the busiest for fire and rescue services, with hundreds of accidents each year occurring across the UK related to fireworks, with lots involving children. So whether you are heading out to see an organised display, or letting fireworks off at your own home, make sure you and your family stay safe.

Do enjoy your weekend,

Mr Carter

Head



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E-safety feature

The world is now a very technological place, and we have a key role in helping children to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child safe online, but each week will be giving a tip, advice and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

One of the best ways to keep children safe online is to talk to them about it. However, the conversation can be tricky to start and to pitch at the right level. The NSPCC has lots of resources to help with this on their website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Below is one of the resources from the NSPCC to get started with online safety, break into the conversation and look at it as a family.

Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like "What's your favourite game or app to play on?"

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: [nspcc.org.uk/online-safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety)
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)



Reception

Reception had a grand time at the Grandparents' Tea, this week! They confidently stood up and performed their spider song in front of everyone. Eagerly, they took their grandparents to show them their classrooms and proudly shared all their learning. Well done, Reception, your grandparents must be very proud of you, as are we all.



SCAMPS

We are delighted that the trial of the extended time in SCAMPS to 17:30 has proved to be very successful, and therefore will continue henceforth.

Pupil news

We are really proud of Otis McMordie, who received 'Man of the Match' on Sunday, for his out of school football team Beckenham Town. Even more impressive is that he, and his brother Zac, played a year up with Year 7s. If any of our pupils have success outside of school, do let Mr Carter know so we can celebrate them!



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ECHO

Our ECHO sessions (Extra Curricular Hobby Opportunities) on Wednesdays have been a real success, and both staff and pupils have said how much they enjoyed them. This half term, children will be given another experience of their choosing which you will have received an email outlining what the pupils will be doing at this half term.

Each week, in the newsletter, we will be giving you an insight into one of these sessions for the Pre-Prep and Prep pupils.

Table Tennis

Prep Table Tennis - Our table Tennis ECHO works on many different aspects of Sport, from competition to the social side of life and sport. We begin by working on some techniques and skills to help it all along the way. By the end of the course all children understand the rules and how to play a match.



Pre-Prep Cookery

As part of our ECHO clubs, the Pre-Prep children have been thoroughly enjoying our Cookery Club. The children have been developing a range of basic cookery skills and methods, sharing recipes, being creative and learning simple hygiene around food. We have made a selection of foods from dough to butter as well as sweet treats and fruit kebabs.

Mrs Wanstall, Mrs West & Ms McLaren



CALLING ALL BUDDING SEWING MACHINISTS - HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for a few willing and able volunteers to help with a mini Black History Month art project.

If you might be interested in finding out more, please email via mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk FAO: Mrs Rudge



Social Media and Reviews

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! We also love when parents write Google reviews on our school. Therefore, if you would like to write a short review, you can do so using the following link.

Thank you in advance for doing this. <https://g.page/r/Cd0V7pg2h8TCEAg/review>



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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!

Queen Elizabeth by Olivia Le

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Answers: Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Corgi Commonwealth Monarch
Loyal Compassionate

Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in

Music or peris lesson	musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Sports or fixtures	sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Lunchtime or afterschool clubs	clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Finance	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPs (bookings or general enquiries)	scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMP (logistics or payment)	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Anything class related or for the teachers	mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for Anything or time sensitive – please call or mark email URGENT
Anything that needs the Head's attention	headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

Reminder about the start of the School Day

We know that there may be times when you are running late for school for specific reasons. However, we seem to have a spate of lateness recently.

Please be reminded that the school day for **Reception to Year 6 starts at 08:30**, with the gate opening from 08:15 - and for **Preschool at 08:40**, with the gate opening at 08:30.

Good punctuality at school is essential for children to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for children to form good habits for later life. Therefore it is really important that your child arrives at school on time. Following DfE guidelines means we must record pupil lateness and follow this up if it is a regular occurrence.



What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 7th November**
 - U9 V Meryton Court (Rugby) (16:00-17:00)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 8th November**
 - ISA Swimming Gala @ The Spa (8:45-11:30)
 - U11 V JAGS Girls Football Tournament (13:00-16:00)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 9th November**
 - Cross Country Meet @Merton Court (various year groups 14:30-15:30)
- 🔔 **Friday 11th November**
 - Lower School Drama Workshops (9:00-12:00)
 - U8, U9,U10,U11 Girls Swimming Gala @ Croydon High (14:15-16:00)