

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week there has been far too much rain for my liking, but despite this, we have had much to smile about.

This Sunday is World Kindness Day, promoting the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. In our Phase assembly this week, Mrs Rudge (for Prep) and Mr Organ (for Pre-Prep) spoke to the children about this and we all reflected on the words of Aesop, *"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."* We want our children to sprinkle kindness like confetti, whether that is in the community to help those around us, or to the environment to help our world, or ensuring we are being kind and positive with ourselves!

Tied to this, we look ahead to next week where we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week in school. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 14th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique - so don't forget to wear your maddest mismatched socks on Monday! The theme of the week this year is "Reach Out" and much like the message on World Kindness Day, we will remind everyone, whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need.

We held our second Open Morning of the year for prospective parents on Tuesday, and there was a record attendance. We were delighted with the positive feedback from those who toured the School. They commented on how impressive the pupils were around school, with special mention

to the Year 6 tour guides, and how welcoming the ethos was. It is always so satisfying to hear what we know our school to be: a friendly, open school where children maximise their potential to achieve the best of their ability. As always, I am so grateful to Mrs Jeffery, who manages the administration behind these mornings with her quintessential good humour, charm and slickness - definitely someone who embodies the message of World Kindness Day everyday. It would seem that our school name is really getting out there, and we hope to continue this trend. As I have always said, you, as current parents, are our best ambassadors, so if you feel

you can, please do continue a Google review on our school. You can do so using the following link. Thank you in advance for doing this:

<https://g.page/r/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAg/review>

Today, I was so impressed with all of our pupils, especially our Reception classes, who showed great respect as we explored and showed our thanks for the service of those past and present during our Remembrance Assembly.

It is so important that we recognise the sacrifice that was made and the tremendous cost to many people for our freedom, as well as how the actions of the armed forces have an effect on us today. Remembering to say thank you is not only important around Remembrance Day; it is a habit to develop in life. 'Thank you' is just two words, but those two words can bring life to someone.

Finally, on our theme of kindness and gratitude, which seems to permeate through my letter this week, I have been so delighted with all the cards and emails I have received from our visitors, last week, at our Grandparents' Teas. I have tried to reply to most, but please do pass on my sincerest thanks for all the kind words I have received to your relatives, if they attended. This event is definitely something which will become a staple in our calendar in coming years!

Have a restful weekend, and I look forward to hopefully seeing an array of colour clashing socks on Monday!

Mr Carter

Head



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School Council

On Monday, we held our second School Council Meeting of the term co-chaired by our Deputy Head of School, Evie, and the minuted by Lexi, our Head of School.

In addition to reviewing points raised previously, each representative brought their class's idea about the sponsored event they'd like to do to raise money for our annual children's charity, which we are voting on in the next few weeks.

These are listed below:



Reception: celebrate our 100th day at school - 100 activities of something, e.g. jog on the spot for 100 seconds in the Spring Term

Year 1: 10 star jumps each day in the Summer Term

Year 2: 10 star jumps each day in the Summer Term

Year 3: a sponsored skip (for the British Heart Foundation as well) in the Spring Term

4MD: a sponsored bake sale in the Spring or Summer Term

4H: a sponsored book read in the Spring Term

Year 5: a sponsored car wash in the Spring or Summer Term

Year 6: an hour exercise session in the Spring or Summer Term

We look forward to giving you further information around these events and reporting back once they have taken place.

Finally, the School Council discussed our initiative



to encourage our school community to 'Save Electricity'. It was decided that the representatives would make posters for their classrooms and around the school.

Upcoming Dates

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the our Christmas music and drama events in December. Information has been emailed separately to relevant groups, but here is a round-up of the dates for your diaries:

- **Friday 18th November (13:15-16:45)** - Do join us for a Parent Social in the Hall, where there will be drinks, and an opportunity to come and see the new library and trim-trail on the Prep Playground.
- **Friday 25th November** - Mufti Day for pupils to bring in donations for the tombola.
- **Thursday 1st December 2pm** - whole school Carol Service at St. George's Church, Beckenham involving children from Reception upwards.
- **Friday 2nd December 11am** - Preschool Christmas concert.
- **Wednesday 7th December** - Pre-Prep Nativity plays (9.15 am 'East' group, 11am 'West' group).
- **Thursday 8th December** - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch in school
- **Friday 9th December (12:00)** - Panto trip for pupils - pupils not attending will be attended to at school.
- **Monday 12th December (15:15-17:30)** - Christmas Fair.
- **Tuesday 13th December** - Term ends between 11:30-12:00.

Science Week (13th-17th March)

In the Spring Term, we will be having a Science Week, aiming to engage and inspire pupils with science, engineering and technology. We are looking for any parent or relative in our school community, who works in a STEM based industry, who would be willing to come and talk about their profession during our week. If you are interested, please email: mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk FAO Mrs Morris/Miss Rule.

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Weekly E-Safety Tip

YouTube, what is the risk?

This week, we take a look at the risks of using YouTube at home or in the classroom. In School, we use Viewpure to remove adverts and to stop unwanted videos playing automatically on YouTube, but why?

Watching: YouTube has hundreds of thousands of videos that cover all kinds of content. Once you have finished watching a video, YouTube will automatically suggest other videos to watch and some of these may play automatically meaning you no longer have control of what is being watched. Even with YouTube placing age restrictions on certain content, there is no guarantee that content suggested is suitable.

Posting your own video: The age limit for posting content is 13+ and requires setting up an account. However this is a simple process, and misquoting your age is hardly a new trick. So what is the risk? Inexperienced users could put themselves at risk by divulging personal information, For example, filming a video where they are wearing their school uniform. They also might feel pressure to compete with friends or other influencers/YouTubers they follow. This could negatively affect their wellbeing.

Livestream: There is no way of filtering the content of a livestream, so this presents a real-time risk as there is no way to watch beforehand or be discerning over the appropriateness of the video. Therefore there is a risk of children coming into contact with content they find upsetting or confusing. While accounts can be set to private for subscribers to watch a livestream, they can also be public for anyone to watch. There is another risk associated with the livestream in that a computer may be left connected to the stream and any actions are still publicly visible.

Subscriptions: These are intended to notify users when new content is posted, but again there is no guarantee of appropriateness even with a usually trusted source. There is also a risk of receiving unwanted contact from another subscriber.

Comments: With no private messaging function there is risk associated with the content of other people's comments and a child may easily come across inappropriate language or themes.



ECHO Clubs

Monopoly (Pre-Prep)

The children in Pre-Prep have been enjoying learning all about the rules and strategies of playing Monopoly. They have been practising their counting and mental maths skills and thinking about budgeting their cash. We definitely have some budding property magnates at St Christopher's!



Nature Club (Prep)

We were excited to receive our new cohort of 'Nature Clubbers' this half term.

This week we discussed all the wonderful signs that give Autumn its character as a season. We went outside to collect Autumn leaves from the playground and then created some wonderful leaf print patterns and pictures.



SCAMPS

We are still looking for someone to join the SCAMPS team, as an occasional SCAMPS Assistant before and after school. If this appeals to you, or perhaps you know someone who would be great at this, there is a job description and application form on our website:

<https://www.stchristophersthehall.org.uk/careers>

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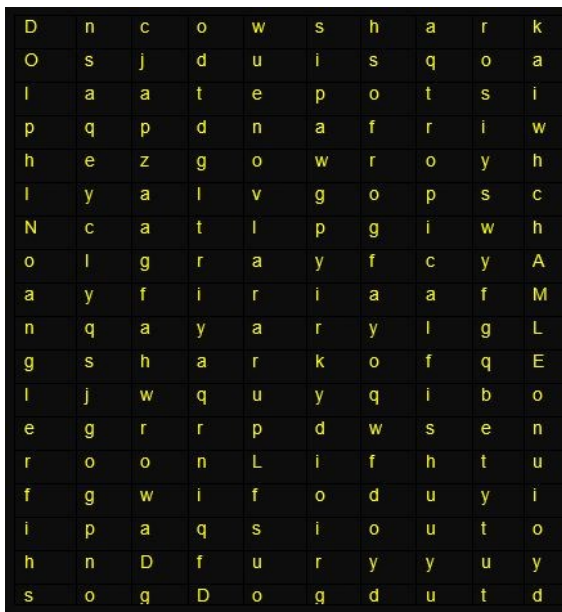
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Computer Puzzle Club

In their Wednesday clubs, some children have been creating puzzles and games with Mr Jacob. 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!

Word Search by Nico (5L)



Answers: Cow, shark, snail, tropical, fish, chameleon, shark, cat, anglerfish, frog, dolphin, dog

Year 1

In Year 1, we are learning about our local area. We also have a lovely class teddy, called Ted! Ted has a Travelling Journal and, every evening, Ted goes home with one of the Year 1 children, who writes in his journal, telling us what exciting things he has done and where he has travelled to. He has been on several visits so far and Year 1 have loved taking him home and have taken very good care of him.



SCA Update

We are over the moon to confirm The Taste of Harmony recipe books will be distributed in the next 3 weeks. After many hurdles, we are nearly there and we hope you will enjoy the book.

On Friday 25 November, the children are welcome to wear their own clothes to help the SCA collect donations for the children's tombola. The SCA will be at the gate during drop off to collect your donations - examples include new or pre-loved, age appropriate, toys, games, books, unwanted gifts.



If you prefer to make a cash donation it would be gratefully received and will be used to buy prizes. Please remember we are a nut free school and do ensure your children are dressed comfortably if they have sports on Friday. Thank you in advance.

If any of you would like to sponsor a stall or donate a prize for our ever popular Christmas Raffle please do let us know at stchristophersassociation@gmail.com.

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 14th November**
- U9 V Colfes (Rugby) (15:15-16:45)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 15th November**
- Yr 5/6 Bromley Schools Swimming Gala (09:00-10:30)
- U11 v Colfes (Rugby) (15:15-16:45)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 16th November**
- U11 ISA Girls Hockey (Lee Valley) (all day)
- U11 Football Tournament @ Bishop Challoner (09:30-12:00)
- 🔔 **Friday 18th November**
- Year 4 Art Workshop (all day)
- U10 V Colfes (Rugby) (15:15-16:45)