

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Our school is a really friendly place, and we always strive to help pupils navigate friendships and the occasional, inevitable fallings-out, successfully. This comes from our strong pastoral care as well as specifically educating children on how

to manage their emotions and respond appropriately to the emotions of others. Emotional intelligence is just as important as their academic success; it enables pupils to have positive interactions with others, to anticipate their feelings and to experience appropriate levels of empathy. Just like any other form of teaching, early experiences and education can help our pupils master the fine art of relating to other people! Our PSHE lessons are very much part of this, and this week, was reinforced during Anti-Bullying Week. On Monday, we all wore odd socks to mark the start of this special week to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! Mrs Rudge led our Anti-Bullying assembly where there was a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our school community. The theme of the week was 'Reach Out' which aimed to encourage children to speak out about bullying. Whether this is speaking out to a trusted adult or reaching out to another person who is being bullied; if we can challenge bullying we can change it.

This evening, the BBC will host their annual Children in Need event. I spoke to the children in assembly about the important work this charity does and how we can help. Tonight on TV, the BBC will host 'The Great SPOTacular Appeal' where everyone is being encouraged to be SPOTacular with lots of fun ways to raise money. This might mean baking spotty cupcakes, wearing a spotty outfit, painting spots on your nails, or putting your skills to the test with a fun on-the-spot challenge. In school, we have been thinking about charities and events we can hold; however, it may be that your child feels inspired to do something independently to support children less fortunate than themselves, as all children deserve a healthy, happy life. If they do, please let me know.

Our Parent Social is this afternoon, and by the time this newsletter is sent out, I hope there will be parents in school, enjoying socialising with each other, and viewing our new Library and trim-trail on the Prep playground. I hope you like the new spaces as much as your children do, and I want to thank the SCA, and you, as the parent body, for your fundraising efforts to allow these improvements to happen.

Finally, after watching a little of the Pre-Prep rehearsing the Nativity, this week, I have been giving some thought to our upcoming Christmas festivities (it's never too early to start getting excited about Christmas!). Our Christmas tree is due

to arrive next week (along with a new garland for the staircase!) and, this year, we will continue the tradition we started last year where all the pupils were involved in decorating the tree, to mark the start of the Christmas season. Last year, all pupils brought in a labelled Christmas tree decoration of their choice, to place on the tree, and then each class was given time to decorate a section of the tree, with their own decorations. If you are new to the School this year, please help your child choose a decoration and bring it into school. Make



sure it is labelled with his/her name. It will be wonderful to see a range of baubles, bells, stockings and other Christmas figures. However, the decorations do not need to be too elaborate or expensive - please do avoid sending in family heirlooms or precious items! Each class teacher has their class's decorations, but we appear to be missing some, or they may not have been named, so the class teachers may be asking some pupils to bring a new one into school to give to them for safe-keeping until their class time to decorate the tree. Last year, it was so lovely to watch the children decorate the tree, and I hope this will mean that every child will feel part of the festive merriment.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Carter

Head

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Pupil Achievement

This week, we are delighted to report on quite a few success stories outside of school from our pupils:

Bella Watson (6C) has recently taken up golf outside of school. She is a member of Langley Park Golf club and has been taking part in 18 hole Stableford competitions, which she won. She has been invited to train with the Kent Squad. Bella's biggest achievement has been winning the Sarah German Shield 2022 36 hole stroke play. She is the first girl to ever win this Trophy. Great effort, Bella.



Mila Poulton (6C) took part in Beckenham Music Festival on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of November, playing in the Strings classes with both Cello and Violin. For the "Strings Grade 5 & 6" class, Mila won first prize.

Sid Sethi (4H) performed in the Piano Soloist

Grade 2 category over the weekend at the Beckenham Music Festival. We are very proud to share that he received a Bronze medal and an Honours certificate!



Finally, **Adnan Alakan (5R)** has participated

in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. This is a charity, which helps to give children a different insight into Christmas; where essentials like hat, scarf, gloves, socks, toothbrushes and pencils are perhaps things the children don't deem "gifts", Adnan added a cuddly toy, toy car and yo-yo to his box which he hoped would really brighten up the childrens' Christmas.

You and your family may want to join in with this, and if so, you can find the link here:

https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/sem-landing/?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=Ads&utm_campaign=Shoobox+OCC&qclid=EALalQobChMIs6Ph8eSr-wlVo-jtCh1kCQvpEAAAYASAAEgKICfD_BwE



PE and Sport

Croydon High Swimming Gala

All swimmers swam amazingly. We finished 3rd overall with some great swims from a few Year 2 girls, as well as the Prep School team.



ISA Swimming Championships

Congratulations to the whole team who took part in the qualifying round at Beckenham Spa last week. We had some very exciting races and have two swimmers, Ethan Lee and Nicole Martinaityte, who have qualified to represent the South London ISA school swimming team.



Bromley Schools Swimming Championships

Congratulations to the whole team who swam at the Spa on Tuesday 15th November. There were some amazing swims ensuring that St Christopher's were the overall winners.

Merton Court Cross Country

Well done to all the Cross Country runners. It was great fun running as a relay team in some very muddy conditions. Great team effort.



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ECHO

Construction (Pre-Prep): In construction club, we use different materials each week to build 'a construction' - bridges with pegs and lolly sticks, cubes with spaghetti and play dough, mazes with box lids and straws. The picture is our club building a tower with newspaper and deciding how best to reinforce it to make it as tall as possible.



Newspaper Club (Prep) -

This half-term, some articles for our school newsletter will be written by our newsletter club, who go by JEYMs, (Journalism Education for Young Minds). The name was put forward by one of our young journalists. Below, our budding writers introduce themselves:

Shemaya - I joined JEYMs because I write with great relish and feel honoured to be able to grace our school newsletter with the great activities we have here at St Christopher's. This is a great opportunity to integrate with my fellow young journalists, and intelligent minds, and Mrs Moorley and Mr Carter.

Lexi - I joined JEYMs because I take great pleasure and interest in writing articles, diaries and stories. I really look forward to collaborating ideas with my peers.

Giles - I joined JEYMs because I adore English and writing any form of document whatsoever, a debate to a diary, a narrative to a novel, and a dystopia to a drama. I really wanted to be a part of this journalism club, and help inform others on the occurrences all around the school, and I knew that I would enjoy playing a key role in doing so.

Ellemie - I came to the newsletter club because I love writing and coming up with ideas for the school.

Ady - I came to the newsletter club because I LOVE creative writing and English. I also came here because I would like to interview others and help build this School.



Year 5

In Science this term, Year 5 are learning all about Earth and Space. This week, they have been learning about the Solar System and how the planets orbit the sun. In pairs, the pupils created their own Solar System model showing the size of each planet and its distance from the sun. The children also developed their mathematical skills by using a compass to create the orbits.

"I really enjoyed learning about the solar system in a creative way. I have learned the names and order of the planets." **Lottie 5R**

"I enjoyed making the model and working as part of a team. I improved my knowledge of the solar system and I look forward to seeing them displayed in our classroom".

Matteus 5L

Year 5 have really enjoyed linking their English text 'Hidden Figures' to this topic.



Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about Hinduism in R.E. They have focussed on Diwali and enjoyed learning about Rama and Sita. Today, they got creative and made Rangoli patterns out of autumn leaves!



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Weekly E-Safety Tip:

Six ways to make YouTube safer to use for children, from the NSPCC.

Safety settings and features on YouTube

Supervised Experience

A supervised experience YouTube account is available for under 13s with a Google account managed by Family Link. This can help manage how they use the app.

This will give you access to content settings and parental controls to help you manage what channels they can subscribe to and how long they spend on the app.

Restricted Mode

This helps to filter out inappropriate videos. However, it's not 100% effective due to the volume of videos on the platform. To enable this feature go to 'Settings'. Click the drop down menu at the bottom of the screen and select 'Restricted Mode: Off'. Change the option to 'On' and press 'Save'.

Custom password

You can set up a custom passcode to stop your child from accessing your parental controls and making changes. To do this, tap the lock icon, and choose 'Set my own passcode'.

Set videos to private

If your child posts their own videos on YouTube you might want to speak to them about setting the content they upload to private so only their subscribers or followers can view their videos. Remember

to talk to your child about who is allowed to follow or subscribe to their channel.

To do this you need to go to 'Library' and select 'Your Videos'. Then select 'More' and 'Visibility'. You can then choose from the following options:

Public – everyone, including those who don't have a YouTube account, can see the video.

Private – only subscribers can watch.

Unlisted – this makes the video private so no one can see it unless they have a direct link to the clip.

Auto-play

Auto-play stops videos from automatically playing after one has ended. This will stop your child from watching videos suggested to them by the app.

To turn this on, go to the watch screen on any video. Then tap the auto-play switch so it says 'Off'.

Create playlists

You can create playlists on YouTube to help manage the videos your child can watch. We recommend watching videos before your child does to make sure they're appropriate and then adding them to a new playlist. To add a video to a playlist select 'Save' at the bottom of the video you want to add. Select the playlist you want to add it to or choose 'create new playlist'.



Social Media

We now have over 400 followers on Instagram! There is always lots of interesting content about our week in school, so if you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story! You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on Insta and Twitter, as well at [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life!



What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 21st November**
 - U8 V Eltham College (Rugby) (14:30-15:30)
- Tuesday 22nd November**
 - U11 v Colfes (Netball) (14:30-15:30)
- Thursday 24th November**
 - Open Morning for current Pre-Prep Parents (8:15-8:45)
- Friday 25th November**
 - Own Clothes Day for pupils - donate an item for the Christmas Tombola
 - Open Morning for current Prep Parents (8:15-8:45)