

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

At our school, we believe that a good parent-school partnership is one of the best ways to support children's learning, development and wellbeing. Therefore, we were delighted to welcome Pre-Prep parents into school on Thursday, and Preschool and Prep parents on Friday to spend time with their son or daughter in class and see their work from this term. Thank you to those who came in to join us, and we hope you enjoyed it, and it served to highlight your child's positive achievements.

The end of the Autumn term always signals the time when Year 6 begins the 11+ exam period. Some exams and interviews have started already, and I wanted to express how very proud I am of these pupils. I have enjoyed listening to them this week, during some of our mock interview sessions, and I know they will be brilliant when they go to the various exams and interviews over this month and next. They have all worked so hard over this term, under the watchful eye of Mr Chowdhury, and I have seen such good progress from each and every one of them. Their dedication and commitment has been inspirational and set the bar very high for year groups who are yet to come! Year 6 parents will already know this, but they are all fabulous. Stay calm, Year 6, and remember that this is your time to shine! I, and all of us here at St Christopher's, wish them all the luck in the world.

Speaking of the end of the Autumn Term, the Christmas spirit is ever advancing at school! This week, our Christmas tree arrived, and the pupils were all very excited to see it standing in pride of place outside my office. We have adorned it with lights and now it is ready and waiting for classes to come and add their decorations next week. I was reading this week that including a real Christmas tree in your home can work wonders for your wellbeing. Apparently, according to studies, humans have greater positive responses to a real tree than fake artificial ones; just the wonderful pine smell of your Christmas tree can calm your nerves and allow you to feel relaxed at one of the busiest times of the year. It would seem that it is nature's gift to us! Therefore, I am hoping we will all be tranquil

and calm in the final few weeks before the Christmas holidays.

Continuing the Christmas vibe, we had our "Own Clothes Day" today, in exchange for a tombola prize donation, and I am so thankful for your contributions for this stall at the Christmas Fair. Whilst I do feel that a school uniform helps to build a sense of community among pupils, by promoting inclusivity, confidence, and belonging, it was lovely to also see the pupils come in wearing their own clothes today. These occasions always give an opportunity to get further insight into each pupil's unique personality through the clothing they select, and from talking to pupils in class earlier this week, I know they were excited about being able to wear what they wanted!

I do hope you enjoy the weekend, but before I sign off, I wanted to make a strange request(!) - if anyone has a trumpet (I did have to have this explained to me what one was!) that they do not use at home any more, and they would consider donating, we could very much use one in school. Thank you to anyone who can help!

Best wishes,

Mr Carter

Head



What's Happening Next Week

-  **Monday 28th November**
- U8 V Merton Court, Rugby (15:40-16:30)
-  **Tuesday 29th November**
- U10 The Royal Russell, Netball (16.00—17.00)
-  **Thursday 1st December**
- Carol Service at St George's Church (14:00-15:30)
-  **Friday 2nd December**
- Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
- Preschool Concert and tea and coffee afterwards for parents(11:00-12:00)
- Selected Year 3-6 v Farringtons (Cross Country) (13:00-15:00)



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Pupil Achievement

Toby and Hugo (both 2J) represented Beckenham Rugby Club's U7 team in the Henry Dowswell Festival of Mini Rugby in Sidcup on Sunday. Both boys played very well scoring several tries for their team.



Max and Anaiya (Year 2) took part in the Beckenham Festival over the weekend. They both won bronze in different classes; Max in the Grade 1 class and Anaiya in the Piano Recital Age 6 and under.

Well done to all - we're very proud of you. .



Weekly E-Safety Tip

This week, we are looking at online messaging groups that children use. Do you know what a "kick" is? Watch this video from London Grid for Learning to find out, and also find out about how children can be upset by what happens in messaging groups when others do not behave responsibly.

<https://lgfl.planetestream.com/View.aspx?id=872~3E~OC9amf>

You may want to share it with your child.

SCA

A reminder, "St Chris In The Hall" (this year's title of the Christmas Fair) will take place on Monday 12 December from 15.15-17.30. With food, games and our ever popular raffle, we can't wait to see you there. There will be no entry fee this year, but currency will be pre-sold next week, along with Grotto bookings.

Thank you also for your very generous donations this morning. We will have some very happy children on the 12th.

Preschool

This week in Preschool, we are continuing to think about our topic 'Light and Dark'. Lots of the celebrations we have been learning about include different types of light. We made Diva lights when we were talking about Diwali, and Menorahs when we were talking about Hanukkah.

We have also been thinking about the kind of lights we have at Christmas and we have made some stained glass candles using tissue paper.



Year 4

In Art, Year 4 has been learning all about the sculptor, Barbara Hepworth. We have looked at her work and learnt how she used shape, light and perspective to create her pieces.



Last Friday, we had a great workshop creating our own sculptures. We hope you like them!



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ECHO

Outdoor Explorers (Pre-Prep)

The pupils have been busy adding to their Nature Journals each week. The children love being outside and letting nature ignite their creative spark! Here are some photos of their animal-inspired nature collages.



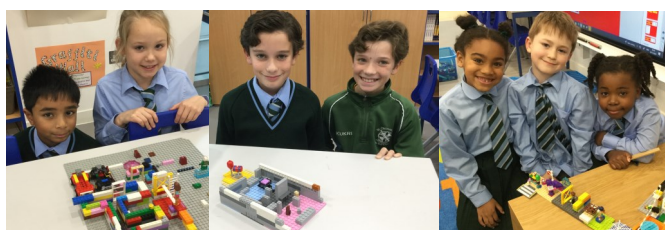
Lego (Prep)

This week, in Lego Club, the children have been building obstacle courses. At the start of the session, we discussed what might make a creative and challenging obstacle course. The children worked in groups to create a successful structure using their teamwork and creativity.

"This session has been amazing! I used the new Prep Trim Trail to inspire my obstacle design." **Egypt 3A**

"I worked closely and collaboratively with my brother to design an obstacle course themed escape room." **Zac 6C**

"Today I built a challenging obstacle course using teamwork skills. I was adaptable when I was listening to my partner's ideas." **Preyenthen 4MD**



Street Art (Prep)

At the beginning of this half-term, we welcomed a new group of excited children to our popular Street Art Club. They began by learning about the difference between graffiti and street art and looked at examples of some famous artists such as Banksy, Blek le Rat and Keith Haring. They were then set the challenge of coming up with their own bold and unique 'tag' that was something personal to them - a few of their examples included Kaotic, Tanix, Chips and Biscuit. Using the tracing paper technique, they transferred their tags to their folders and also experimented with improving their designs by using lettering from online graffiti websites. The children then explored some pieces of work from the prolific street artist Invader and created an 'Invader-style' design of their own. Here are some of the comments made by the children about what they have enjoyed so far:

Digby Harman (6C): *"I like Street Art Club because I enjoy looking at different styles of Art. In today's lesson, I explored different fonts online and traced over the ones that I liked the best to improve the styling of my own tag."*

Charles Doble (5L): *"I really enjoyed creating my tag using the tracing paper, and I also liked using the website Graffiti Empire to look at different lettering."*

Isaac Smith (4MD): *"It's been really fun to design our own tags because we've been able to choose our own lettering and colour our tags using Mr Chowdhury's cool pens!"*

Melody Lindsey (6C): *"I like Street Art Club because it's so creative and it's generally really fun!"*

