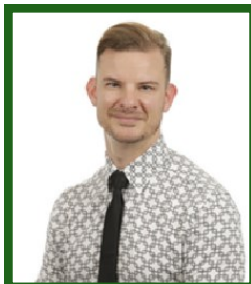


Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The last few weeks of the Autumn Term are always packed to the rafters in any school, and this week it has really felt that we have entered the Christmas season!

I mentioned last week that our Christmas tree had arrived, and it now looks spectacular, adorned with all of the pupils' decorations. I know the pupils in 2J had been particularly excited about bringing their decoration and placing it on the tree - so excited in fact, that every day they came to ask me when they were coming to do this. I hope that they enjoyed their Thursday slot when they finally got to choose the branch on which to hang their bauble!

Our annual School Carol Service was held at St George's Church, on Thursday, and I challenge anyone who left not feeling the yuletide spirit after Christmas carols and festive readings! Thank you to our talented pupils, and to the staff, especially Mrs Gay, Miss Wooderson and Mrs Paulides for the hard work in getting everything ready for this event. We were delighted to be able to share this with you, as parents, and hope you enjoyed it!

More festive fun followed today at our Preschool Concert. For many parents, I know this would have been a highly anticipated event where they get to watch their child up on stage for the first time. Our Preschool children did not disappoint with an energetic show filled with dancing and singing. Thank you, again, to Mrs Gay and Miss Wooderson, as well as to all the dedicated Preschool teachers and TAs for the hard work, enthusiasm and creativity throughout the year.

Year 3 were transported to Ancient Egypt today, and they arrived in school dressed up in their best Egyptian outfits in preparation for their day of learning. It was a wonder to see them all coming into school; they all looked amazing - what a creative bunch of parents you are to help them with this! These themed days are important as they help

to raise the profile of a subject, they give pupils the chance to experience something different within the school day, and most importantly, they are a lot of fun. I hope our budding Cleopatras and Tutankhamuns enjoyed it and came home filled with stories of their adventures throughout the day!

Next week, Monday and Tuesday evenings are our Parents' Meetings, and we hope they are meaningful opportunities to meet your child's teacher(s), to find out what your child is doing at school, and how they are getting on. I am keen to ensure that these meetings have a holistic ethos and culture. We want to give parents the broadest picture, avoiding viewing learning through a narrow lens of one aspect or assessment. Please do remember that pupils learn at different rates; there will be years where they make leaps forward and other years where they consolidate their learning. It will be different for all pupils, and you should avoid trying to compare year to year, with other children, or labelling your child. Additionally, if your child is "Working Towards" the expected standard, this is not necessarily a cause for concern, especially as there is still more than half a year of teaching to go. If we have any concerns, these will most certainly be flagged up with you and addressed as to how we are supporting your child.



Finally, I have some sad news for us as a school; Miss M Atkinson will be leaving at Easter, having been appointed by Croydon High to manage their Prep PE. I am so delighted for her, as she is so very deserving, but our school will miss her energy and expertise, and I will miss her good humour and her ability to be such a great team player. I am working with Mr Myatt, Miss Atkinson and Miss Steeden to ensure our Sport provision is still as strong as ever for the Summer term, and beyond.

See you next week for our final **full** week of the term (but not forgetting those final two days on the 12th and 13th!)

Mr Carter

Head

Newsletter

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Year 6

Year 6 have created amazing poems based on their learning in English and Humanities about war and the impact it has on our lives and that of our forefathers.

They studied the works of Wilfred Owen, John McCrae and Siegfried Sasson (to name a few), and explored the lives of many others who have responded to the call to defend their country and the lives of others. The debates had by the children, as to whether it 'is fitting and sweet to die for one's country' (Dulce et Decorum Est), was approached with sensitivity and tact, with the children sharing empowering moments of empathy and understanding with those who have gone to war to defend civil liberties - from World War 1 to the current conflict in the Ukraine.

The children said this about their learning:

Shemaya - *'I found our endeavour in the history of World War 1 impactful as we got to learn of the abhorrent experiences in the trenches and the soldiers' mental strife'*

William, Calum, Ethan and Caelen - *'I have had a very interesting experience learning about war. It has been an eye opening experience which gave me a better idea about how soldiers lived and had to survive'*

Here are some extracts from a few poems:

I run trying to stay on track
But I have to keep watching my back
I wish I never came here
But there's no going back

THE FIELD OF DEATH
Bang, Boom, Crack!
Fire roared and raged fiercely across the smokey field
Through the thick dark fog I witnessed my friend, wounded
I started to cry, rivers of tears streaming from both eyes.

All we live on is meagre rations.
Our stomachs call out for proper meals. The madness of odour can not be removed. It lingers through the air, like smoke from chimneys and it follows me every where I go.

Year 1

Year 1 have been looking at the work of Piet Mondrian and tried to emulate his work using primary colours and lines.

His 'Boogie Woogie' paintings using yellow for the lines and painting the primary colours on top were very inspirational and Year 1 have created their own interpretations of his work.



Carol Singing

The Senior Choir will be carol-singing at St. George's Church for a public community event on **Monday 12th December at 11.30am**, for about half an hour. Friends and family are very welcome to come and join us!

The Senior Choir will also be singing at the opening of the School Christmas Fair in the afternoon on the 12th.

Penny Post

Our Penny Post, where pupils can send Christmas cards to other members of the school community, starts next week. Year 6 children will be in the Main Hall from 8.15-8.30am to receive and stamp cards. For any cards your child would like to send, please ensure that the name of the child and the class is clearly visible on the envelope and send your child in with 1p per card.

What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 5th December**
 - U8/9 v Farringtons (Rugby) (14:30-15:30)
 - Rec-Year 6 Parents' Meetings (15:00-18:00)
- Tuesday 6th December**
 - Rec-Year 6 Parents' Meetings (15:00-18:00)
- Wednesday 7th December**
 - Nativity Performance (East cast) (09:15-10:45)
 - Nativity Performance (West cast) (09:15-10:45)
- Thursday 8th December**
 - Music Exams (all day)
 - Gordon The Magician Show (Preschool) (11:00-12:30)
- Friday 2nd December**
 - SCA Panto Trip for pupils (leaving from school at 12:00)

Newsletter

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ECHO

Puzzle (Pre-Prep)

We have had a go at all sorts of puzzles and some have needed some keen problem solving skills.



We started off looking at large piece puzzles of things like pirates and houses:



Then we looked at Tangrams and the different shapes we could make out of the seven puzzle pieces. Can you turn this into a cat?

Finally we had a go at creating our own Tangrams, and made some fantastic shapes like scorpions, cats and a kangaroo!



Mindfulness (Prep)

This week, the children created their own life-sized chalk drawings on the Pre-Prep playground. They worked individually or in groups to create a scene of their choice using chalk and their wonderful imaginations! We then 'put them inside their drawings', by taking birds-eye view photographs of them. This was a fantastic form of mindfulness, creativity, art therapy and fun! The Pre-Prep children have also been able to enjoy these large drawings, and have been seen playing 'inside' the drawings as well. Well done Mindfulness club - beautiful work.



Arthur (3P) - *"I liked it when we got to lie down into the art - it looked so real! I also enjoyed working with my partner, Ashton, we had so much fun!"*

Poppy, Lily (4H) & Miraya (4MD) - *"We loved that we could be free and ambitious with what we created. We also enjoyed working with our friends. The photos looked amazing!"*

Weekly E-Safety Tip

This week, we are focusing on the downloadable apps that children may use. The issue is not with app design itself, but with how people use it. People (especially children) are extremely inquisitive and will find a way to deconstruct and rebuild or subvert obstacles in their way, which is fantastic for our future programmers. However, this means that a previously innocent function of an app may be re-purposed by those wanting to do harm. An example of this was the recent Snapchat update that creates a physical map showing where all of your "friends" are. This feature can be disabled. Other apps may not appear to be what they are. Apps such as Bigo and Monkey have very child friendly logos but their basis is to connect the user to a random stranger to video chat with. Obviously far from ideal for a child especially if unsupervised. Nobody can 100% guarantee online safety but the best tool is knowledge. Try every app your child uses or wants to use and think about the functions it contains Vs suitability, and install parental controls on your systems.

On another note, we have been made aware from Key Stage 3 Schools of a particularly nasty video being circulated via electronic devices and/or being shared or viewed, from peer to peer. Due to the digital nature of this material, it can be shared across multiple platforms extremely quickly, therefore we are unable to specify which platform it may be on. The current advice coming from the Metropolitan Police is to check your child's devices as soon as possible, be vigilant, and to contact the DSL and/or local authorities if inappropriate material is discovered -we thought this might be particularly relevant for Parents of pupils in Year 5 and 6.

