Weekly news at St Christopher's





Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday. The children seem to have all returned with smiling faces, invigorated by holiday celebrations and eager to be at school! Likewise, I hope you all feel refreshed, renewed, and ready to start the cal-

endar year with positive energy.

A new year often signals "New Year, New Me" plans, and we have been considering exciting ways to begin the new year at school. This week, in assembly, we pinpointed two things that we, as a whole school, are going to work on as our school New Year's Resolutions: **uniform, and independence.**

The children know how important I think it is to look smart and presentable, and they tend to tuck their shirts in quickly if they see me coming! Uniform is important in schools for many reasons, not least because:

- It provides a level playing field and removes any deliberations about what to wear, allowing for greater group cohesion, and as a result, a clear message of equality. At our school, I made sure that we introduced trousers for girls, as this is an important part of this equality, showing that all children regardless of gender, socioeconomic background, or otherwise are all the same and come from the same starting point.
- It gives a sense of group identity, to feel part of something bigger than themselves. It helps children recognise the value of working together towards a common goal rather than focusing on their individual objectives.
- It encourages pupils to learn the importance of dressing for success. There is a school of thought which says it contributes to pupils having a positive attitude and behaviour in school. As pupils develop an association between their uniform and learning, simply putting on their uniform helps a child get into the right mindset, preparing them for a day of working hard and being focused.

Therefore, pupils should have the correct uniform on (this includes hair being tied back if it is shoulder length, and with the school colours for hairbands etc., as well as proper school shoes and not trainers), and always look tidy and presentable.

This is all the more important, as there are days when pupils are in sports kits all day, so, on the days they are wearing uniform, teachers will be on the lookout to find really good examples of wearing a uniform with pride and reward them with merits! Both Mrs Chamadia and Miss Rule as Head of Pre-Prep, Head and Prep respectively, will be writing to parents about our expectations.

Independence is our second focus. We are working on a number of things in school to promote and reward this, and we would like your help to continue this at home. Here are some simple things that the pupils came up with in assembly that they could do to become more independent at home:

- Take responsibility for packing their own bag for the next day;
- Manage their homework, as far as possible by themselves;
- Being responsible for their bedroom;
- Try to have a go at resolving their own conflicts: a huge part of being an independent adult is learning to deal with people and managing interactions

and relationships with them;

• Make sure they are accountable for their actions.

We know that our pupils will make mistakes, and we must let this happen. It may seem counterintuitive at first, but this will teach them how to succeed in life. When they make a mistake, we must let them know it is OK, but also help them brainstorm

how they might do better next time. This mind shift can guide anything from small mistakes, like choosing not to bring an umbrella when the forecast calls for rain, to larger ones, like not managing the homework as they decided to wait until the night before to do it. It's hard to see your child struggle, but in school we try to teach them that failure is just feedback, it helps develop a growth mindset, and with that mindset, they will be able to overcome any struggle confidently.

Before I sign off this week, a thank you to those who took the time to complete the Parent Survey. We will be looking at the outcomes over the next few weeks, and will be taking on board your feedback to look how we can be even better.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr Carter

Head



Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pre-Prep

It has been fantastic to welcome the Pre-Prep children back to school after the Festive break and to hear all their news. We have an exciting term ahead of us, with class trips, author visits, workshops and more. We are also looking forward to starting a new term of ECHO clubs, giving the Pre-Prep children more opportunities to enhance their learning and try one of the different clubs on offer.

Mrs Chamadia

Head of Pre-Prep





Prep School

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back.

All the Prep School children have returned to their classes with enthusiasm, renewed energy and determination to have a happy and successful Spring Term.

We are looking forward to all the engaging topics, trips and workshops coming up this term as well as new and exciting ECHO clubs which will be starting next week.

This term, we are continuing to drive forward all of our Character Values with a real focus on independence. We are also encouraging children to take pride in their appearance and being responsible for their uniform.

St Christopher's are also delighted to begin our new PALS initiative between the Pre Prep and Prep school which will launch in the next few weeks.

We look forward to another wonderful Term.

Miss Rule

Head of Prep

Emailing teachers

REMINDER: ALL emails to teachers should use the



mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.

Languages Award

We are delighted to inform you that St Christopher's the Hall has successfully met the criteria for the British Council International School Award.

Mrs Dubeck submitted the application last term in order

application last term in order to help us gain recognition for the initiatives that we have put in place since the beginning of the academic year to raise

the profile of languages across the School.

The assessor commented that our application, "...successfully met the criteria for the Internation-



al School Foundation Award. You have provided your pupils with some excellent opportunities to learn new languages, as well as learning aspects of the culture of other countries. You have also been celebrating the range of 'mother' languages that exist within your community".

The award will now serve to give us direction for further projects to help us embed the

importance of respecting and embracing global citizenship.

Watch this space!

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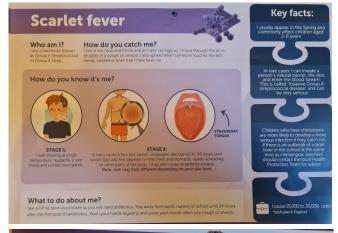


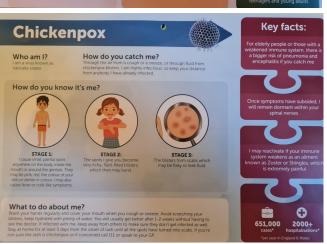
Guidance over illness

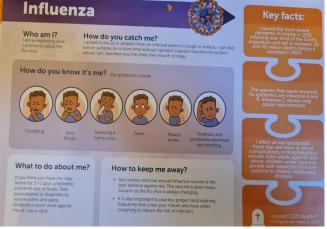
There are many nasty bugs and viruses around at the moment, so we thought it might be useful to give a guide to some of them, with symptoms and treatment. Please note that many of these are transmitted by droplet infection, so please remind your children about hand-washing, disposal of tissues and covering their nose/mouth when sneezing or coughing.

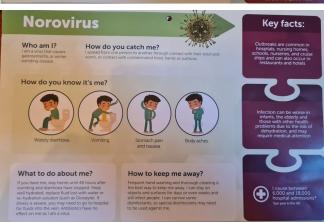
Any child with a viral or bacterial infection, a rash and a temperature **should not attend school**. Nor should they be sent to school if they are feeling poorly. If your child is diagnosed with Strep A, they should not return to School until 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics. However, if they are still unwell after this, they should only return to School when they are well enough. We hope this information is useful.

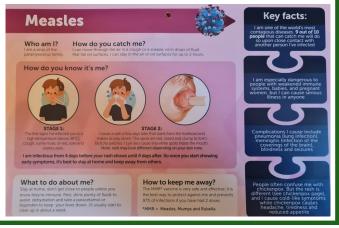












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Pupil success

We are so proud of Nesta, as over the Christmas break he completed the NSPCC 5K 'Walk For Children' & raised an incredible £820 to support children facing abuse. The most impressive part of this is that he truly personified our Character Values with such a challenge! Well done. Nesta!



If any pupils experience success outside of School, we'd love to know about it, so do let Mr Carter know.

ECHO Clubs

As the Spring Term starts, so do our second wave of ECHO clubs. On Wednesday, our pupils chose three options which they were interested in. As this term is shorter, with several Wednesdays interrupted over the course of the term, we will not swap ECHO clubs at half term, and instead, they will run for the whole term.

There are new ECHO options this term, including: designing a mural for the school hall, poetry club, science experiments club, junior coding, and drawing, as well returning favourites from last term, such as table tennis, Lego, and cookery.

As last term, all parents will receive a blurb next week regarding the ECHO club their child will be partaking in.

We know the pupils will enjoy these sessions; they were very popular when we started this initiative last term, with many pupils saying they were the favourite part of their week!

SCA

Huge thank you for all your support at the Christmas Fair. It was a huge success, and worked really well. We can confirm that the overall profit for the fair is a massive £3,008.88 which is an extraordinary amount, and we are very grateful for this.

There will be a number of exciting events running this term, and we will have more information about these upcoming happenings in next week's newsletter.

Uniform Shop

We are very fortunate to have a uniform shop on site.

New uniform can be purchased in person at the shop on Monday 15:30-16:30, Thursday and Friday 08:30-09:30.

Alternatively, items of uniform can be ordered via

uniformshop@stchristoperhsthehall.org.uk. Any items ordered via email will be delivered to the main school office, and you will be informed when they are ready for collection. When you have received the email that says the

items are ready for collection, please may we politely request that you collect said items promptly, as we have had a number of items uncollected which were invoiced for.

Additionally, the second-hand uniform shop, run by the SCA, is open on Friday morning between 08:30-09:30.

What's Happening Next Week

Before/After School Clubs start this week!

- □ Tuesday 17th January
 - Year 6 trip to the Science Museum (all day)
- **△** Friday 20th January
 - U11 Football v Farrington (14:30-15:30)

