

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

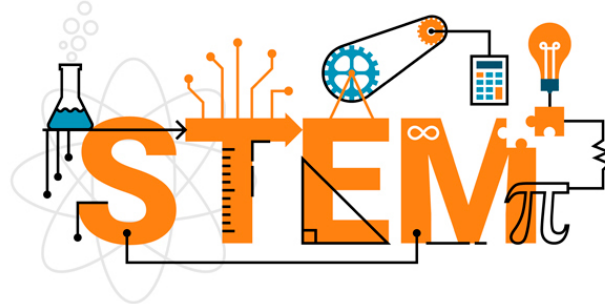
We are always looking to be better and to innovate to provide the best education for our pupils. Schools have a duty to educate for the future because it is highly likely that our current pupils will enter the working world to jobs which haven't yet been

imagined or established!

Therefore, in order to prepare today's children to become the innovators and inventors of tomorrow we need to generate excitement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is one of the new developments we are looking to establish within our school over the next five years. To this end, I am delighted to

announce Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury as our new Heads of STEM. STEM is not a new subject, it really is a way of working and interacting with children. It is not only limited to teaching maths and science; curiosity, inquiry, analysis skills are just some of the lifelong ways of thinking that STEM helps develop. Therefore, Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury will not only be taking care of the Science and Maths curriculum, but more importantly inspire interest and opportunities for our pupils in the STEM field.

To ensure that this is properly embedded within school will obviously take time, but we are already looking at ways to dip our toe into the water and promote enthusiasm and engagement with hands-on practical experiences from the get go. Therefore, this term, we are looking forward to celebrating National Number Day (3rd February - more information below), a science week (13th-17th March - where every subject and lesson will have a link to our science and technology theme over the course of the week), introducing a Design Technology curriculum to complement our Art curriculum in the second part of this term, as well as further opportunities for computer technology across the School. We are also looking to create mini STEM projects and incorporate them into wider subjects as well as into our ECHO time half-termly. We are very excited about the new ven-



ture, and we know the children will benefit hugely over the course of the next few years. If you are interested in this, the following link gives ways that you can get your child to think about STEM at home: <https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/>

This week has been a relatively quiet one by our standards; however, Year 6 did enjoy a day out at the WonderLab at the Science Museum, and travelled by tube to get there which was another way to promote common-sense and independent thinking - you can read more about this below.

I also enjoyed Miss Leaf's assembly on National Winnie the Pooh Day, which took place on January 18th, and commemorates author A.A. Milne's birthday in 1882. The pupils really enjoyed getting to know the origins of these stories, as well as listening to and watching some of

the adorable, honey-loving bear's antics in the Hundred Acre Wood. In fact, the children enjoyed it so much, if you have a free moment at the weekend, why not snuggle up with a pot of honey(!), and take turns reading about the adventures of Winnie the Pooh or watch a Winnie the Pooh movie. You can also read more about this lovable bear in [7 Intriguing Stories About Winnie-The-Pooh](#).



I hope you enjoy the weekend, but as Winnie the Pooh says: "Doing nothing often leads to the very best something." So, whatever you decide to do, I wish you a happy weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



PALs

We have introduced a new 'Wellbeing' initiative: 'PALs'- 'Pupils Always Listen.'

Members of Year 6 were carefully selected via a formal application form and interview as to why they felt suitable for the role. Our Year 6 'PALs' can be identified by their brightly coloured star badge that they now proudly wear on their school uniform.

The role of the PAL is to be available to any member of the school community who needs assistance, either to listen, support or assist with anything.

Our designated 'PALs' day is every Tuesday. At lunchtime playtime (Pre-Prep 1-1.30pm; Prep 1.30-2pm), any pupil who would like to, has the opportunity to visit our beautifully refurbished library for some 'Calm' time; either to listen to a story being read, take part in some mindfulness colouring activities or have a calm chat with a member of the PALs team. The library will also be

open for the Prep School for a 'PALs' session during the first break time on a Tuesday: 11.00-11.20am.

We are looking to grow the roles and responsibilities of the PALs within the school, including Pre-school, as the year progresses.

Watch this space!



Year 6

Year 6 had an amazing time at The Science Museum on Tuesday. The children's new Science topic this term is Electricity and the children had the opportunity to experience a wonderful hands-on experience in the museum's Wonderlab.

Exploring the many practical activities, the children got to create working electrical systems by exploring the circuit boards and trying to solve the challenges at each station. They had hair raising

experiences, controlling the flow of static electricity within a glass vacuum. The key highlight was watching the instructor-led session in which they saw the immense power of the huge Tesla Coil which shot electrons out across the contained space which remotely powered a range of appliances that were in close proximity. The 1,000,000 volts generated had the audience feeling shocked and electrified!

Following lunch, we explored the main museum and looked at the vast array of models and exhibits that came about as a result of the discovery of electricity by Michael Faraday, including personal computers, spacecraft and modern aeroplanes. All in all, the children left with a buzz of excitement and jolt of interest for their future learning.



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



School Council

Our new School Council Representatives were announced today. These pupils were voted by their class for the Spring Term. They will be attending the first Council meeting of the term next Monday. Our representatives for last term will also be joining us on this occasion to 'hand over the baton' to our new members.

This term our focus will be on the organisation and implementation of our class sponsored charity initiatives (further details will follow next week), as well as ideas as to how we can continue to look after our school and help to improve our sustainability with saving electricity and recycling as much as we can.

Congratulations to our Spring Term Representatives:

RO: Scarlett	3P: Emily
RC: Emi	4MD: Isaac
Year 1: Nesta	4H: Lily
2J: Mila-Bleu	5L: Alexis
2O: Anaiya	5R: Maya
3A: Eva	Year 6: Lillie



Number Day 2023

On Friday 3rd February, St Christophers will celebrate the NSPCC's 'Number Day 2023' - Number Day 2023 | NSPCC. As part of the day's celebrations, we are asking the children to 'Dress up as a Digit' in a number themed outfit. We ask that each child makes a minimum donation of £1 which can be given to your child's class teacher. All proceeds will be given to the NSPCC.



Preschool

It has been lovely to be back, after the break, and to hear all the children's news about their Christmas and New Year celebrations. This week, we have been talking about 'The Land of the Dinosaurs'. This is an exciting topic and the children have been sharing lots of ideas about the different dinosaurs, what they looked like, where they lived and what happened to them!



Reception

Reception enjoyed working in their table groups to create a ramp for a flying machine just like the main character of our book, Jabari from the 'Jabari Tries' story. They displayed fantastic teamwork and will be writing a list of the materials they used to build their ramp.



Music and drama dates for your diary!

Please make a note of the following dates - more information will follow by email.

- Thursday 2nd March (14:15): Year 5 and 6 Music concert (including Senior Choir and Orchestra)
- Thursday 23rd March: ABRSM Music exams in school (all day).
- Wednesday 29th March (09:00): Year 3 and 4 Music concert and drama show.

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pupil success

Congratulations to Cian (Year 6), who has recently taken his last curtain call in the final performance of 'Mary Poppins' the musical, at London's Prince Edward Theatre. Cian was cast as Michael Banks last year after a vigorous and highly competitive audition process. Since then, he has juggled school life and performing in his second professional production with adaptability and enthusiasm! Cian describes the experience as 'magical, unforgettable and tiring!' Bravo, Cian, on your incredible achievement.

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



Social Media

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 as @stchristhehallsport to get all the inside info from school life!



SCA

We have some exciting events planned for the term. Details will follow when tickets go on sale, but for now here are some dates for your diary!

- Pre Prep School Disco - Friday 10 February (Reception – Year 2)
- Silent Auction – w/c 20 February
- Parent Quiz Night – Friday 24 February
- Prep School Disco - Friday 10 March (Year 3 – 6)

We are also looking into hosting a Laser Tag event on Saturday 25 March and will be sending a poll through to gauge interest.

Last but not least, we are hopeful that we can install the Path to Play pavers over the Easter holidays. The School will be contacting all new starters to see if they would like to join the scheme and we will distribute the master spreadsheet next week for one last check!

As always, any questions or ideas let us know via stchristophersassociation@gmail.com

E-safety Tip

Keeping children safe in gaming

Since its release in 2017, the battle-royale simulator – Fortnite, has become ubiquitous in classrooms and playgrounds throughout the world. The game, which features cartoonish renderings of characters, bright colours and non-visceral consequence free violence, has had a mass appeal to children. Each Christmas another draft of young pupils are induced into its overcrowded multi-player lobbies, to the point that there are few school pupils in the country who haven't owned it, begged their parents for it or played it round a friend's house. As a result more children than ever are exposed to multi-player chatting with strangers, and financial exploitation via the game's spend-to-gain-advantage operating style. Allowing children to use real world money to gain perks and costumes. From criminal blackmailing, to coercion, the danger this game presents from a safeguarding perspective is real and present.

[Internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) has published a guide to understanding the game and its terms. You can find the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming>

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 23rd January**
 - Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala @ Forest School (13:00-16:00)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 24th January**
 - Year 3 and 4 Swimming Gala @ Forest School (13:00-16:00)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 17th January**
 - U9 Football (mixed) v Farrington (16:00-17:00)
- 🔔 **Friday 27th January**
 - U10 Football (mixed) v Farrington (13:30-15:30)