

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I think, for most of us, our strongest memories from school are not necessarily the time spent in the classroom, studying and learning from a textbook. I imagine that we look back with fondest memories on the excitement of school trips. Days out

on educational trips give pupils the chance to experience life outside the school gates.

From visiting museums, theatres, parks, to religious centres and historical sites, school trips encourage young people to learn and socialise with peers in a completely different way to within the classroom, and are often the experiences they remember most.

Each term, we try to have one workshop in school, and one trip out of school for each year group, and this week we have had quite a few of those trips. On Monday, Year 5 went to the London Transport Museum on our first ever Computing focused trip; on Tuesday, Reception went to the Discovery Story Centre, and on Thursday, I had the delight of accompanying Year 1 to the Dulwich Picture Gallery. I really enjoyed being with Year 1 who were not only brilliantly behaved (which many members of the public commented on), but were so engaged and enthusiastic when looking at the work of Ciurlionis and then creating their own pieces. All teachers came back from the various trips and said what good days they had had. I hope these trips helped bring the pupils' learning to life, as well as providing educational value. We really want the children to have a hugely enjoyable experience that they'll remember for years to come!



We also held a Governors' Strategy Day this week, where our governors worked together to define and articulate a vision for St Christopher's for the future. I am so lucky to have a group of people who have a real passion for our school and a keen interest in the development of children and young people. We had a very productive day and started to look at our strategy as we navigate and plan for, not only the economic future, but how we can ensure our pupils are aspirational about themselves and achieve the very best they can.

Finally, today is National Number Day, and I so enjoyed seeing the pupils come into school dressed as digits! I think they put my calculator costume to shame! This day gives the children the opportunity to apply their maths skills to everyday scenarios, whilst raising money for a fantastic cause. We pre-empted this day on Wednesday, when we had an assembly which challenged our teachers, Countdown style! Mr Chowdhury led us through proceedings, taking the role of both Colin Murray and Rachel Riley(!), as we got to see which teacher was a mental

maths speed demon when calculating a given number. Today, the pupils will be taking part in other maths games within their classes, and will have a special maths homework this week, to create a poster which promotes what they think is the best number and why! We are looking forward to the entries when they come in!

Have a super weekend, and we will see you all for the final week of this half term; it really seems to have passed extremely quickly!

Mr Carter
Head Teacher

SCA

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Pre-Prep disco on Friday 10 February. Available at www.scasales.co.uk. Ticket sales will close next Wednesday 8 February.

Details and tickets for our parents' quiz night on 24 February will also be sent out next week!

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E-safety Tip - Safer Internet Day

Next week, we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023.

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre has created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher/our e-safety coordinator, Mr Organ, or Mrs Cornish, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.



On that note, this week the BBC published a news article by Shiona McCallum that claims "A quarter of 16-21-year-olds first saw pornography on the internet while still at primary school" it seems an ideal time to share this video link connected to Safer Internet Day from the UK Safer Internet Centre on starting the conversation at home on internet safety.

Follow this link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl_gZTQ9F7w&t=7s
to view this.

Starting a conversation isn't always easy, but could be so important, and there is no time too early as children access the online world earlier and earlier.

Year 5

This week, Year 5 ventured to Covent Garden on the train, to visit The London Transport Museum. The children took part in a Coding workshop, where they had the opportunity to explore and code driverless trains for their own 'Capital City'.



The session enabled the children to problem-solve together and experience the life of a train engineer. They also explored the museum, looking at how transport has evolved over time. Year 5 displayed our Character Values of Common Sense, Enthusiasm, and had excellent behaviour throughout the whole trip.

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Pupil Achievement

Zac (Year 6) was made 'Man of the Match' for Beckenham Town this weekend. This is even more impressive as he plays 'up a year' with older children. Well done, Zac!



Congratulations to Charlie (Year 2) who won 1st place in the Hastings Week Poetry Competition (under 18s) for his poem 'Senses on the Cliff Railway'. Well done, Charlie!

Year 2

In Art, we have been focussing on the work of Marelá Zacariús. We have learnt lots about her background and her pieces. We all worked together to recreate one of her sculptures, which is populated by geometric abstractions. Teamwork is one of our Character Values and we certainly demonstrated this during the lesson. We are so proud of the outcome!



Reviews

We love hearing your feedback, so if you have a Google account, and feel inclined, please leave a reviews for us by using the link or the QR code:



<https://q.page/r/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAg/review>

Author visit

On Wednesday, the Pre-Prep and Prep School were visited by children's author Carrie Burnell, who delivered two excellent workshops, giving a sneak preview of two of her books.

She helped the Pre-Prep children realise that disabilities don't mean obstacles, and taught the Prep School children the correct vocabulary when referring to people with disabilities.

Carrie then joined the book sale in our library, hosted by Beckenham Bookshop, and signed many, many books! The event was a huge success. We would like to thank Mr. Pretara for organising it all and helping to promote reading for pleasure and inclusion. These are two things that we, as a school, are passionate about.



What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 6th February**
 - Year 5/6 (selected) Girls
 - Netball v Bromley High (15:45-16:45)
- Tuesday 7th February**
 - U11 ISA Boys Hockey Tournament (all day)
- Wednesday 8th February**
 - U11 Girls Netball v Alleyns (13:00-16:00)
- Friday 10th February**
 - Last day of half term
 - Year 6 Mayan Workshop (all day)
 - Pre-Prep Disco (15:30-17:00)
 - Mid-Year Reports to go out