

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

We have reached the halfway point in the year, and Christmas now feels like a distant memory! However, this is a great time of year to reflect on our pupils' year so far and evaluate, and celebrate their progress. Today, our summary 'Mid-Year Report' will

be emailed to you, at 4pm. We have listened to feedback from last year, and these have been adjusted slightly to reflect this. You will receive the report from either

reports@stchristophersthehall.org.uk,
reports1@stchristophersthehall.org.uk,
reports2@stchristophersthehall.org.uk,

therefore, please check your email junk folder if you do not receive it. Additionally, please do not reply to these email addresses, as they are simply used to ensure all reports get delivered at the same time, but otherwise these mailboxes are not monitored. The main purpose of a school report is to keep you updated about your child's progress and to keep lines of communication open between home and school.

My strong advice is that parents read the report, digest the information and then celebrate any key successes of your child. *I cannot emphasise enough that the levels given are an indication for adults only.* This is true no matter what level your child is at. Remember, telling your child that they are above a certain level can lead to undue pressure to maintain this, as much as telling them that they have not reached a level may also cause them to feel anxious and possibly that they are failing. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress further with his/her teacher at the parents' meetings on 16th or 20th March; however, if you have any immediate pastoral or academic worries before that date, our door is always open. However, do remember that if we are concerned about your child's performance and think he/she should be attaining at a higher level in certain areas, we will have made you aware of this beforehand.

This Tuesday was Safer Internet Day. The internet obviously plays a huge part in the lives of young

people today, with many playing online games, posting on social media, and using video sharing platforms. It can be used positively, helping young people learn new skills, express themselves creatively and strengthen social bonds. However, the use of many popular online platforms has been linked to low self-esteem and anxiety. They also come with a set of safeguarding risks, from the pressure to participate in dangerous challenges to cyberbullying. It is so important for us as a school to educate our pupils about internet safety, and provide them with a safe space where they can share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences about life online. I want to thank Mr Organ for organising the assembly, and activities within

class this week to highlight this important issue. There is more information below about what we have been up to.

After half-term, we have quite a few events to squeeze in, not least a week dedicated to Science (13th-17th March), Secondary School Fair (21st March), an Art Exhibition (23rd March), Year 3 and 4 Drama show (29th March), and the return of the Easter Hat Walk (31st March)! However, more immediately, we have our Par-

ents' Quiz night, which is on the first Friday after half-term (24th February). This will be an exciting event where parents (and staff!) can put their general knowledge to the test! Information about this event has been emailed to you. In conjunction with this, we are launching a silent auction where members of staff have offered events. There will be some super things on offer, not least the opportunity for a pupil to be 'Head for the day'. Again, more detail will follow about what, where and how to make your bids!

Finally, after half-term, to promote our sustainability programme in school, we will be starting a 'no-meat' day as part of our lunch menu. Initially, this will be for one day a week, and the menus on the website will be updated to reflect this. Do look at these menus and encourage your children to try some of these no-meat options!

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable half term. See you on 20th February!

Mr Carter
Head Teacher



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ECHO

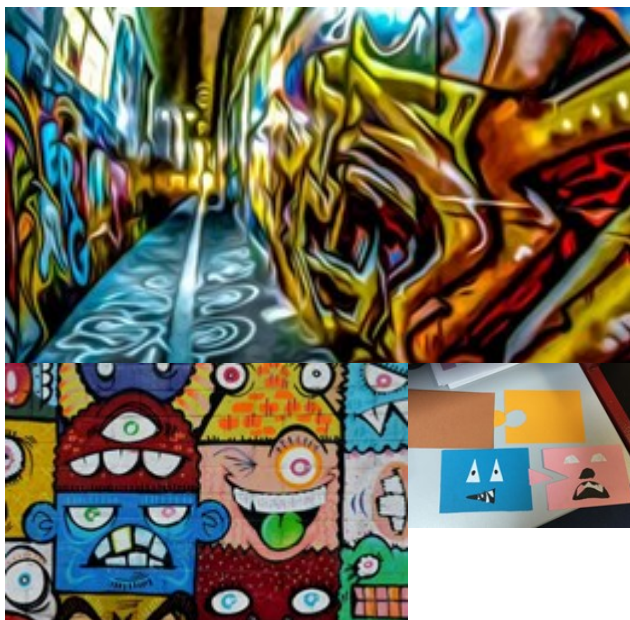
Street Art

It is art... but (maybe) not as we know it.

This term's Wednesday afternoon Street Art (ECHO) Club began wonderfully with the children looking at amazing examples of street art and understanding the difference between Street Art and graffiti. The budding artists looked at some examples of Stik, Banksy, Blek le Rat, Sheperd Fairey and some of the amazing pieces on display throughout Penge and South East London.

They began working on their own 'tags' - A way to sign their own pieces without explicitly revealing their identities. Brilliant pseudonyms have been created, such as: Luv2, Lactic, iMcazy and Mngoe.

The children then looked at some fantastic examples of jigsaw art and began to create their own, which they will complete next week before looking at the French artist, Invader and the stencil work of Banksy. We will complete the term's work by creating an outdoor piece of art that will be on display for all to see.



Performance Poetry

The Poetry Performance Club have been sharing their passion for poetry with each other and are busy preparing a showcase to their families at the end of term, as well as selecting and rehearsing entries for the 2023 Poetry By Heart Competition. In addition to writing and reciting their own favour-

ite poems, they have selected unfamiliar poems from a range of genres written both Pre and Post 1914.

Currently, they are working on a choral poem as a whole group, incorporating music and movement, in preparation for the National competition.

Poetry performance skills are the main focus each week: diction, pause and pace; vocal tone, volume and pitch; supporting the voice with breath



and facial and vocal expression. The children have also enjoyed evaluating the poetry performances of each other and renowned poets such as Michael Rosen.

Scratch Junior Club

We have been having a great time working on Scratch Junior in our club. Everyone agreed that this week's club was the best yet!

The children managed to get creative and overcome challenges to make a fun maze game.

Here is just a little of the code they put together to make the game.



POETRY BY HEART

- Choose a poem
- Learn it by heart
- Perform it out loud

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Sports round up

Last Thursday, our Year 5 boys took on the U10 Alleyns Football Tournament. There were some great performances from all the boys, in particular Carter Jae, Jack and Jacob from Year 4 who played up a year group. Undefeated, the team came second in the end, due to goals scored. They only conceded 1 goal, we won 2 and drew 2. A great achievement!

On Friday 3rd February some of the U10 and U11 girls took part in the ISA Netball tournament, to qualify for Nationals. The girls played well as a team, and each game they showed more determination and confidence, never giving up or allowing their opposition to win easily. We had equal possession of the ball in the matches they played, but were unlucky with our shots and goals scored. We lost 3 games, won 1 and drew 1.

This Monday, we took part in two exciting matches against Bromley High. The girls played with confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship. The U10 won 7-1 and the U11 won 7-5. Well done all players



SCA

School Quiz

We will be hosting a Parent Teachers Quiz on Friday 24 February.

Tickets are at £15 per person and include the entertainment, and food! Tickets will be sold individually. Tables hold a maximum of 10 per team, so if you have a team ready to go please purchase this as a group.

Doors open at 19:15, and the quiz will begin at 19:45 prompt.

Silent Auction

We are also excited to announce that, alongside the quiz, we will be running a Silent Auction Fundraiser. From Monday 20th February, at noon, you

will be able to bid to win a number of teacher sponsored events.

The list of events really is EXCELLENT and options range from picnics to pamper sessions and bowling to an after dark disco! You can even bid for your child to be Head teacher for the day - greeting pupils, chairing a meeting and overseeing teaching across the School! Full details around the auction and a list of events available will be released on Monday 20 February. If you have any immediate questions please email stchristophersassociation@gmail.com.

Please note these are SCA events and the School cannot answer queries. All proceeds strictly towards agreed SCA fundraising projects. Thank you for your continued support.



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National Number Day

Friday 3rd February was the NSPCC National Number Day and all the children (and adults) embraced the day through their learning and with their outfits. We raised a total of £125.20 for the NSPCC, which is fantastic!

The children were invited to wear number inspired clothing / costumes and there were some magnificent mathematical marvels seen all throughout the day.

The children had the opportunity to play Countdown in class and tried to achieve the target number only using single digit numbers and multiples of five.

The 'What is the BEST number?' competition was also launched and the children have been challenged this week to create a poster or presentation with their suggested answer and reasons. This is the children's Maths' homework for the entire week and should be given to the class teacher by Friday. Each class winner will

go through to the whole school final and an overall winner will be decided. Best of number luck!



Safer Internet Day

As part of our support for Safer Internet Day and the theme of "Talk About It", alongside this newsletter you will find attached a form or you to complete.

We would love to create a resource bank of all your favourite apps and hold this on our website as a resource for you all to share. Please talk to your children about the apps that they like to use, and give us their recommendations. They need not be education based; the point is to share our online experiences.

You can print off the form and return it to school or email it back to us:

e-safety@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 20th February**
 - Year 3 and 4 French Workshop (14:00-15:30)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 22nd February**
 - ISA Practice for Nationals (5-a-side) selected boys (13:30-15:30)
- 🔔 **Friday 24th February**
 - Year 4 Rivers Trip to Beckenham Place Park (all day)
 - U11 Girls/Boys Hockey v Royal Russell (15:45-16:45)
 - SCA Parents' Quiz Night (18:30-21:30)