

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents

Welcome back!

I do hope you have had a restful and enjoyable half term.

I am delighted to tell you that we have been accepted into IAPS (Independent Association for Prep

Schools). There is a very high standard for schools to be eligible for membership, with strict criteria on proving a commitment to delivering an excellent, well-rounded education to the pupils in their care, maintaining excellent standards of pastoral care and keeping staff members' professional development training up to date. Therefore, I am delighted that the membership committee were able to endorse us, and were very complimentary about our school when they visited earlier this term. As such, I will be away on Thursday and Friday, next week, at the IAPS conference, which will hopefully inspire, and enable me to bring back more exciting new ideas.

We start this half term looking ahead to many of the useful and exciting things we have planned. This begins today with the SCA Parents' Quiz Night because parents need fun too!

The staff and I are looking forward to taking part, and we hope to see many of you there. I hope the silent auction is also generating lots of interest; tonight we will find out who has secured the winning bid for the experiences which have been offered - I am especially looking forward to seeing which pupil will take on my role for a day! I want to thank all the staff members who have generously offered up their time to provide these experiences; I really do have the best, most supportive team in the world! The list of items up for grabs can be found here: <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/StChristophersAssociationAuction#none>

Our assemblies this week ranged across many topics, and started with 'Love Your Pet Day' on Tuesday. St Christopher's the Hall staff REALLY love their pets. They provided pictures of their furry (and not so furry) friends, and the Prep school children enjoyed trying to guess the adult owners of the pets' pictures. Ask if they managed to guess who belonged to who! On Wednesday, Freddie Farmer Foundation came into school to talk to the pupils about the work they do. If you remember, this is the childrens' choice of charity, put forward by Lexie and Bella in Year 6, which the pupils voted to support, this year. Freddie Farmer Founda-

tion provides intensive block session physiotherapy programmes for disabled children aged 3-16 years affected by cerebral palsy and mobility problems, as well as providing support for their families and carers. This charity is special to us, as it is a local charity and it has a personal resonance and connection for Bella and her family. This money we raise over the year, not least from the upcoming class charity events (with both Reception and Year 2 classes taking place next week) will go towards this. At the half-way point of the year, we have already raised £883 for this worthy charity!

The 11+ process for our current Year 6s is now drawing to a close with final decisions regarding schools being contemplated. We are absolutely delighted with the results and acceptances; well done Year 6. However, no sooner do we finish at one end, we start all over again with Year 5! Later this term, Miss Rule, Head of Prep, alongside Mr Chowdhury and I, will be talking to our Year 5 parents about the joys of 11+ as they start this process! Linked to this, we recognise that there is so much choice in our area regarding the future at 11+ and we want to help with that, so we will be hosting an Independent Secondary School Fair on **Tuesday 21st March**. With over 14 of the top senior schools in the area in attendance, this invaluable afternoon offers parents, the perfect opportunity to explore what is on offer for private senior school education. There will be a wide range of senior schools exhibiting, including single sex and co-educational schools. We hope it will be useful to give families the unique opportunity to speak to the admissions staff and heads of these schools. Please see the poster below about this event, and do tell you friends - everyone is welcome!

Finally, we enjoy plenty of educational visits out of school; however, we are looking for a bank of parent volunteers to help when we do go out on these trips (as well as any parents who would also like to come and help within the school day with our library). Parents will need to be checked according to our Volunteers Policy (found on the website), so if you are interested, please do send me an email. We would love to have you!

I wish you all a good weekend, and a successful general knowledge quiz if you are coming tonight!

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



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St. Christopher's The Hall School

## Independent Secondary SCHOOL FAIR

Tuesday  
**21st March**

16:30 - 19:00

49 Bromley Road  
Beckenham  
BR3 5PA

Stalls will be held by the following Secondary Schools based in South East London:

- > Alleyn's
- > Bishop Challoner
- > Blackheath High School
- > Bromley High School
- > Colfe's
- > Croydon High School
- > Dulwich College
- > Farringtons School
- > James Allen's Girls' School
- > Radnor House
- > Royal Russell School
- > Sydenham High School
- > Trinity School
- > Whitgift

...plus more



For more information contact:  
mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk  
020 8650 2200



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### ECHO

**Mindfulness (Prep)** *"You are the sky, everything else is just the weather."* Pema Chödrön

It's been a busy term so far in Mindfulness Club! The children began by learning about the wealth of physical and mental benefits of being mindful, and simple ways in which they can incorporate mindfulness into their everyday lives.

Each week, they have enjoyed taking part in yoga stretches, mindful colouring tasks, and some were so relaxed that they almost nodded off during our 'body scan' activity. When the sun came out to shine, we ventured outside to enjoy the fresh air. The children used their senses to help ground

themselves by sharing all the things that they could hear, see, smell and touch. They then found areas of the playground to draw chalk pictures of objects that 'sparked joy' for them.

Over the last couple of weeks, they have been discussing the notion of gratitude and what it means to them. They created some fantastic gratitude rainbows of all of the wonderful things that they are grateful for each day, from fish and chips at school, to cuddles with their families at bedtime.

This week, the children set about creating and personalising their own calming 'mind jars' by mixing water and PVA glue with a dash of glitter into empty jars. We are now looking forward to creating our friendship bracelets and learning how to finger knit.

**Board Games (Pre-Prep):** We have had lots of fun playing a variety of board games in our ECHO Club. We have done some number games, word games and lots more.



### E-safety

Last week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day for the first time. Reception created their Magical Windows, creating amazing views of what they would like to see in an online world. We held an assembly for the whole school on the theme of "Making Space for Conversations About Life Online". Year Two interviewed each other about what they like to do online and created "like ladders" of different

online activities from their most to least favourite. Year four looked at what they would like to change about the internet

and what they already liked. Follow this link to see more photos of some of the amazing work they completed:

<https://www.stchristophersthehall.org.uk/2023/02/24/e-safety/>

Please keep sending in your App recommendations to [e-safety@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:e-safety@stchristophersthehall.org.uk).

We would love to share them with the school community.



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### **French**

On Monday, the children in Years 3 and 4 took part in a fantastic, interactive, French storytelling workshop led by Martina from the Freshwater Theatre Company. We were delighted to be able to share the experience with children and staff from Bishop Challoner. The children developed their listening and speaking skills, whilst increasing their confidence, as they were taken on a magical adventure with 'Le Petit Chaperon Rouge' and 'Jacques et Le Haricot Magique'. The stories were brought to life with visual aids and everyone was encouraged to interact in the target language throughout the session. Some children volunteered to go up on stage to take part in the storytelling and showcased their impressive acting and language skills. It was such a marvellous opportunity to bring our French curriculum to life and the children were utterly captivated and engaged throughout the session. Bravo, les enfants!



Here are some of the comments made by the children:

*"I loved hearing the accordion and understood a lot of the French words."*

*"It was really funny- my favourite part was when Jacques was milking Marguerite the cow!"*

*"I learnt how to name all of the food in 'Petit Chaperon Rouge's' basket."*

*"I enjoyed the pantomime part when we all had to say "toc, toc, toc" as loudly as we could to wake up grandma!"*



### **Mayan - Marvellous or Macabre?**

Year 6 Freshwater Theatre Workshop - Friday 10th February 2023

*(Written by Melody and Olivia - 6C)*

The year 6 class has been learning about the Maya civilization in History and on Friday 10th February, we were able to experience and take part in a Maya inspired workshop.



In this session, we were able to participate in Maya themed activities that expanded our knowledge. Our first fun activity was a quick quiz.

We recapped some of the facts we had learnt in our history lessons such as knowing some of the city states, when the Maya civilization reached its highest peak and how long ago they arrived in Central America. After that, we learnt



about the social structure and what each class did. The classes were: the rulers, the elite class, the respectables (merchants, craftsmen and warriors), peasants, who built the

pyramids, and finally the slaves, who had to cover their faces whenever they were presented in front of the rulers or the respectables.

As our last activity, we learnt about some of the gifts the rulers would be presented with and how the peasants gave it to them. Some of the gifts included: Jade gemstones to put in the teeth; a jaguar claw necklace; shell earrings; stone nose plugs to make the nose bigger; boards to slope the baby's forehead and a file to sharpen their teeth.

If you were ever to face your back to the ruler, you would be sacrificed.

We really enjoyed the fun and learnt a lot. Emily, our time travelling facilitator,



was amazing and she is welcome back any time!



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### Emailing teachers

**REMINDER:** ALL emails to teachers should use the

[mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)

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



### Pupil Success

Zirphie, in Year 3, ran a cake sale from her driveway, to raise money for the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. She raised over £200 for the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) single handedly! Bravo, Zirphie!



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

### 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://g.page/r/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAg/review>

### Music concert

*(next Thursday, 2nd March at 2.15pm)*

A reminder that our annual Year 5 and 6 Music concert is coming up next Thursday. We are looking forward to a fantastic afternoon of music performances from Senior Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Recorder Ensemble, Soloists, Year 5 Samba band and all of Year 5 and 6 performing some songs. The concert will start at 2.15 and we anticipate that it will finish around 4pm. Please enter via the main gate from 2.10.

If you have younger siblings who you need to collect and bring in with you to watch the end of the concert, you are welcome to do so.

### Meat Free Day

On Wednesday, we launched our first meat free day at lunchtime with vegetarian nuggets or beetroot and feta patties with steamed carrots and wedges. The food was a big success, with all pupils really enjoying it - especially the nuggets which many said they didn't even know did not contain chicken! Given wide acceptance that diets need to change to address the climate crisis, as well as health related issues, we know that children would benefit nutritionally from eating more beans, pulses, and plant-based proteins. Ask your child what they enjoyed for lunch on Wednesday; perhaps this is the start of enjoying meatless meals at home too?

### Science week (13th-17th March)

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming Science Week, and you will be receiving some information about this next week. However, to help in the preparation, Year 3 and 4 would like some junk modelling (clean etc) for making rockets. If you could send this in by Friday 10th March, we can see how much we have.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

- Monday 27th February**
  - U9 Football (mixed - all Year 4 to play) v Colfes (15:15-16:15)
- Tuesday 28nd February**
  - Year 3 Viking Workshop (09:00-13:00)
  - U11 Football (mixed - all Year 6 to play) v Colfes (15:15-16:15)
- Wednesday 1st March**
  - U8 Football (mixed - all Year 3 to play) v Colfes (15:15-16:15)
- Thursday 2nd March**
  - World Book Day!
  - Year 5 and 6 Music Concert (14:15-16:00)
- Friday 3rd March**
  - ISA selected mixed Hockey Tournament (all day)
  - Year 2 trip to London Zoo (all day)
  - U10 Football (mixed - all Year 5 to play) v Colfes (15:15-16:15)