

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Last Thursday and Friday, I attended the IAPS Heads' Conference which was so useful in terms of meeting and discussing real and current issues, networking and learning from experts and case studies presented by fellow Heads.

I am so glad that we are part of the organisation now; however, I must tell you, it has been so lovely being back in school this week; the staff and pupils always make my week so fulfilling. To quote Dorothy, from *The Wizard of Oz*, there really is "no place like home"!

At St Christopher's, we pride ourselves on, and celebrate, our diverse community, and as such, we make sure that we have various focuses in our assemblies and RE lessons to celebrate the rich religious and cultural diversity we have. All religions have significant times of year and festivals, and they play a highly important role in the lives of our pupils, nurturing their sense of identity, values and beliefs. Therefore, this week, our Wednesday assembly focused on what the pupils described as the most enjoyable, enthusiastic and fun-filled Hindu festival, the festival of colour – Holi. It marks the arrival of the spring season and indicates the arrival of new colours in nature as well as people celebrating the victory of good over evil and banishing evil spirits. I want to thank Zara, Som, Siddarth, Ella, Aryan, Anya and Anaiya, who all helped Mrs West to explain how they celebrate this festival.

We are entering into a very busy period of the school calendar, and this kick starts next week with our Science week. The idea behind the week is to raise awareness, spark enthusiasm and celebrate science, engineering, technology. Engaging in science fundamentally helps young people develop key life skills, including communication, organisation and planning and allows them to form their own opinions based on observation. I cannot wait for our pupils to experience what we have planned next week, not least the opportunity to mix with other pupils in different year groups as well as be with different teachers. Today, 'As Creatives Ltd' provided a good teaser for the week



Ella and Anya celebrating Holi

ahead, putting on an interactive assembly, which showed how the Stone Age discoveries of ways of making and manipulating fire led to a whole series of scientific "moments" across the ages, culminating in the projected missions to send humans to Mars! All pupils from Reception-Year 6 also enjoyed a science workshop, looking at the work of a particular scientist/technologist/engineer - and the connections between their work and everyday life. There was a deliberate and conscious focus on diversity - and clear connections, too, to science strands that each year group will be exploring at some point in the year! I hope pupils enjoyed today, and are looking forward to the week ahead.

I mentioned that the next few weeks have lots packed in, and there are lots of opportunities for parents to come into school. Therefore, I thought I'd finish with a few dates for your diaries. More information will be sent to you in due course, but I hope to see you at some of the following:

Science Fair to celebrate our week's work (Friday 17th March - gates open at 15:15 for Pre-Prep and 15:45 for Prep)

Secondary School Fair (Tuesday 21st March - gates open at 16:30)

Art Exhibition (Thursday 23rd March - gates open at 15:15 - more information below)

Parents' Evenings (16th and 20th March - parents should have already received an email regarding booking information for this)

Open Mornings for parents to see pupils' work (Pre-Prep 23rd March 8:15-8:45, and Prep School 27th March 8:15-8:45)

Easter Hatwalk (31st March - gates open for Pre-Prep at 10:45, and for Prep at 11:20 - more information about the hat themes this year will be available next week)

So just the odd few events to look forward to, nothing too busy! However, I always think a sign of a great school is one which is a busy hive of activity; I think we can definitely say we are that!

Have a good weekend,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Year 3

On Tuesday 7th March, Linda and Jane from our catering team visited Year 3 to teach us all about healthy eating. We looked at the Eatwell Plate, something which we learnt about in Science during the Autumn Term, and discussed the different food groups and gave some examples. We thought about why it was important to have a balanced diet, and what this looks like on a day to day basis.

To bring our learning to life, we got to prepare our very own balanced meal: a pasta salad. We got to chop up vegetables like peppers, tomatoes, cucumber and mangetout, as well as mozzarella and chorizo. Nineteen of us tried something we had never tasted before. We had a delicious time!

"We need to have carbohydrates like pasta, bread and potatoes to give us energy." **Olivia**

"If you don't have protein in your diet, your muscles won't grow and repair." **Alfie**

"I've never tasted mozzarella before and it tasted really good, way better than normal cheese! I was not too keen on the tomato though." **Albie**



Medical Room Art competition

Well done to ALL the entrants! The standard was very high, and Mrs McDuff has decided to display them all in the medical room! The winning entries will be in A4 frames, the others in A5 frames. A big shout out to Thomas (4MD), whose entry made us laugh out loud, even though it wasn't a Spring flower picture! All entrants will win a prize, which Mrs McDuff will get to you in due course. Once the pictures are framed and on the wall, there will be a photo in the newsletter.

Winners:

Preschool: Max (Butterfly Class)

Pre-Prep: Mimi (2J), Alex (RO)

Prep: Emily (3P), Freddie (5R)

A few of the entrants are shown here:



Art Exhibition

St Christopher's is holding an Art Exhibition to celebrate our children's beautiful artwork in the Hall on Thursday 23rd March. The exhibition will open from **15:15 until 17:15**, and it will be a chance for you to view and purchase a piece of artwork that has been created by your child and professionally framed. The whole school has worked extremely hard in the lead up to the exhibition, using skills and techniques from their Art lessons in order to create a final piece to be proud of.

Pop the date in your diary, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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Library use at lunchtimes

Lunchtime library sessions have been up and running since February half term and have been a popular option for many pupils across the school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When visiting the library at lunchtime, pupils can browse the broad range of books on offer, read quietly or do some drawings in a calm and quiet environment supervised by our wonderful volunteers. Pupils can also pop in briefly to return books they may have borrowed, rather than wait until their designated class library session during the week.

When we dropped-in to one of the Pre-Prep lunchtime library sessions this week, Joshua and Jacob (Y2) visited to borrow *Beast Quest* books, Lily-Belle (Y2) was beginning to write a story and Hazel (Y1) was enjoying drawing rainbows.

When we dropped-in to one of the Prep lunchtime library sessions this week, Nico (Y5) was on Chapter 4 of a story he has been writing on his laptop, Bella (Y6) was borrowing a book with help from Mrs Kalel and Lillie and Lauren (Y6) were reading and relaxing on the giant bean bags.

It has been wonderful seeing the children enjoy this space at lunchtime and we look forward to using the library more and more over time.



Reception 100 days of School Sponsored Event

Reception started our special '100 Days of School' event by having a little boogie to Celebration Time as it really is an achievement that we have achieved 100 school days so far! We spoke about the significance of the number 100 being the first 3 digit number: how exciting! The children displayed buckets of enthusiasm when completing their 100 day activities.

We danced for 100 seconds, closed our eyes for 100 seconds, wrote the number 100 as many times as we could in 100 seconds and built as tall a tower as possible in 100 seconds. Phew, we are exhausted!



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SCA

We have two upcoming dates for your diary:

- Next Thursday 16th March from 08:30 we will meet in SCAMPS for coffee and biscuits and our termly catch up!
- Monday 27th March at 20:00 we will hold our AGM via Zoom.

We would love for as many of you as possible to join us and hear all about the difference we can make to the pupils at St Christopher's and bring any fundraising ideas you may have.

As always, any questions at all please contact Sam or Bron or email stchristophersassociation@gmail.com



Pupil Success

Max (Year 2) took part in 3 classes over the last two weekends at Bromley Festival, and he won first place in 2 of them, piano and cello.

Toby (Year 2) was also successful as he was awarded a distinction for his violin playing in the Coulsdon & Purley Festival.



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

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.

Review

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>



E-safety tip

This week we are looking at a topic being given a lot of press coverage lately, which is on influencers and their contribution to digital wellbeing. This link will take you to a great article from SWGfL looking at both the negative and positive aspects of influencers on young internet users.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/digital-wellbeing/influencer-exploring-how-influencer-culture-can-impact-a-young-person-s-wellbeing/>

The article also gives some really useful guidance on how to talk about influencers with young users, setting up safe usage spaces and how to keep young users pointed at positive influences, knowing how to tell the difference between positive and negative types of influence.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/digital-wellbeing/impact-of-influencer-culture-how-to-help-young-people-create-a-more-positive-online-space/>



What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 13th March**
 - Start of Science Week!
 - U9 Football/Netball v Royal Russell for selected pupils (15:45- 16:45)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 14th March**
 - U11 Netball v Royal Russell for selected girls (15:45- 16:45)
- 🔔 **Thursday 16th March**
 - Parents' Evening (15:00-18:00)
- 🔔 **Friday 17th March**
 - Science Fair in School Hall with Beckenham Bookshop (15:15-17:00)
 - Bromley Festival - Chamber Choir (16:00-19:00)