

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week was our Science Week, and what an amazing success it was! Pupils enjoyed working with different teachers and other pupils, as well as expanding their scientific knowledge and of course, having fun with a whole week revolving and

linking to science! Interestingly, the theme of the Week was 'Connections', though unfortunately the connection between the public and science isn't a particularly strong one. Research from the British Science Association has consistently found that science isn't really resonating with the public, particularly young people.

In 2022, it was reported that:

- Just a third (34%) of 10-to-18-year-olds in the UK think science is relevant to their lives
- Only 8% of young people can think of a scientist who looks like them and as few as 12% think scientists represent their views and values

At St Christopher's, we want science to be relevant to everyone, and inspiring young people early is absolutely key, which I hope this week has done. As ever, I want to thank my fantastic staff, who always take whatever idea I throw at them, and make it into something brilliant. I want to particularly thank Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury for organising and pioneering a week with a subject focus that will become a staple each year, with other subjects having the spotlight shone on them in coming years. I hope your son or daughter has come home enthused this week, and you enjoy the Science Fair this afternoon.

No sooner has the excitement of Science Week died down, we look forward to another event next week: our Secondary School Fair. Within our catchment, there is such a wealth of secondary school choice, all of whom boast excellent academics, top pastoral care and broad opportunities, which can make choosing a senior school can feel overwhelming for many families. Therefore, we look forward to welcoming parents on Tuesday from 16:30, and hope the fair will be hugely beneficial. Not only is it a celebration of the first-class education they offer, but also a unique opportunity for families who are making decisions about their child's future school at 11.

Linked to this, we pride ourselves in ensuring that children are confident and thoroughly prepared for their transition to grammar, day and state schools

in our locality and beyond. We have strong, well established links with destination senior schools and proactively support parents through the entire process, so they can make informed decisions as to which school is the best fit for their child. Year 6 has now come to the end of their 11+, and the offers from school are now on our website. However, that simply means that we start the process again with Year 5! Miss Rule and I will be talking to Year 5 parents in two weeks' time in preparation for their 11+ journey and how we will support their children. We work in partnership with parents, to ensure they apply to senior schools that suit the personality of their child, and we do not believe that any one school is better than another. We simply believe in the best school for each individual child. Obviously, senior school destinations will vary year on year depending on each cohort, but I thought it might be interesting to see that our pupils consistently achieve their potential and gain access to a whole variety of schools that are right for them. The trends for the last 3 years can be viewed on our website or by clicking this [link](#).

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our first of two Parents' Evenings, on Thursday, and I look forward to seeing more of you, on Monday. These are such an important and, hopefully, useful events in the school calendar, as they provide the opportunity for parents to speak with teachers to get an insight into how their child/children are progressing, whilst for the teachers it is an opportunity to strengthen the parental relationship with the school explain how we are supporting our pupils' learning. These are the building blocks to ensure all our pupils reach their potential, and achieve to the best of their ability throughout their time at our school. Parents' Evenings are an update on progress, but our door is always open should you become aware of an issue at any point in the term. Don't wait for parents' evening to roll around - contact the school as soon as possible and make an appointment with the relevant staff to discuss it specifically. Equally, we will always let you know if you have any concerns straight away, and work with you to deal with them as they arise.

Finally, just to highlight, there are many events happening next week, where you can come into school - they are highlighted in blue in the '**What's happening next week**' section.

Have a great weekend.

Mr. Carter
Head Teacher

Newsletter

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New pupils

We have had lots of new starters join us this academic year, and we thought it would be lovely and hopefully more useful to celebrate by featuring them in our newsletter to welcome them to our school.

Therefore, we want to introduce you to Francesca who started with us this week in Year 2, in Miss Johns' class. Welcome, Francesca; we hope you will be very happy with us!



Pre-Prep Open Morning

We look forward to warmly welcoming the Pre-Prep School parents into school, next Thursday, between 8.15am and 8.45am to view your child's work.

We hope this will provide you with some quality time with your child, sharing their wonderful work from this term, both in their books and on display.

Please arrive with your child through the main gate at 8.15am from where they can escort you to their classroom. You will then be escorted back out of the front door by 8.45am so we can start the school day.

Pupil Success

Emma (Year 5) performed at the Coulsdon and Purley Festival last Saturday on her trumpet.

She was awarded 'Outstanding' and invited to play in the Festival Winners' Concert. Well done, Emma!

Mr Carter loves to know about pupil success outside school, whatever they may be, so do let him know.

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



Easter Hatwalk

We are already looking forward to our second annual Easter Hatwalk. It was such a roaring success last year, when we started it, and it really made the last day of the term a day to remember. The themes have been amended for this year, so dust off your hat and get decorating. The timings are on the poster below, and there will be refreshments provided by the SCA at both the Prep and Pre-Prep event. We will have buckets to collect any donations for a school charity

Easter HAT-WALK

On the last day of term we will be hosting a Pre-Prep and Prep School Easter Hat Catwalk

Children who wish to participate can decorate a hat at home to bring to school on Friday 31st March and parade down the Hat-walk in their creation!

HAT THEMES - By Year Group

RECEPTION - 'BUNNY BONNETS'	YEAR 3- 'BUNNY BONNET'
YEAR 1- 'FLOWER POWER'	YEAR 4- 'I CARROT WAIT FOR EASTER'
YEAR 2- 'OVER THE RAINBOW'	YEAR 5- 'THE HUNT IS ON'
	YEAR 6- 'EGGS-TRAVAGANZA'

PRE-PREP: Timings for Friday 31st March

10.45 - MAIN GATE OPENS FOR PRE-PREP SCHOOL PARENTS - DONATIONS COLLECTED AT GATE
 10.45 - 11:00 WELCOME DRINKS
 11:00 - PARENTS MAKE THEIR WAY INSIDE IN READINESS FOR PARADE
 11:00 - 11:20 - LOWER SCHOOL HAT-WALK
 11.30 - TEACHERS BRING CHILDREN TO PARENTS - EXIT VIA FRONT DOOR

PREP: Timings for Friday 31st March

11.25 - MAIN GATE OPENS FOR PREP SCHOOL PARENTS (DONATIONS COLLECTED AT GATE)
 11.25 - 11:40 WELCOME DRINKS
 11.40 - PARENTS MAKE THEIR WAY INSIDE IN READINESS FOR PARADE
 11.40 - 11.55 PREP SCHOOL HAT-WALK
 12.00 - TEACHERS BRING CHILDREN TO PARENTS - EXIT VIA MAIN GATE

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 as well at [stchristhallsport](https://www.stchristhallsport.com) to get all the inside info from school life!

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



ECHO clubs:

Below is a little round up of some of our ECHO clubs that have been happening this term:

Creative Club (Prep) We demonstrated our sewing talents with tapestry bookmarks, pocket tissue holders and sock puppets this term! We also turned our hand at being creative with paper, making weaved baskets for Valentine's Day, quilling fish landscapes and Mother's Day Flowers made from egg boxes. What a creative lot we are!!!



Cookery (Prep) We complemented our Science week by investigating how different foods change state through heating and cooling, as well as exploring which foods dissolve in water. Melting chocolate on our tongues was a high point!



Word Games (Prep) We have enjoyed challenging each other with our vocabulary skills playing Wordle, partner Scrabble, and our favourite,

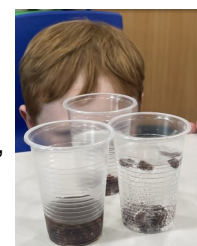
Scattergories! Students have thought creatively in order to score the most points against their opponents.



Board Games (Prep) - We have loved playing a variety of board games, and learning the strategies. However, Frustration is so frustrating!



Experiment (Pre-Prep) We have been busy investigating ways to make raisins dance in liquid! We found out that putting them in a fizzy substance is best, because the raisins are rough and the tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide gas stick to the surface. We also discovered that when mixed with oil, the raisins sink to the bottom and the oil rises to the top!



Monopoly We have had a bumper Monopoly Club this term, with 3 games being played consecutively.

The children have all progressed with their mental maths and decision making when purchasing property and have all worked well together with their partners.



Newsletter

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French Pop Video Competition

We are excited to announce that Mrs Dubeck has signed the Year 4 children up to take part in a French Pop Video Competition. It is a national competition organised by Francophonie UK in conjunction with the Institut Français and supported by TV5Monde. It aims to encourage children to have fun with languages whilst developing their confidence and speaking skills.

The children have been busy writing lyrics in class on the topic of 'Mes Passetemps' and last week, they excitedly headed over to Mrs Gay's Music Room where they practised performing their song with actions, accompanied by the piano. Before the Easter break, they will be dressing up with props to shoot the final video.

In May, local juries will select the regional winners. The jury will assess the quality of the lyrics as well as the originality of the video. The winners from regional competitions will then automatically enter the national final held in London. All children will receive French Pop Video Competition participation certificates for their efforts.

FRENCH POP VIDEO COMPETITION 2023

Give the mic to your students and shoot a music video with them!

Do you believe your class's got talent? Can you see your students sing or rap in French? If so, this competition is for you!

For whom? All students in UK schools and Channel Islands, from 7 to 18 years old

What about? A music video of your students' French rap or song showing their talent

When? Submit your video by **1st May 2023**

Win amazing prizes and attend a live Fête de la Musique concert!

Contact: projects-education@institut-francais.org.uk

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS ROYAUME-UNI | FRANCOFONIE | TV5 MONDE

Red Nose Day Assembly

Mr Carter was so impressed with Lexie and Evie this week. These two girls are our inaugural Head and Deputy pupils, and all year, they have been fantastic role models to the rest of the school in their role.

However, as leaders it is the responsibility to innovate, drive a vision and make it a reality... and this is what these girls have done. Both came to see Mr Carter about wanting to deliver an assembly to the rest of the School, and asked whether they could do this on Red Nose Day. Off their own backs, they prepared for the assembly, creating a script and a PowerPoint to present their ideas. It was fantastic to see how these girls worked independently to promote a key message. Mr Carter was so proud of them, and they have set a high bar for those who follow them; these are big leadership shoes to fill next year!

The girls were keen to let the School know that Red Nose Day is today, and it is a special event organised by the charity Comic Relief which was started in 1985 to raise money by making people laugh. It helps people struggling with money here in the UK and in other countries, as well as helping with disasters like the recent earthquake in

Turkey and Syria. This year the Red Nose, which is sold to raise money for the charity, folds up in a special design made by Sir Jony Ive, who also designed the iPhone.



Newsletter

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Holiday Club

We have been trying to set up our own holiday club which will have a wide range of activities and all operate under one umbrella. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get this all set up in time for Easter, but we are confident that we will have something in place before the end of the academic year.

Although we are not able to run anything over the Easter break, we have received the flyer below which may be of interest to you.

blue tennis
Kent County Cricket Ground
Worsley Bridge Road
Beckenham BR3 1DR

LTA TENNIS FOR ALL
www.bluetennis.co.uk
Come and have some fun with us!
We look forward to seeing you!

Easter Holiday Camps

**TENNIS & MULTI-SPORT CAMPS
FOR 4 – 15 YEAR OLDS**
Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April
Tuesday 11th April to Friday 14th April
Excluding Easter Bank Holidays

BOOKING NOW!

Lots of safe fun & exercise.... meet new friends.... excellent reviews.

from 9am to 3pm - £28.00 pp per day OR
from 9am to 12.30pm - £25.00 pp per day (Tennis and Tennis Games only)

*Tennis *Basketball *Golf *Baseball *Hockey *Tin Can Alley * Jenga and so many toys *Football
*Cricket *Table tennis *Badminton * Magnetic Darts * Tug of war and much more.

Grouped in age & ability * Equipment provided.
Please bring pack lunch, water and £1 for the tuck shop!

If raining blue tennis operate a **wet weather programme** and use the main building or the Pavilion, if available

LTA Qualified Coaches with DBS + first aid certification.
Plenty of assistants to hand.

For Booking and Information contact Martin on 07528 319723 or soundsman.mc@gmail.com or 'Book & Pay' www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/bluetennis

E-safety tip



This week we have concentrated our efforts into STEM learning in Science Week. To support this, we would like to show you these Free coding courses for children that have a tie-in to E-Safety. The courses are free trials provided by a third party provider, which the School has no connection to, but we thought they looked interesting. Here is the blurb for one of their courses:

Course description: Here we will check your reflexes. Hackers' attacks can be really quick and surprising - try to get as many points as possible and defeat all the hackers! Be careful and don't destroy any part of our supercomputer. Otherwise, the Internet all over the world will be turned off! Can you do it? The goal of this workshop is to learn about the Scratch environment and use it to code your own computer games. 90 min (1 lesson)

Here is a link to the website,
<https://tinyurl.com/mph7ke8k>

Plus a YouTube video to watch,
<https://tinyurl.com/3nbww2xk>

What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 20th March**
 - Parents' Evening (15:00-18:00)
 - U9 Hockey v Colfes for all Year 4 (15:15- 16:15)
- Tuesday 21st March**
 - U11 ISA Football Tournament for selected boys (all day)
 - Secondary School Fair (16:30-19:00)
- Wenesday 22nd March**
 - U8 Hockey v Colfes for all Year 4 (16:00- 17:30)
- Thursday 23rd March**
 - Music Exams (all day)
 - Pre-Prep Open Morning for current parents (08:15-08:45)
 - Art Exhibition (15:15-17:15)
- Friday 24th March**
 - Pre-Prep Circus Workshop (09:00-12:00)
 - Year 3 Sponsored Event
 - U10 Hockey v Colfes for all Year 5 (14:15- 15:30)

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/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAq/review>