

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This has been a week that has been packed to the brim!

We hosted an amazing Secondary School Fair on Tuesday and we are so grateful to all schools who came and participated in the event! I have received lots of lovely emails, from

parents who found it useful and informative. I am always so thankful to receive messages of thanks and appreciation. Choosing a secondary school for your child is seen as a big milestone by many parents, and we are delighted that we can support and guide parents through this process. This help will continue on Monday with our Secondary School Information Evening for Year 5.

On Thursday, our school hall was transformed into a gallery space, where every child had a piece of artwork professionally framed and displayed. I hope parents enjoyed being invited in to view and buy their child's artwork. I know I loved looking round - it was better than the The Saatchi Gallery and the Tate put together!

On Wednesday, we announced our highest merit earners of the term, and they received a special invite to Easter lunch with me on Monday. Additionally, we discovered that the House with the highest number of character counters this term was **JOHNSON**. Their reward will be to wear their own clothes to school on Monday. I reminded the pupils that, ultimately, the most important thing was to be proud of themselves for how many merits and character counters they had earned over the term, and to try and beat their own personal total in the Summer term.

We are drawing to the end of another term, and we know we will have to say goodbye to Miss Atkinson and Mr White next week. I wanted to let you know about a couple of other staffing changes for next year. We have three members of staff leaving us at the end of summer term to move on to new ventures. Mrs MacDuff will be retiring after being at our school for 15 years. She will be sorely missed for her humour and for managing all those bumps and bruises, but she is keen to spend more

time with her grandchildren; Miss Arnott will also be leaving after 22 years at the school, as she is looking to pursue her interests (of which she has many) outside of teaching - I have heard talk that this includes writing a pantomime! Miss Palmer will be leaving after 9 years, and will look to develop her own outside interests in a more formal way. All mentioned what a difficult decision it has been to move on, but I want to thank them for all of their hard work on behalf of the children at St Christopher's The Hall, and we will wish them well.

I also wanted to share some lovely news; Mrs Oliver is expecting a baby in August, so will be on maternity leave for part of the next academic year. I know the children in her class will be very excited when they hear this news, and I am sure those who know her will be delighted for her, too.



We are excited to be welcoming a number of new teachers to the school – Miss Hicks (joining from Hayes and Worsley Bridge), Mr Codd (joining from Bromley High), Mrs Shivers (joining from Clare House) will all take up class teaching roles in September, and Miss Symonds (joining from King Edward School), who will join the PE department. These teachers all join us, after impressing us at interview with their forward thinking approach to teaching, as well as their rapport with the pupils. We look forward to them starting in September, and we know that you will extend a very warm welcome to all of our new staff. We are sure that they will have a very successful and happy time with us. I will be finalising details about classes and teachers for 2023/24 next term, and I will update you in due course.

Finally: don't forget, when we return after the Easter break, **pupils should be in Summer uniform**, so if you need summer uniform, please use the uniform shop next week or email uniformshop@stchristophersthehall.org.uk. In addition Mrs Macpherson will be opening the uniform shop in the holidays on 20th April (10am-12 noon)

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Science Week Round-Up

Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep had a fantastic Science Week, focusing on Cars. Amongst many other things, the children wrote about their fantasy car, counted the colour of cars passing outside the school and designed a road system. The children also made working wheel and axle systems and worked in teams to design and build their own cars, adding junk materials to the axles to create the body of the car. Here are some of the amazing creations.



Year 3 and 4

During Science Week, Year 3 and 4 had a very busy time researching rockets, making rockets and looking at different ways in which we could get a type of rocket to fly! We had particular fun making junk modelling rockets which allowed us to be creative in what we wanted our rocket to look like and what it might include. We learnt some really interesting facts about rockets and about the astronauts who flew in them. We conducted several investigations during the week involving different types of rockets: rocket mice, balloon rockets and fizzy rockets. We learnt a lot in these investigations about how sometimes even the best plans can encounter a hitch and do not always go to plan!



It was a busy and exciting week and we enjoyed working with different people and learning new skills. The adults had as much fun as the children and can not wait to do something on a large scale again!

Scan some of the QR codes below to see some videos from the Year 3 and 4 week!



Years 5 and 6

Years 5 and 6's focus - as part of this week's STEM celebration of Connections - was to look at Parachutes. This culminated in some daring science experiments, amazing pieces of art and some very impressive needlework worthy of Paris Fashion Week; to name but a few of the excellent outcomes from this week.



The children had many opportunities to create their own parachute designs and models which they tested. They explored the various variables that could affect a parachute's descent and derived suitable features that a successful device would have to ensure safe landing. The children looked at the history of parachutes from its humble beginnings in China, to the interesting designs of Leonardo Da Vinci, to modern day parachutes

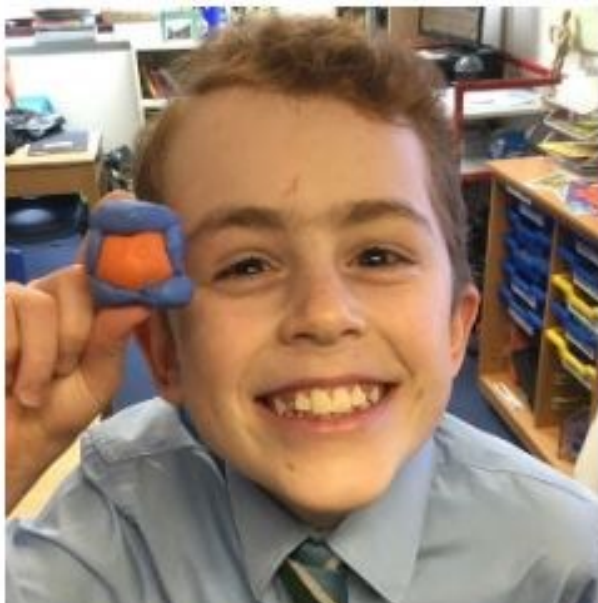
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Science Week Round-Up (cont)

which have helped daredevils, like Felix Baumgartner, break world records.



The children created beautiful examples of art work thinking about colour swatches and the impact of silhouettes on a sunset background. Intricate and carefully constructed mini-parachutes were made by sewing various materials and designs together by hand. The children also discussed and wrote excellent persuasive arguments and descriptions of what a first time parachute jump would feel like.

On Friday, after a week of testing hypotheses, carefully calculating surface areas and masses, and constructing models, the children carried out

a final practical test of what they had learnt with wonderful parachutes they had made in groups. The children were challenged with the task of trying to safely land an egg from heights of 10 and 20 metres. Although not all eggs made it down successfully, we are pleased that a couple of parachutes achieved their goal and a few eggs are now safely living an egg-cellent retirement with some of the children!

Bella, 6C - *"Can Science Week carry on next week? It has been so much fun and I have really enjoyed working with children from other classes and year groups"*

Thaddeus, 5R - *"I really liked making the parachute models and getting to test them. Our first one wasn't that good, but we learnt how to make it better and make improvements. It has been so much FUN!"*



Silent Auction

We are so grateful for the generous donations from our silent auction. Staff are now making contact with the parents who made the winning bid about organising a time for the event to take place.

This week, we all enjoyed one of those auction events, as Inez (Year 3) designed and worked with our catering team to create her perfect menu which we enjoyed on Friday! I think we can safely say that the hotdogs were a hit - thank you Inez, and I hope you were pleased with your menu!

Inez created a menu which all the children LOVED - and our catering team made her feel very special, and had taken the time to decorate the Hall to showcase this special menu. Thank you to Linda and her team for this.



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Bromley Festival

Many congratulations to the Chamber Choir, who were awarded a distinction for their performance in the Bromley Festival last Friday and won the trophy in their class. They performed 3 songs, some of which were in three part harmony. One comment from the adjudicator reads, 'For such a small choir the tuning, diction and musicality was excellent; you all looked so happy to be up there'. Huge thanks to Mrs. Paulides for coaching and conducting the choir.



Easter Hatwalk

Don't forget our final hurrah to the Spring term with our Easter hatwalk on Friday 31st March. Details about the themes of the hats for pupils, and the timings for pupils can be found on the poster below

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

SCA

Our AGM is confirmed for Monday 27th March at 20.00 via Zoom and we hope as many of you as possible can join us. Zoom details and summary reports will be sent to all members on Monday morning at circa 10am.



Summer term clubs

Information regarding clubs will be available on the website next week. Please discuss with your child which clubs they would like to participate in, bearing in mind when choosing clubs, that school matches take precedence over booked clubs.

We would like to thank Miss Atkinson for all her hard work with clubs and to let you know that Ms McLaren is taking over as Club Coordinator.

Bookings for Summer Clubs will go live on Sunday 2nd April at 6pm for Pre Prep and 6.30pm for Prep. Further information next week.

Year 3 and 4 Show

A reminder that Year 3 and 4 are presenting their music and drama showcase next Wednesday 29th March at 9am. We anticipate that this will be finished by 10.30. Entry will be via the main gate at 8.50 and we can accommodate 2 seats per family.

Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story! You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](https://www.facebook.com/stchristhehall) on insta as well at [stchristhehallsport](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehall) to get all the inside info from school life!



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Permission for workshops and trips

We are working to improve our communications and avoid unnecessary paperwork to help you out as parents. Therefore, you will notice, moving forward, that any letters regarding day trips and workshops in school, now state that we will not need a slip to be returned, as we will consider automatic permission from parents to partake in the visit/workshop as it is covered by our St. Christopher's The Hall Terms and Conditions for School Visits and Off-site Activities. If parents wish to opt out of an event or workshop, they will need to contact the class teacher when the initial letter goes out. Additionally, starting next term, there will be a digital Google Form to complete for each sports fixture, to avoid physical paper slips being returned. However, residential trips will still need to have expressed permission from the parents, and will not be covered by the automatic permission from the T&Cs.

Parking outside school

The majority of you are all very considerate to fellow parents and neighbours when it comes to dropping off and picking up our children from school. However, this week, we were very shocked to be sent a picture of a car parked across a double yellow line which had mounted the pavement. This was not only dangerous, but made it incredibly difficult for anyone to traverse the pavement. We will not publish the photo at this stage, but if you recognise that this could be you, please park more considerately in the future. Do be aware that the Council has recently put up a camera on Bromley Road too.

Pupil Achievement

We are delighted to announce Ady (Year 5) has been selected to represent/play for Bromley District Cricket. What an achievement, we are so proud that he will play matches through the summer term and holidays against other Kent district teams.



Prep Open Morning

We look forward to warmly welcoming the Prep School parents into school, **next Monday, 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.

ISA Football Finals

Last Friday, our pupils went to Staffordshire to compete at the Home of England Football, St George's Park, for the ISA 5-a-side National Finals. We kicked off our day on the Paul Ince pitch where we



were in group C, which had 6 teams who had also qualified from around the country.

In our Group results are as follows:

- Crackley Hall 0-0
- Langley Prep 0-0
- Huddersfield Grammar 2-1
- Claire Court 0-2
- St Joseph's. 0-1

These results took us into the Bowl Competition.

A difficult task ahead was met with grit and determination, but after a few near misses and a lack of goals scored, we unfortunately left empty handed.

- Gatehouse 2-3
- Sherbourne House 0-3
- Polwhele House 0-0

The boys behaved impeccably. They were an absolute credit to our school. A particular thanks to all the parents for being there and supporting us throughout the tournament.

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End of term timings next week

Remember that we finish earlier next week, on the last day of term: Friday 31st March.

Come and join us for the Hatwalk and then Pre-Prep and Prep School can be collected after this.

The timings for collects are as follows:

- **Preschool:** 11.30 from the SCAMPs door
- **Pre-Prep:** 11.30 after parade from playground
- **Prep:** 12.00 - after Parade from playground

If you have a child in either Preschool or Pre-Prep AND Prep School, you may bring your Pre-school/Pre-Prep child to the Prep Hatwalk after

National Skipping Day

We marked this in school with an assembly taken by Miss Atkinson followed by the children skipping into their lessons. We discovered that skipping first dates back to Egyptian times when they used vines to jump rope.

The benefits of skipping are:

- Healthy heart
- Improved Coordination
- Builds and developments bone density
- Increases running speed
- Helps ease anxiety
- Flexibility
- Rhythm
- Timing
- Agility

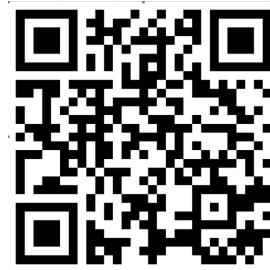


Reviews

We very much welcome reviews of our school.

After our lovely events over the last two weeks, from our Science Fair, Secondary School Fair, Art Exhibition, to our current parent Open Morning and prospective parents Open Morning, we wonder whether any parents' may like to write a review on Google for us. This works wonders to help actively promote our school: you are all, without doubt, the best ambassadors for your school. We appreciate your feedback.

You can write a review, by clicking this [link](#) or using this QR code.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 27th March

- Prep Open Morning (08:15-08:45)
- Pre-Prep and Prep Easter Egg Hunt (14:15-15:15)
- U8 Football/Netball v Royal Russell (selected pupils to play - 15:45-16:45)
- Secondary School Meeting for Year 5 parents (17:00-18:00)

Tuesday 21st March

- U11 Hockey v Colfes (all Year 6 to play 14:00-15:00)
- Year 4 Residential Trip Information Meeting (16:00-16:45)

Wednesday 22nd March

- Year 3 and 4 Music and Drama Show (09:00-10:00)
- Poetry ECHO club performance to parents (15:15-15:45)
- Year 3 Residential Trip Information Meeting (16:00-16:45)

Thursday 23rd March

- Parent Education Workshop: PSHE and RSE (16:00-17:00)

Friday 24th March

- Last day of school - school finishes between 11:30 and 12:00
- Pre-Prep Easter Hatwalk (10:45-11:20)
- Prep Easter Hatwalk (11:30-12:00)