

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Our final week of this term has been as busy as ever!

This week, we launched our Parent Partnership Education with two separate events. At St Christopher's, we love sharing school life with you, and I hope you do feel there is much

to engage with. We recognise that parents have a significant role in pupils' academic success, and parental involvement in education is key to this. Research has indicated that parental or family involvement in a child's education is a more accurate predictor of pupil achievement than social status or family income. With this in mind, we want to make sure that we align the messages teachers and parents are giving to our pupils, which is why we will always strive to have you involved in all that we do, and make sure our messaging about what we provide is clear.

On Monday, Miss Rule and I enjoyed talking to our Year 5 parents about Secondary School Transfer, and how to navigate this in the coming year. I hope this was helpful, especially since we also had current Year 6 parents on hand to provide their wisdom having just negotiated it themselves! Thursday was our first curriculum talk, and these will now continue over the course of each academic year with various subject areas being in the spotlight. Mrs Rudge gave an excellent outline of our PSHE curriculum, which includes Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in school. This is a compulsory part of our curriculum, with the aim to teach children about positive interactions with others, healthy relationships, how to value themselves and others and how to be safe and happy in relationships. Again, I hope this was helpful to get to know how and what we teach in school. Thank you to Mrs Rudge for her time preparing and delivering this. Both presentations will shortly feature in the 'Parent Education Partnership' section of the website (one in academic, and one in the pastoral section).

There was further parental involvement on Wednesday, with the Year 3 and 4 Music and Drama Showcase. I think the Performing Arts not only play a hugely significant role in helping children to develop their creative skills, but also are all about self expression, exploring alternative options and embracing individuality. The fact that they are not black and white, or about right or



wrong answers, allows children to develop self confidence and belief in themselves which is why these productions are so important. I loved the variety of talent we got to experience at the showcase and I especially LOVED listening to the debut of the Jack and the Beanstalk radio broadcast. Thank you to Mrs Gay and Miss Wooderson for their skill and expertise in creating such a novel performance for parents to enjoy.

I was delighted to see so many creative fashion statements coming into school today in preparation for the Easter Hatwalk later. My hat from last year has had a makeover, and is now ready for its debut appearance on the catwalk. I look forward to seeing you all for what is now fast becoming a favourite in our school calendar for staff, pupils and parents!

Please note that there has been a change of date to the club booking system, due to technical difficulties from our website provider, the club booking system will now go live on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 9am for Pre-Prep clubs and 9.30am for Prep clubs.

Every term, our timetable for each class will change, and these will now feature on the Parents' Area of the website within a new section called Timetables. We will post the summer term timetables during the Easter break. We hope this will be helpful to give you a clear indication about what lessons are going on this term. The new timetables will also feature in the pupils' planners.

Attached to our final newsletter of the term is a letter from Mrs Curtis, Chair of Governors. As you can appreciate, we are not immune to the economic challenges that we are currently facing, but our aim will always be to provide the outstanding holistic education that you would expect from St Christopher's that sets us apart from other prep schools.

There is a great deal to look forward to in the Summer Term, not least the launch of our Youtube channel, the filming and unveiling of our new School promo film, our 130th School Birthday, and Sports day. However, until then I wish you all a very restful and sunshine-filled Easter break; may your Easter basket be filled with joy, happiness, and peace this holiday and always.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### Year 4

In Science this week, 4H have been learning about electrical conductors and insulators. We had fun creating complete circuits and then adding other objects to see if the material would allow the electricity to pass through or not.



### Year 3 and 4 Swimming

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their last swimming lesson this year, and celebrated in fashion with Miss Atkinson, as they all took a team jump into the pool.



### Maths Competition

Last week, four children from Year 5 and 6 were invited to take part in a maths competition at Bishop Challoner school. The children had to compete in two rounds, working together to solve a range of challenging problems. After a very tense second round, it was announced that St Christopher's finished in first place!. Thank you to Giles, Shemaya, Daniel and Charles for representing the school and demonstrating outstanding teamwork skills.



### Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Music or peris lesson                      | <a href="mailto:musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| Sports or fixtures                         | <a href="mailto:sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| Lunchtime or afterschool clubs             | <a href="mailto:clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| Finance                                    | <a href="mailto:bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| SCAMPs (bookings or general enquiries)     | <a href="mailto:scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| SCAMP (logistics or payment)               | <a href="mailto:bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| Anything class related or for the teachers | <a href="mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a><br><b>NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for</b><br><b>Anything or time sensitive – please call or mark email URGENT</b> |
| Anything that needs the Head's attention   | <a href="mailto:headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |

### 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/Cd0V7pg2h8TCEAq/review>

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### ECHO: Mural Club (Prep)

Mr Carter and Mrs Craig ECHO club has been very busy over the last few weeks. We challenged the children to design, create and paint a mural on the Hall wall. The children have more than risen to this challenge, even washing down the wall then using spirit levels, tape measures & masking tape to initially mark out the area for the mural.

Since then they have been very busy designing, choosing colours and painting the wall. Huge progress has been made & when they took the first tape off they were so excited to see the lovely straight lines they had created. The children are rightly proud of all their hard work, and we now have one week to go and we can't wait for everyone to see the finished mural. Below are some pictures of the project in progress.



### 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

We are very proud that Cole in RC got to be the team mascot and lead the Bromley under 14s FC in the Kent Cup final against Metrogas FC hosted at the Isle of Sheppey FC.



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

### A fond farewell

Today, we say a sad goodbye to two members of staff, Miss Atkinson and Mr Graeme.

We will miss both of them, not least because of their hard work for the School over the years, but also their keen sense of humour, and real care for our pupils.

We wish them well for their future ventures, and we know that we will keep in touch.



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### Preschool

We have had a busy term in Preschool talking about our Toys topic. We have looked at new toys and old toys, how toys work and move by pushing or pulling them, what materials our toys are made from and why, whether they float or sink in water, and we have also told each other about our own favourite toys. We have been finding out about how letters are sent and we posted our own Mother's Day cards to our mummies. We are now looking forward to Easter with lots of Easter craft, and on Wednesday we had an Easter egg hunt!



### E-safety tip

One highly controversial question, heard earlier and earlier in school years by parents is "When can I get a phone?" While there is no one answer to fit everyone, there are a range of strategies that may work for individual situations and needs. These range from gaming-only hand-me-downs without communication abilities to fully functional smartphones. Each has its own pitfalls and bonuses.



In research in 2022, Ofcom found that technology use across the UK showed that **nearly all 13 – 15 year olds (98%) have their own phone**. For most of these young people, they were given their phones around the start of secondary school, between the ages of 9 and 11 (91%). However, as educators we see this tide-line being pushed back further and further, and with it, the associated risks.

This [link](#) will take you to a UK Safer Internet Centre article with different strategies being shared and outcomes discussed. There are some creative solutions to the phone pester power. Also there is a further link to a "First Phone Checklist", starting conversations about online safety and secondary transitions with technology, all published by Childnet.

### Year 3 and 4 Show

Congratulations to Year 3 and 4 on a wonderful Music and Drama showcase, on Wednesday. The morning consisted of several musical solos, including piano, violin, singing, guitar and drums! We also heard group recorders, poetry, and an entertaining radio play version of 'Jack and The Beanstalk', where the children created all the sound effects to accompany the story using their voices and various objects. Pupils worked incredibly hard on the lead up to this, and presented their work with growing confidence, expression and stage skills. Miss Wooderson and Mrs Gay were particularly pleased with the team work skills the children displayed. Thank you to all parents who could attend and for your generous donations to our charity.



### *What's Happening Next Term!*

- 🔔 **Monday 24th April**
  - School starts for the Summer Term: **PUPILS SHOULD BE IN SUMMER UNIFORM**
  - Year 1 sponsored event begins!
- 🔔 **Tuesday 25th April**
  - Year 6 Information Meeting re: Residential trip top Rockley Point (16:00-17:00)
- 🔔 **Thursday 27th April**
  - Year 3 Residential
  - Year 4-6 STEM workshop
  - Year 5 Parents' Information Meeting re: Residential (16:00-16:45)
- 🔔 **Friday 28th April**
  - Year 3 Residential
  - Preschool joiners 2023/2024, Cheese and Wine Evening