

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It was so wonderful to welcome the pupils back to school on Monday. They all look somewhat taller, refreshed and ready for the Summer Term!

The Summer term is always my favourite, as it is the term when the days are lighter and, hopefully, the sun is shining. In assembly, on Monday, this is exactly what I talked about. We looked at various facts about the sun, and then reflected on whether they had ever heard someone being called someone's 'sunshine'. We decided that, just as the Sun brings light and warmth to us, we can do the same for those around us. By showing people that we care, by treating them with respect, by listening to them and encouraging them, we can make people feel happy. Sometimes, people can feel sad, as if a dark cloud is blocking out the sunshine in their lives; by our actions, we can help move that cloud and bring light in the form of happiness to them. I asked the pupils to think about how they could be like sunshine to their families, and then to think about their teachers, the other children in their class, and consider what they could do to bring warmth and light to them over this term. I hope you have seen your 'ray of sunshine' showing you their sunlight at home!

The first of our residential trips kicked off this week, with our Year 3's venturing off to Frylands. Residentials are always a highlight of the year for our pupils, and experiencing this independence in a safe and positive environment boosts a child's self-confidence, as well as being essential for personal and social development, allowing new friendships to bloom and new challenges to be faced. I really enjoyed visiting the Year 3 on Thursday to see them outside of the classroom environment, and I also was wowed at their wall climbing ability and skill at the obstacle course - they put me to shame!

We have a few new pupils starting with us this term (more on that below), as well as our new site manager, Mr Davies. I would like to welcome him to our school community officially, and say that he

has settled in so well, and is proving to be an invaluable asset already. You will see him at the gate with me every morning, so be sure to give him a cheery 'hello'!

As I mentioned last term, our timetable changes each term, whilst retaining the same amount of time for each curriculum area over the week to give coverage to the content set out in the National Curriculum and to allow for a broad and balanced curriculum. Each term you will be able to find the timetables in the parents' area of the website. You can find the summer term's [here](#).

I wanted to apologise regarding the challenges when trying to make club booking over the Easter holidays. Obviously, we do not control the technology, but we are investigating why there were issues. We are already making inroads to provide a better, cleaner and hopefully more user-friendly system for bookings clubs, when this comes round again, as I cannot have parents experiencing the difficulties some of you had previously. In regard to clubs, Mrs McLaren has processed all the requests for this term, and the club lists are now on the parents' area of the website. They can be found [here](#). If you have any queries regarding clubs, you can email clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to let you know that, at the annual Private Education Awards 2023 for LUXlife, our school was awarded Most Nurturing Preparatory School 2023 - Greater London. The judging panel and research team take into consideration the commitment, expertise, and innovation shown by nominees and spotlight the institutions and educational professionals across the Private Education sector who have gone above and beyond to teach, nurture, and educate young minds. This is fantastic news and I am so proud that our team in school has been recognised for their hard work and dedication to our pupils.

Let's hope for more sunshine this weekend, and less of the April showers!

Mr Carter
Head Teacher



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Pre-Prep School

It has been lovely to welcome the Pre-Prep children back to school this week, after the Easter break. We have another busy and exciting term ahead of us, with class trips to High Elms Country Park, Hall Place and The Science Museum, in the diary for the different Year groups. We will also be marking the King's Coronation with a special Coronation Drama Workshop, to commemorate this moment in British History. The children will have chosen new ECHO clubs this week, giving the Pre-Prep children more opportunities to enhance their learning and try one of the different clubs on offer. Looking ahead, we are also looking forward to our last half term of the school year, with Sports Day, the Summer Fair and other celebrations - hopefully the weather will be kind to us for these events!

Mrs Chamadia
Head of Pre-Prep



The Starry Night
Vincent van Gogh
MoMA The Museum of Mo... | Google Arts & Culture



Prep School

Welcome back to all of our Prep school pupils and parents. I hope you all had a wonderful and restful Easter. We have many things to look forward this term in the Prep school: Year 3 will be exploring the Rainforest; Year 4 will be studying the Romans; Year 5 will be researching and learning about the topic 'Extreme Earth' and Year 6 will be carrying out their own project following the successes of their work on Amazing America and the Mayans.

Each Year group will experience an exciting residential trip to develop their teamwork skills, independence and resilience as well as participate in new and engaging ECHO clubs.

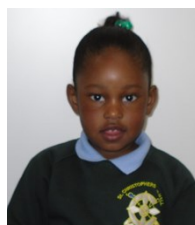
We look forward to a sensational Summer Term.

Miss Rule
Head of Prep



Welcoming new pupils this term

We are delighted to welcome two new pupils to our school.



Nyah has started with us in Pre-school, and has already found her feet with painting, and surprising Mr Carter with a pop up toy in class this week

Rex (RC) has joined our Reception class. He too has made a brilliant start, and enjoyed the lessons over the week.



We wish both the children and their families a warm welcome to our school community, and hope they continue to enjoy school as much as they have this week!

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Library opening for Parents and children: Wednesday from 15:15-16:15

Our school library has gone from strength to strength since reopening for our pupils in January. The library is currently used by pupils across the School once a week with their class teacher, and is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes for the Prep School. Our pupils are aware of the library rules and understand how the library operates.



In some exciting news, we are happy to announce that the library will now be open for parents to visit with their children **after school** on Wednesdays. The library will be open from 15:15 until 16:15, with Mr Pretara and Miss Johns being on-hand to support. Should your child wish to borrow a book during this session, they must ensure that they have returned any previous books.



We hope that you are able to take advantage of this opportunity to browse our collection of books with your child. We look forward to seeing many of you in the library!

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Trinity (Year 4) and Thaddeus (Year 5) on amazing results in the Junior London Fencing Competition. Thaddeus was fencing an age group up and he fenced brilliantly, and finished an impressive 8th. Trinity performed incredibly well in her age range and finished 3rd. Well done to both of these children.



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

E-safety Tip

What is a digital footprint?

Whenever you visit a website, share a photo or make a comment online, you leave a digital footprint that other people can see. Your digital footprint includes all the information you share or that's collected about you online, and there can be a lot of it. Your footprint can be both good and bad. It could show things you're embarrassed about later, or help people to see your skills or things you're proud of.



Seven things that could be part of your digital footprint:

1. Photos and posts on social media.
2. Data collected on fitness trackers and smart watches.
3. Games you've played online.
4. Things you've bought.
5. Information you allow apps to collect or access.
6. Voice searches on Alexa or other devices.
7. Comments or arguments you've been in.

This article from the NSPCC ([here](#)) explains what you can do about your digital footprint, and also how to change privacy settings for a number of different social media sites.

What's Happening Next Week

- Tuesday 2nd May**
 - Year 3 Tennis Competition (Year 3 and 4 - selected pupils 12:00-15:00)
- Wednesday 3rd May**
 - ISA Football Qualifiers Tournament (selected pupils: 08:00-16:45)
- Thursday 4th May**
 - Year 4 DT Trip to Waitrose (14:00-15:30)
 - Year 5 Cricket match v Eltham College (all pupils to play: 14:30-17:00)
- Friday 5th May**
 - Year 5 Cricket match v Eltham College (all pupils to play: 14:30-17:00)