

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

And just like that...we are at the end of the half term, and with just six weeks of the school year for this academic year left!

There are still many exciting events coming up after half-term, with our 130th Birthday celebration and the Summer Fair (4th July) as well as our Sports Day (6th July - we hope you enjoyed the video regarding this, sent out yesterday); however, we are also looking ahead to next year. It is on this note, I am delighted to give you some staffing news. Mrs Jessica Michael will be joining us in the new academic year as a Teaching Assistant. We were all so impressed during the interview with her compassionate approach and her strength in terms of the academics when working with a group of our pupils; we already know she will be of real benefit to our school. We are also delighted to welcome Mr David Styles, who will join the Pre-school Team as the teacher in Ladybird class. I know all the staff in the EYFS were so impressed

with his exemplary lesson and manner with children, not to mention his vision and enthusiasm for Early Years. We know he too will be an asset to our school.

In this same vein, we have now finalised our staffing for next year. As you know, I am keen for teachers and teaching assistants to avoid working in one year group for too many years, as it breeds institutionalism. All teachers require professional learning throughout their careers to ensure they are effective practitioners. Findings suggest that transition can have a significant impact on teachers' professional learning and is an opportunity for effective professional growth through which teachers can strengthen their practice and pedagogy.

Therefore, our staffing for next year will be as in the table below.

I hope you enjoy the half-term. Let's hope for sun and warm weather!

See you all on Monday 5th June.

Mr Carter
Head Teacher

Phase of school	Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant/s
Preschool Mrs Jones (Head of Preschool)	Bumblebee	Mrs Jones	Mrs Salim Mrs Bradshaw
	Ladybird	Mr Styles	Mrs Meacock Mrs Bruin
	Butterfly	Mrs Conway	Ms Steeden
Pre-Prep Mrs Chamadia (Head of Pre-Prep)	RC	Mrs Chamadia	Mrs Goberdhan
	RCo	Mrs Cornish	Mrs Craig
	1C	Mr Codd	Miss James
	1HD	Miss Hicks/Mrs Dodd	Mrs Malcolm and Mrs Reilly
	2J	Miss Johns	Mrs Cremer
Prep Miss Rule (Head of Prep)	3H	Miss Heselwood	Mrs Bibby
	3O	Mr Organ	
	4M	Mrs Morris	Mrs Coombs-Organ
	4S	Mrs Shivers	
	5R	Miss Rule	Mrs Dempsey
	5L	Miss Leaf	
	6C	Mr Chowdhury	Mrs Michael
	6P	Mr Pretara	

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Parent Education Partnership

Following parent feedback from the survey, we have been working towards a programme of Parent Education, this year. We believe this partnership plays a crucial role in fostering effective communication and collaboration between parents and schools. By providing you with information about what is being taught in school and why it is important, we hope it will enable you to better support your child's education and reinforce learning at home. We have already organised two events to help familiarise parents with the curriculum, teaching methods, and educational goals. The Secondary School Transfer slides can be found on the website already in the Academic tab of the Parent Education, and now a video regarding Personal Development including PSHE and RSE is now available for you to view on our website under the Pastoral section for those who couldn't attend the live session. Please find the link by clicking [here](#). Should you have any further questions or queries subsequent to viewing this video, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Rudge via mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk.



We hope you have found these sessions useful, and we look forward to you attending the future events, including the English Curriculum event after half term, for which you can register your attendance [here](#)

Additionally, there are some very informative and thought-provoking TED Talks which are such a great investment of your time as there is always something new to learn. Below are a few suggested 10 to 20-minute talks about parenting, delivered by renowned child psychologists, researchers, or experienced educators. Click on the links: [Julie Lythcott-Haims, 'How to Raise Successful Kids - Without Over-Parenting'](#)

This is by far one of the most powerful speeches TED Talks have to offer. Julie Lythcott-Haims, a top-selling author of parenting books like 'How to Raise an Adult', delivers a powerful speech regarding over-parenting and how it affects children. Here, Julie Lythcott-Haims begs you to question the standards that we set for our children. She is critical about all the expectations that kids at

school have to go through and how it becomes counterproductive for them in the long term.

Julie's persuasive speech and critical analysis forces parents to reconsider their ideas and reevaluate what's best for their children. First, she goes over the most popular parenting styles and how they affect our children. Then, she tells us to question these ordeals and suggests better things to do.

If your child is starting secondary school, this is a must-watch.

[Angela Lee Duckworth, 'Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance'](#)

Angela Lee Duckworth, a former teacher, shares her experiences from her years spent teaching young pupils.

This 6-minute video, with the same title as her famous book, analyses her best and worst-performing students over the years and ties psychological perspectives behind it.

In this TED Talk, Angela Lee Duckworth breaks the most conventional ideas of 'being smart' in school and proposes inclusive ideas for everyone.

[Gever Tulley, '5 Dangerous Things You Should Let Your Kids Do'](#)

This is a classic example of how TED Talks can change your thought processes for the better.

Most parents want safety for their children; however, this can hamper their creativity and curiosity in the process. Gever Tulley points this out in this TED Talk and recommends that you should instead involve your child in dangerous activities. He argues that providing kids with these experiences can encourage independent thinking and curiosity.

[Astro Teller, 'The Unexpected Benefit of Celebrating Failure'](#)

Astro Teller, a successful entrepreneur, shares his secret for succeeding in life.

Many parents might put undue pressure on their child, preventing them from experimenting and failing. However, Astro argues that failing is vital for succeeding in life. He draws lessons from his experiences in work and how experimenting and embracing failure helped him solve problems and grow.

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Year 6 Residential at Rockley Point

Below is a daily recount of the Year 6 Residential, written by a different child each day:

Day 1 - Tuesday 9th by Shemaya

Rockley Point has already been quite the experience. Upon arriving we were greeted by our friendly instructors, Ed and Fion, who showed us around and briefly introduced us to our thrilling activities ahead.

After lunch, Group 1 went sailing, Group 2 canoeing and Group 3, (my group) went windsurfing.

Difficult though it was, most of my team persevered, and through hard work, teamwork, and the most encouraging instructor there is, we managed to not only balance on the board, but traverse the sea at a cruising speed. A massive thank you to the school, the teachers involved, and our amazing instructors! -

Update: Oh no! Team Olivia and Benji, who really got to grips with the Pico boat sailing - some may say naturals - turned too quickly and capsized their boat! But soaking wet and full of cheery laughter, their boat was up-righted and they continued their Captain Jack type adventures and were last seen heading to the Caribbean for further adventures on the high seas. Tee hee.

Day 2 - Wednesday 10th by Giles

With a belly full of freshly made cinnamon swirls (yum) and all you can eat cereal and toast, we headed down to the beach for a full day of activities: kayaking, paddle boarding, team games and Pico sailing, to name a few, to look forward... the buzz of excitement was palpable!

Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

Mr Chowdhury stands accused of causing Giles, Digby and Benji to fall into the water during a fun session of paddle boarding. He claims that gravity and the forces of Mother Nature were to blame.



The jury will be looking at evidence and the verdict will soon be announced.

Giles, one of the apparent victims, told us that 'despite the unacceptable behaviour from Mr Chowdhury, I can confidently say on behalf of the whole group this has been

an amazing experience, from our versatile windsurfing skills to my personal favourite, the pleasurable Pico sailboat (maybe that had something to do with not getting soaked!)

Day 3 - Thursday 11th

What a glorious morning... pity it did not stay that way! But regardless of the afternoon downpours, it was another amazing day of water based fun. Kayaking, raft building and giant SUP board balancing to name a few of the group activities we did.

Mr Myatt thought he was filming a scene from Hawaii Five-O (for those of you who are old enough) but Ed, one of our lead instructors, took the wind out of his sails (sorry) and taught him that powerboat always beat paddle-board like rock beats scissors.

The sun came out by the evening and some children stayed to chat and chill on the lodge's sofas and the rest went back to the beach to play cricket and watch the sun begin to set. What a great day!

Day 4 - Friday 12th by Melody

The last day (sad face!) Still time to have another delicious breakfast and head down to the beach for one final time to attempt the Rockley Challenge. Sandy stuff. Everything packed, we said a grateful thanks to the amazing staff who were fabulous and made us all feel very welcome the entire week. Three cheers for Rockley!

Today, all of the year 6s were woken a little later as it was our last day. We headed to the beach, but on our way we stopped to enter the mini market as it was essential. All of us came out with bundles of sweets!

We continued our final walk to the beach. As we arrived, there was the Rockley point obstacle course laid out in front of us. We were split into our groups and put against each other. We had to complete many challenging activities like throwing stones into tyres and digging holes under canoes. Once we had done that, we played a few games of tug o' war, then we got to choose to play our own games such as 'grab a granny'. Thank you to the staff at Rockley point but also the staff from our school too. It was amazing. I enjoyed our day (and week) very much, and loved the whole week's experience. -





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World Day for Cultural Diversity

What a vibrant and colourful atmosphere we had last Thursday when celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity! It was fantastic to see the array of outfits and artefacts celebrating each and everyone of our unique cultures and traditions. Whilst we may all currently live and attend school in this small corner of the world, isn't it amazing to think

of all the links we have around the globe and to one another?

The children enjoyed a special Form Time in which they were able to share more information about their culture



with their teachers and peers. We then celebrated these pictures at Monday's assembly and had a special talk from one of our guest parents. It was fascinating to hear about different traditions and to find out unexpected links that our children and staff have. We are committed to finding as many opportunities to celebrate our uniqueness throughout the year and welcome the celebration of all cultures. So please, do share!



Year 5 Maths competition

Last week, four Year 5 children were invited to take part in a Maths competition at Royal Russell School. As a team, the children participated in a range of challenging puzzles and questions over the course of the afternoon. We are delighted to say that, out of seventeen teams, St Christopher's finished in 6th position. The children who participated demonstrated outstanding resilience and teamwork skills. We are extremely proud of their achievement.



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.



Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

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

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Pupil Success

We are delighted that we have much to celebrate this week with lots of our pupils experiencing success outside school:

Hector (Year 1) swam 5m and Arthur (Reception) achieved his Stage 1.



Guy (Preschool) achieved his 5m unaided swimming certificate this weekend.

Oscar (Reception) had his first performance with his hip hop dance crew with great enthusiasm at the Dulwich Park Festival.



Siddharth (Year 4) achieved a Level B award in the Blackheath Music Festival.



Lyla (Year 5) achieved three distinctions in her Grade 3 modern, tap and ballet exams, as well as competing and winning bronze in the 'Future Gymnastics' competition.



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

YouTube channel

We hope you enjoyed the video regarding Sports Day that you can watch on our YouTube channel [here](#).

You can also now listen to the live recording of the Year 3 and 4 radio play 'Jack and The Beanstalk' which we recorded at the end of last term. The link to the video can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Please don't forget to subscribe to our channel; more videos will be uploaded soon!

Preschool

The Preschool enjoyed an exciting workshop about 'Heroes' last week. We thought about what makes a hero and how we are all heroes every day.

We dressed up in capes and masks and passed all the hero tests. Everyone had a super time!



Reception

The Reception children enjoyed marking the coronation of King Charles III by joining in the historic celebrations with an exciting workshop covering the life of the oldest new monarch to take the throne. During the workshop, the children learned how to be an eco-warrior, looked at ways to protect our planet and had time to think about the importance of helping others. The workshop also gave the children the opportunity to celebrate this significant moment in British history in a fun and imaginative way.



What's Happening Next Week

Tuesday 6th June

- Year 1 trip to Hall Place .

Wednesday 7th June

- Class Photos (please wear uniform into school)
- English Curriculum Parent Education (18:00-19:15)

Thursday 8th June

- Year 6 Cricket v Merton Court (selected pupils to play: 16:00-17:30)

Friday 9th June

- Year 2 trip to Go Ape
- Year 5 Extreme Earth workshop
- Year 6 Cricket v Alleyns (all pupils to play: 14:00-15:30)