

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed watching our school's promotional video this week. Both staff and parents have said how they feel it captures the true essence of what our school is about, and makes them feel so proud to be part of our

school community. If you haven't seen it yet, you're in for a treat, so make sure you view it on our YouTube channel now by clicking [here!](#)

I think visual media, such as videos, are an excellent tool for promoting our school as well as engaging parents in a meaningful way. I know you also agree as I have had so much positive feedback about the videos we have posted on our new YouTube channel. There's no doubt about it, through visual media, we can showcase the various activities, events, and achievements of our pupils, providing parents with a firsthand glimpse into their children's educational journey.

Therefore, we want to do more! We already have plans to provide more media to allow parents

to witness the vibrant learning environment, the dedication of our teachers, and the growth and development of their own children. By capturing the essence of our school through visual storytelling, we hope to effectively communicate our core values, educational philosophy, and the unique experiences our school offers, as well as foster a stronger connection between parents and the school through visually compelling content. Look out for our STEM video coming soon, as well as more visual media during our next academic year.

And talking of visual media, the photos from Instagram illustrate what an incredible trip Year 2 had to GoApe, in Battersea, last week, where all of our Character Values came to the fore. I was delighted that the year group took public transport to get there, and even more delighted to hear what great ambassadors they were for the School when they were out in public. Coupled with this, many of them faced personal fears and challenges, such as heights or physical exertion, during the activities. However, with encouragement from their peers and supportive instructors and teachers, they demonstrated remarkable resilience by pushing themselves outside their comfort zones. I hope that overcoming their fears will not

only build confidence, but also instil a sense of accomplishment and the understanding that perseverance can lead to personal growth. Thank you to the staff and parents who helped on the trip.

We hosted our final Open Morning of the year for prospective parents on Wednesday, and once again, it was a resounding success. As has become the norm, the feedback from parents who attended has been overwhelmingly positive. I want to make special mention to Lexie and Evie, our Head and Deputy Head pupil, who every Open Morning have each delivered a speech. From feedback, it is one of the highlights and leaves a lasting impression on the parents who were fortunate enough to hear them. As they reach the end of their term 'in office', I must say that these girls have demonstrated remarkable leadership and have been outstanding ambassadors for our school; a big achievement as the inaugural holders of this new position of responsibility in school. Next year's Year 5, have big shoes to fill.

Next week, we have our termly Open Mornings for current parents: Pre-Prep on Tuesday from 08:15-09:00, and Prep on Thursday, again from 08:15-09:00. We hope they provide a unique opportunity to be in our school environment, gain valuable insights, and establish a greater collaborative partnership with teachers. We want these firsthand experiences to foster transparency, trust, and appreciation while ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for both the child and the parent. We look forward to seeing you then.

Finally, just a friendly reminder that, next week, on Friday, it will be Own Clothes Day at school. On this day, pupils are encouraged to wear their own clothes instead of the regular school uniform, in exchange for bringing something for the upcoming Summer Fair. Please see the SCA article in the newsletter for more details. Thank you in advance for this as these donations help to make the fair a success. Additionally, a reminder that the Summer Fair is on Tuesday 4th July, and follows our 130th Anniversary celebrations in the morning. Please note that **school will finish at 15:00** on this day.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and may the sunny weather continue.

Mr Carter
Head Teacher



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English Curriculum Evening

Last week, we launched our first ever Parent Education evening for English.

These are important events as they allow us to not only explain how our English curriculum is delivered to the children and how parents can support their children at home, but an opportunity for parents to see this first-hand.

The evening was a big success. The parents enjoyed being part of one of three lessons depend-

ing on the age of their child. This gave them the chance to get a feel of what and how their children are being taught.

The best way you can help your child to learn at home is to read with them! Each term we will be sending you a reading list of books your children may enjoy. Go to the curriculum page [here](#) and click the English tab, scroll to the bottom where you will find the reading list along with questions you can discuss with your child whilst reading with them.

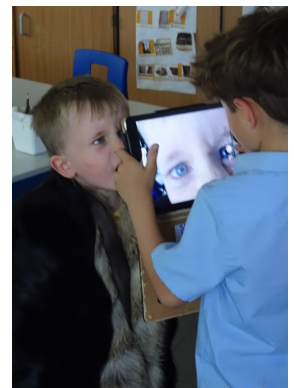
Spanish ECHO (Prep)

This term, a group of keen linguists from Years 5 and 6 have been improving their Spanish memory and pronunciation skills in our Primary Bee ECHO Club in preparation for the national final, which will take place at the University of Cambridge on Tuesday, 27th June. The children have participated in fun, whole-class vocabulary games to help consolidate the key words and worked independently on iPads, using the learning platform *Vocab Express*. They have especially enjoyed competing with one another and monitoring their progress on the online leaderboards. During the week after half-term, they all took part in an in-school competition to help determine the four finalists. Each child had to translate as many words as they could from English into Spanish in one minute. We are delighted that Matteus and Daniel from Year 5 and Giles and Shemaya from Year 6 have been selected as our four finalists. They thoroughly deserve their places in the final after all of their hard work, and we know that they will be fantastic ambassadors for St. Christopher's the Hall. *¡Buena suerte!*



Photography ECHO (Pre-Prep)

This week, we learned about taking portrait photos. We looked at some famous portraits taken by amazing photographers like David Bailey & Annie Leibovitz. We also had some props, like hats, sunglasses, leather jackets & scarves. We thought about whether we should always smile in photos.....and the sort of pose we might try, whether we should move or stand still. We had great fun taking photos of each other & even trying selfies.



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E-safety Tip

This week, we are focussed on how we respond to a child who has seen something upsetting, and on prevention. Here are five 'top tips' condensed from the document "Supporting Children to Deal With Upsetting Content" published by National Online Safety.

Find out what the child already knows.

Online or offline, content that is upsetting can be found easily. It is a good idea to listen rather than inform when trying to find out how they have been impacted by what they have seen. Avoid leading questions and complicated details.

Find the right time and place

This could be an emotional conversation, so make sure you have time. Just before bed or going to school is not ideal. Try to find a time when they are relaxed and open to talking and can take things at their own speed. Young children may not openly say they are scared, angry or sad. Keep an eye on body language.

Set limits.

Managing screen time and content is difficult, but can be made easier with parental control settings.

Many internet providers, web browsers, devices and anti-virus software have these built in. Explore the options and discuss what the restrictions are for, and how they will keep them safe.



Encourage questions.

Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device. Encourage the child to talk about what they have seen, how they came to see it. Our emotions as adults in this situation will determine how they will feel about opening up to a conversation. Keep calm! Children will emulate your response and build resilience and coping strategies.

Identify help.

It is massively important that children know where to find help. In school, our safeguarding team is clearly visible and talked about with the children. Encourage children to know who their trusted adults are, and that they are not alone in dealing with something that has made them feel uneasy.

New pupils

We are delighted to welcome Reuel and Maya (Reception) to our school. They joined last week, and they both settled so quickly, and have already proved to be a real asset to our school community.

We hope both of them, and their families, enjoy being part of St Christopher's!



SCA

As we prepare for our 130th year anniversary extravaganza, **next Friday 23 June**, the children are welcome to wear their own clothes to help the SCA collect donations for the children's tombola.



The SCA will be at the gate during drop off. Donations could include new or pre-loved, age appropriate, toys, games, books or unwanted gifts. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, it would be gratefully received and will be used to buy prizes for the stalls.

Please remember, we are a nut free school. Additionally, do ensure your children are dressed comfortably if they have sports on Friday.



Likewise, if you can spare any time to help either on 3rd July or 4th July please let your class rep, Sam Miles or Bron Rose know.

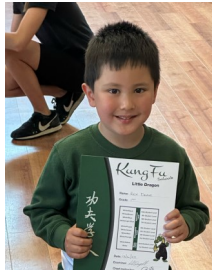
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Pupil success

Rex (Rec) has been doing Kung Fu lessons and was recently graded. He was awarded his white sash at the weekend - the first step on the way to getting his black belt. Well done, Rex; what an achievement!



Max and Zach (Year 4) made their first Holy Communion at St. Edmund's Church in Beckenham, last Saturday 10th of June. They have studied hard since September last year and had a lovely day celebrating with their proud families and each other.

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

Women in World War 2 workshop

On Monday, we stepped back in time to World War 2 and Reception to Year 6 learnt all about women's effort during the war. They played the various roles that women had to take on such as being a farmer or an ambulance driver and found lots of interesting facts about the war and the role of women. Some pupils were surprised to find out that prior to World War 2 women in Great Britain were not permitted to work in the same way as men and that following World War 2, women's role in society was forever changed. We even found some personal links to this part of our history. Mimi and Max's great grandmother, Violet,



drove an ambulance during World War 2 (standing at the back of the photo.) How fascinating and challenging it must have been living in those times!



Holiday Activity Inspiration

Get ready to spark your creativity at Young V&A – the museum where children, young people and families can imagine, play and design. Be inspired by spaces, explore the collection and get creative. There will be exhibitions and creative opportunities for the children to explore. This exciting new museum will open in Bethnal Green on the 1st July and admission is free. So go and visit and let us know what you think.

This is the link to the website.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/young>

Summer fun for 4-10s

We're off to see the wizard this summer. We'll sing and dance our way down the Yellow Brick Road to discover the world of Oz.

With colourful costumes, uplifting songs and dazzling dancing, your child will be immersed in confidence-building fun as they put together a fabulous show for family and friends.

Your child will enjoy:

- Five full days of drama, dance and singing
- Energetic team of actors, dancers and musicians
- Engaging arts and crafts activities
- Colourful performance on the last day for friends and family with original music and costumes
- Personalised certificate of achievement for every child

VENUS Five Day Courses
from £383* (10am-3pm)

Mon 24th - Fri 28th July
Barbican, Clapham South, Crouch End, East Dulwich, Greenwich, Highbury, Kensington, Newham, St John's Wood, Walthamstow and Whitechapel

Mon 31st July - Fri 4th August
Blackheath, Chelsea, Ealing, Earlfield, East Finchley, Eastcote, Gullford, Primrose Hill, Richmond, Tufnell Park and Wokingham

Mon 7th - Fri 11th August
Beckenham, Clontarf, Clapham South, Hackney, Kensington, Muswell Hill, Notting Hill, Oxford, St Albans and West Hampstead

Mon 14th - Fri 18th August
Battersea, Becontree, Hammersmith, Hampton Garden Suburb, Salington, Primrose Hill, Sevenoaks, Southgate, Twickenham and Wilton-on-Thames

PERFORM IN THE PARK

FEATURING MERMAIDS & PIRATES AND THE DREAM PLUS MUCH MORE!

MAGICAL CHILDREN'S THEATRE IN THE HEART OF LONDON

22 JUL - 28 AUG - CORAN'S FIELDS, LONDON W10H

BOOK NOW PERFORMINTHEPARK.UK

How to book

To book or find out more, call 020 7255 9120 or visit perform.org.uk/wizard

Course 1-50hrs are required at a cost of £8.50. *We offer a 20% discount for siblings attending the same holiday course at the same venue. Payment can be made by credit/debit card or children's vouchers. See our website for Terms & Conditions and our refund policy. *Noting to class size restrictions. Highway is priced at £25 for the day. Your child should bring a water bottle and a sun hat/parasol.

PERFORM WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

perform.org.uk/wizard 020 7255 9120

What's Happening Next Week

- Tuesday 20th June**
 - Open Morning for Pre-Prep parents (08:15-08:45)
 - Year 4 Cricket v Alleyns (all children to play 14:30-16:00)
- Thursday 22nd June**
 - Open Morning for Prep parents (08:15-08:45)
 - Year 5 Cricket v Alleyns (all children to play 14:30-16:00)
- Friday 23rd June**
 - Own Clothes Day for Pupils (pupils to bring donation for Summer Fair)
 - Year 5 Car Wash Charity Car Wash