

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Currently, each week seems to flash by and, whilst keeping one foot in this year, we are also looking to start to prepare for next year. We very much enjoyed welcoming our new staff on Monday for our staff meeting in preparation for the next

academic year. What a fabulous bunch they all are, and I can't wait for you to meet them properly.

You all know how passionate I am about reading, so I thought it would be justified to, again, draw your attention to our new booklist on our website. Each term, we will provide a recommended book for your child's reading pleasure. Additionally, we have compiled a list of questions to consider when reading with your child, promoting better understanding and comprehension. These book lists can be found on the curriculum page, by opening the English tab and scrolling to the bottom of the text. Clicking [here](#) will take you to the curriculum page. We also have an exciting opportunity to take some of our pupils to see Michael Rosen after school on Monday; we are looking forward to hearing him speak.

Continuing this English vein, it was worrying to read recent research conducted by the National Literacy Trust revealed a distressing decline in children's interest in writing. The charity highlighted an alarmingly low level of enjoyment among children when it comes to writing. The report emphasises that children who have participated in creative-writing groups or writing competitions demonstrate a greater enjoyment of writing and are more likely to engage in daily writing during their free time compared to those who have not. In school, we are eager to tackle this and buck the trend, as we want young people to be inspired to write. Therefore, we are eagerly planning exciting writing workshops for the Autumn Term at school. However, if this is something you also want to foster at home, there are many things you could do - there is a flyer in an article below about one such thing that you might be interested in.

Our preparations for the 130th anniversary on July 4th are well underway, and our celebration plans are progressing smoothly. On the day, all pupils will receive celebratory badges made from recycled plastic. These badges not only honour the occasion but also contribute to our sustainability pledge. Additionally, we are excited to offer commemorative metal water bottles with the 130th

logo for purchase. These high-quality water bottles are designed to be leak-proof and serve as a lasting memento of this special milestone. I also wanted to remind you that we will use this momentous occasion in the history of our school to introduce a new initiative called 'St Christopher's in the Community.' aiming to provide an opportunity for our students and staff to contribute to our local community by dedicating 130 hours each year to assist those in need. We will be creating a dedicated hub on the School's website, where we will showcase any volunteering work we undertake. Additionally, we will feature updates on our volunteering efforts in the school newsletter and allocate space on a notice board by the school's main gate. I would love parents to join us in this endeavour. **Therefore, if you are involved in any volunteering or charity work and would be willing to share your experiences with the children, we would be delighted to have you get in touch.** Together, we can make a positive impact in our community and instil a spirit of giving back among our students.

Finally, just a friendly reminder that Sports Day will be taking place on July 6th. Please note that the BBQ event which follows will be exclusively for children. We had initially aimed to include parents, but due to logistical constraints, we regretfully cannot accommodate you this year. We appreciate your understanding and assure you that we will explore the possibility of involving parents next year. Thank you for your support and we hope the children have a fantastic time during the event!

Enjoy your weekend,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

SCA

Thank you all for your most generous donations this morning. The children's tombola is much loved and always a huge success, we couldn't do it without you!

A reminder entry tickets and SCA currency are on sale now for **St Chris Fest on 4 July 2023** via, www.scasales.co.uk. Early orders are advised to prevent queues on the day.

Laser Quest bookings will go live on Monday 26 June at 12:00 noon, again via www.scasales.co.uk.

Thank you as always for your support.

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Experiment ECHO (Pre-Prep)

In Experiment Club, we have been busy making bubbles, building robust cities, making lava lamps (see photo!) to name a few activities! The children have really enjoyed discovering the reasons why things happen, using scientific language to explain their findings



Gardening ECHO

What started off as an idea of Miss Arnott's and Miss Steeden's to develop a part of the school grounds into a quiet garden area for children to sit in at break times, suddenly blossomed into a major project of a Legacy Garden which will be opened by the Mayor as part of our 130th Celebrations. The children have been involved in collecting and preparing the soil for planting, weeding, digging, planting fruit trees and bedding plants, and making sure the garden is kept well watered. They have also been creative and made bug hotels. Some designs look like 5 star accommodation! The children soon learnt that getting dirty and finding worms and bugs is all part of the fun of gardening. Still in the early stages of development the children are looking forward to seeing how the garden matures.

Rugby ECHO (JM/HC)

Under the careful and expert tutelage of Mr Myatt and Mr Chowdhury, the children in the Upper Prep School have had the opportunity to refine their tag rugby skills this half term.

The children's passion for the sport and skills really shone as they learnt how to work on their positioning and placement when passing and receiving. A range of passes have been practised and put into action to ensure that a quick fire game can ensue. Balls have been quickly passed by popping the ball to a teammate and sudden bursts have been made to the try line.

Today it is Beckenham... tomorrow it will be Twickenham with the future stars of rugby really shining each week and showing amazing progress. Well done to the children who have taken part, this term from Years 5 and 6.



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ESCAPE TO THE WRITE PLACE CREATIVE WRITING COURSES



'Escape to the Write Place' creative writing courses for kids, are designed to give children all the tools and techniques they need to write descriptively and confidently and to communicate more effectively with their readers. **They are aimed at pupils in Year 4 and above.**

If you have a burgeoning passion for writing, you have come to **'the Write place'** in more than one sense!

Designed to be flexible, our courses are held via Zoom, whether you want an individual session or a group session. We will teach you all about how to create convincing settings and characters; how to come up with workable plots, how to use dialogue and build action and tension into your writing.

Our rates are: £35ph per person for individual sessions

£30ph per person for paired session with another pupils

£25ph per person for a session with three other pupils

£20ph per person for a session with four other pupils

Each course includes 5 sessions but further sessions for more advanced courses can be booked

For paired or groups sessions, we recommend you get together with your friends and organize these for a better dynamic. You will want to be with people you don't mind sharing your work with and are willing to listen to!

You can get in touch with us for more details at: escapetothewriteplace@gmail.com
www.thewriteplace.co.uk



Book your place now and begin your writing journey this summer!

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E-safety Tip

This week, we are sharing advice given by Bromley Metropolitan Police Service and Ofcom the current scam of Smishing.



Criminals are always trying new ways to scam us. One of their tricks is sending fake text messages, also known as Smishing. For example, you may get a text from someone you trust, like your bank. The problem is, criminals can spoof trusted numbers and send another text that looks like it is from the same people. Your phone cannot tell the difference, so it puts it in the same place as the genuine messages. So what can you do about it to keep your personal information safe? If you receive an unexpected text, don't click on any links or download attachments until you can double check the source. Never respond to any unexpected message that asks for any personal or financial information and do not share pins or passcodes even if the message appears genuine. Forward any suspicious messages to 7726 Out of the Blue? No, thank you!

What is 7726?

7726 is a number that most mobile customers using UK networks can text to report unwanted SMS messages or phone calls on a mobile. The number '7726' was chosen because it spells 'SPAM' on an alphanumeric phone keypad – that's a handy way of remembering it.

ISA athletics

On Monday 19th June, Matteus (Year 5) competed in the ISA Junior Athletic Championships in Birmingham. This is his second time qualifying and competing nationally; an amazing achievement in itself.

Although he didn't quite get to the position he had hoped for, he did run with great pride and composure. He made us all so proud. Well done, Matteus! Keep this experience and use it for next year.



Open Mornings for current parents

It was an absolute pleasure to host our final Open Morning of the 2022-2023 school year. We enjoyed welcoming parents from both Pre-Prep (Tuesday) and Prep (Thursday), and we are extremely proud of each and every pupil; they have all shown outstanding resilience and independence throughout the year. Their attitude towards their learning has been excellent and, we hope you all agree, they have achieved great things. We hope you have enjoyed sharing your child's successes and achievements during these sessions, and look forward to many more next year.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 26th June

- Poetry by Heart ECHO club trip to the Globe (all day)
- Year 5 Computing Digital Workshop (09:00-11:00)
- Michael Rosen workshop at St George's Church (16:30-17:30)

Tuesday 27th June

- Spanish Spelling Bee Final in Cambridge (all day)

Wednesday 28th June

- Preschool Sports Day (11:00-12:30)

Thursday 29th June

- Year 2 to 3 Transition Meeting for Parents (16:15-17:15)
- New Parents' BBQ (18:00-20:00)

Friday 30th June

- Year 6 sponsored event