

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



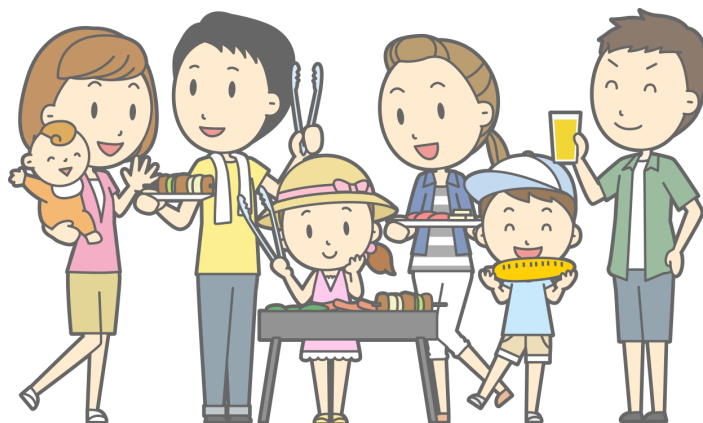
Dear Parents,

We are now nearing the end of our academic year, and this is the time all teachers tend to reflect about the journey of their pupils. When you look back on the journey these children have been on since September, we often forget where our classes started from, and the huge progress they have made. I was reminded of this this week, as I have been busy reading the end of term reports, which will be sent out electronically next Friday. There has not been one report yet that hasn't filled me with pride when I remember what the pupil was like in the Autumn term. In many cases, the change has been incredible, and I know you will be so proud to read your child's report.

I think this was only further reinforced at our governors' meeting for this term, when we reported about pupil progress. As you know, we are committed to creating opportunities for every child to thrive academically. We understand that each child is unique, with their own strengths, interests, and learning styles. Therefore, to be able to share that nearly 40% of our students are making higher than expected progress in English and an impressive 45% exceeding expectations in Maths is very humbling and is testament to the excellent teaching that has taken place throughout the year. A big part of this is that, at our school, all pupils are known individually and nurtured personally, allowing for their unique successes to shine. I am so proud that we offer an environment where every child can thrive and achieve their full potential, and I have been trying to sum this up in some quippy tagline, but the best I could come up with was: **Empowering Minds, Nurturing Hearts!**

In other news, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs. McHugh (Sophia's mum in Year 2) and Mrs. Hill (Kitty's mum in Reception) will be taking over as co-chairs of the SCA next year, from September. I am so grateful to them for volunteering for this, as it is a huge role, but I know they will be superb at it. We are also seeking new members

to join the committee for the upcoming year, including hopefully someone willing to be the Treasurer. Therefore, if you would like to contribute to our school community and get involved in supporting various initiatives, please get in touch with the SCA. I would like to extend a huge heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Miles (Mimi's mum in Year 2) and Mrs. Rose (Mabel's mum in Year 6) who are our departing co-chairs, although they still have a few weeks left with one big event to go! Their dedication and hard-work have made a tremendous impact on our school community. They have been instrumental in the development of the trim trail, the Path to Play, as well as organising incredible events such as the highest-earning Christmas Fair ever(!), parent socials, and quiz nights. I would like to publicly express my gratitude for their tireless work for the School, as well as the personal support they have provided to me since I have started at the School.



We had a lovely New Parents' BBQ on Thursday. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for our new parents to meet our dedicated staff and connect with other parents who are also new to our community. Fostering a sense of belonging from the very beginning is crucial, as we want par-

ents to feel comfortable and connected even before their child's academic journey begins. The BBQ was a wonderful occasion to establish connections, and I am grateful to all the staff members who stayed to warmly engage with new parents joining our community, and those currently in Preschool.

Next week, we have a myriad of events lined up, including Sports Day, our 130th birthday celebration, the Summer Fair, and Move-Up Day, where pupils will have the chance to meet their new teachers and classmates. There will be emails sent next week prior to day for some events to give more details. It is going to be a hectic week filled with excitement; hold onto your hats!

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### SCA

We cannot wait to welcome you to St Chris Fest from 15:00 next Tuesday 4th July.

July. Celebrating 130 years of the school we have an extravaganza planned for you!!!

To avoid queues on the day please do purchase your admission tickets, fair currency and raffle tickets in advance via [www.scasales.co.uk](http://www.scasales.co.uk).

Sales will close at 18.00 on Sunday 2 July.



### STEM

This week saw Mr Chowdhury and Mrs Morris lead an assembly on STEM in order to enthuse and promote the variety of STEM opportunities at St Christopher's.

STEM stands for Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics. It represents the group of subjects that fall within these four areas of study. STEM education focuses on practical learning, to develop the necessary skills in students so our pupils are prepared for the rapidly-developing real world. The children were told about what STEM comprises of with a little demonstration of a Science activity which involved an upside down cup of water over Mr Chowdhury, Mrs Morris attempting to play Tetris to illustrate the Engineering element of design, a guest appearance of the marvellous mind reader (also known as Mr Chowdhury) to explain a mathematical trick and an animated powerpoint to show how easy it is to make visual effects using the technology we have around us.

We are expanding our STEM provision with new STEM ECHO clubs coming throughout the next academic year, a variety of STEM based after-school clubs as well as our upcoming STEM afternoon in school on Thursday 6th July. We know the children will enjoy the activities their teachers have planned for that afternoon as we have had a sneak preview of their ideas! We are already drawing up plans for a very exciting STEM week next year after the huge success of Science Week in March. As always, we would very much welcome any parents (or contacts!) to come into school and inspire and motivate our pupils further in the world of STEM.



### Charity Car Wash

Last week, Year 5 opened up their own carwash as part of our charity event to raise money for Freddie Farmer and the SCA. It was a huge success - raising over £300! The children demonstrated outstanding Teamwork, Enthusiasm and Resilience (especially when it came to washing the wheels!) After a lot of hard work and getting rather wet, the children enjoyed a well-deserved break with a refreshing ice lolly. It was a successful and exciting day at the 'St Christopher's Car Wash'. Well done, Year 5.



### Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 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)                          | <a href="mailto:scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |
| SCAMPS (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>NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for.<br>Anything urgent or time sensitive – please call or mark email URGENT |
| Anything that needs the Head's attention   | <a href="mailto:headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>  |



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### Poetry by Heart at the Globe

On Monday, the Poetry Performance ECHO clubbers went on an exciting trip up to London by train to visit The Globe Theatre where the grande finale of the Poetry By Heart National Competition was held.

We were treated to a day of inspired poetry recitations by young people representing all Key Stages from ages 7-18, as well as some teachers and famous poets such as Daljit Nagra, Valerie Bloom and Matt Goodfellow reciting their own poems for us.



Although we weren't chosen to perform in the Grand Finale, we were awarded a Highly Commended for our choral poem which, for the first time entering a National competition and a mix of Year 3 to Year 6 children, is a fantastic result!

The judges said of our entry, 'a very good performance- you dramatise the key ideas with energy and good humour. Congratulations on your magnificent entry into the 2023 national Poetry by Heart competition. Thank you for all the effort you made to learn your poem and for



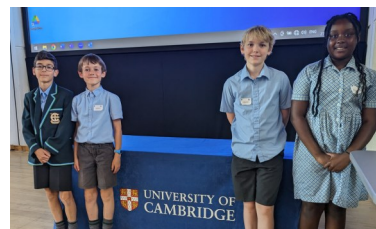
sharing your unique presentation. You can be very proud of your achievement.'

Congratulations to Shemaya, Charlie Cian (Year 6), Maya and Nico (Year 5), Ruby (Year 4), and Joanna (Year 3). An additional congratulations must go to both Joanna and Ruby who also entered the competition as soloists, having to learn two solo poems, one pre-1914 and one post 1914 they both achieved magnificent results for these recitations.

### Spanish Primary Bee

On Tuesday 27th June, four of our finest linguists from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Spanish Primary Bee National final at the University of Cambridge to compete against the most proficient language learners in the country. This fantastic initiative aims to support and inspire children to practise and improve their vocabulary, pronunciation and memory skills in Spanish.

We set off early by train and the children excitedly spent the journey testing one another on all the competition's key words. On arrival,



we took a picturesque walk in the sunshine through the beautiful Cambridge streets and stopped for a delicious ice cream along the River Cam. Later, we headed to Lady Mitchell Hall at the Faculty of Medieval Languages and Linguistics in order to soak up the pre-competition atmosphere and have a quick bite of lunch with a game of chess.

The competition began at 1pm and the children were excited to hear that they were sitting in the very hall where Stephen Hawking celebrated his 75th birthday. Each school's contestants had to stand and translate as many words as possible from English into Spanish in one minute with the added challenge of performing in front of a large audience. Two judges, one of whom was a native speaker, listened and kept score. One point was awarded for every word that was correctly translated and pronounced. Despite the fluttering of nerves (mainly from the teachers!), all four children calmly and confidently translated their key words at lightning speed with no mistakes.

There was a healthy dose of competitive spirit between all the competing schools but also a real sense of enjoyment. Our children really stepped up to the challenge and were wonderful



ambassadors for St. Christopher's. Despite narrowly missing out on a place in the final, the children were already winners to us and made us so proud. ¡Buen trabajo, todo el mundo!

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### Michael Rosen Workshop

On Monday, children in the Prep School attended Michael Rosen's sold out event, 'Speaking of Books', at St George's Church, Beckenham, after school.

Throughout the event, Michael spoke passionately about his inspirations for writing, giving us a flavour of his work with a hilarious performance of his poem 'Strict' which had us all laughing out loud! Furthermore, he performed his famous 'Chocolate Cake' - touching on how his use of the word 'nice' throughout the poem became a meme on social media.

In a more sentimental segment of the event, he made reference to recent events in his life, including his health during the pandemic and how this inspired him to write his story 'Sticky McStickstick: The Friend Who Helped Me Walk Again'. This was something everyone in the audience could relate to and sealed his status as one of the greatest children's poets of our time.

Two poems the children are still talking about are the following:

### Sticket

*He had a little sticker  
And he had a little ticket  
And he took the little sticker  
And he stuck it to the ticket.  
Now he doesn't have a sticker  
And he doesn't have a ticket,  
He's got a bit of both,  
It's called a little sticket.*

\*\*\*

### Everybody

*Everybody  
Verybody  
Erybody  
Rybody  
Ybody  
Body  
Ody  
Dy  
Y*

\*\*\*

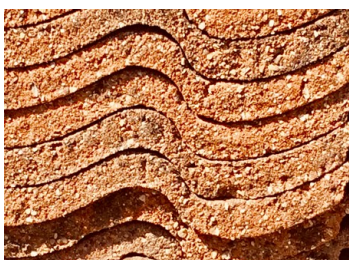
Towards the end of the session, Michael hosted a Q&A with the general public and the local schools who attended, where Zachary (3A) got to ask a burning question. Finishing up, the children had the chance to get their favourite books signed before heading home.

We hope to attend more events like this, so keep an eye out for any communications from us.



### Prep Photography ECHO

In our Photography ECHO club, we have had fun looking at shapes in our environment and finding unusual ways to spell our name or a given word. These photos were all taken by children in our Prep photography club.





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St. Christopher's Association presents

## SUMMER RAFFLE 2023

*Draw will take place on*

**TUESDAY 4TH JULY 2023 at 17:15**

**!!FANTASTIC PRIZES!!**

**\* £100 CASH \***

**\* SUMMER SPIRITS HAMPER \***

**\* LUNCH WITH MR. CARTER FOR PUPIL & FRIEND \***

**\* AFTERNOON TEA HAMPER \***

**\* 2 NIGHT HOMEWORK PASS \***

**\* WINE HAMPER \***

**\* OWN CLOTHES DAY FOR PUPIL & FRIEND \***

**\* BEAUTY HAMPER \***

**£1.00 PER TICKET - AVAILABLE AT [WWW.SCASALES.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCASALES.CO.UK)  
VIA OUR PAYMENT PROVIDER 'BOPP'**

License: 23/00751/SOCL0T | Promoter: Fiona Beaton | St. Christopher's Association  
Registered Charity No: 1108073 | 49 Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5PA

**All proceeds to The St. Christopher's Association**

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### Pupil success

Well done Hector (Year 1), who received his 25 metre award in swimming last week!

If you have any successes or news outside of school, do make sure you email in and let us know. Mr Carter loves hearing about these things.



### Review

Please leave a reviews for us by using the link or QR code:



<https://g.page/r/Cd0V7pg2h8TCEAg/review>

### Preschool Sports Day

We were very lucky to have such good weather for the Preschool Sports Morning, not too hot and not too cold. We were extremely proud of the children, who did so well in all the races, including balancing beanbags on their heads, running with different sized balls and quoits, swapping hats over and of course the egg and spoon race! The parents cheered them all on and then the children cheered on the mums and dads as they took part in the parents' races. A thoroughly enjoyable morning.



### Pre-Prep Origami ECHO

We have made some fantastic creatures and even a tulip during our time in Origami club! Our resilience and patience has been tested and rewarded as we have honed our skills week by week, even the teachers have been challenged with the intricate folds!

This week we made our own adorable puppies, using some of our top origami tips:

1. Make your creases clear by pressing down firmly with your fingernails
2. Resist the temptation to fiddle with your paper in between folds so that nothing becomes unfolded!



### *What's Happening Next Week*

#### **Tuesday 4th July**

- 130th Anniversary Celebration (pupils to come dressed smartly in uniform for whole school photo, and bring some party clothes to change into). School ends at 15:00

- Summer Fair (15:00-18:00)

#### **Wednesday 5th July**

- Move Up Day (pupils to spend time with their new class/teacher) - class list to go out
- Year 5 and 6 Production (18:00-19:30)

#### **Thursday 6th July**

- Pre-Prep Sports Day (09:00-10:00 - gate opens for parents at 08:30)
- Prep Sports Day (10:30-12:00 - gate opens for parents at 10:10)

#### **Friday 7th July**

- Music Exams
- Reception education visit to High Elms
- End of Year reports to be sent electronically (16:00)