

# Newsletter

## Special End of Year Round up Edition



Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the academic year, we wanted to reflect on the wonderful achievements and celebrations we have had together. This edition of the newsletter is all about highlighting everything we have done this year and the successes

we have had as well as bidding farewell to pupils and staff.

Today, we recognise our Character Counter Champions for the Summer Term. These are the pupils who teachers have nominated for consistently exhibited the qualities and values we strive to instil in all our pupils. We will be emailing parents personally to share the heartfelt reasons for their son/daughter's nominations, and how these pupils, this term, have had a positive contribution to our school community.

In addition to celebrating our Character Counter Champions, today we also bid farewell to our Year 6 leavers. This group of children holds a special place in my heart, and I know they are more than ready to embark on the next chapter of their educational journey. They have shown great resilience, determination, and growth during their time with us, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. Today was preceded by the Celebration of Year 6 on Tuesday, at St George's Church. It was a joyous event, filled with laughter, tears, and heartfelt moments (please check out our Youtube channel). Seeing their smiling faces and witnessing the bonds the Year 6s have formed with their peers and teachers reassured us of the strong foundation we have laid together.

In addition to celebrating our Year 6s, it is with a mix of sadness and best wishes that we bid farewell to some members of our school community. Miss Arnott, Mrs. MacDuff, and Miss Palmer have each played a significant role in shaping the experiences of our pupils. They have dedicated their time, expertise, and unwavering commitment to our school, and their contributions will be greatly missed. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and we wish them all the best as they embark on new

adventures in their lives. Furthermore, it is also Mrs. Oliver's last day for a bit, as she will be on maternity leave next year. We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Oliver on this exciting chapter of her life, and we eagerly await the arrival of her little one.

As we say goodbye to these valued members of our staff and pupils, it is a reminder that the cycle of change and growth is inherent in education. While farewells can be bittersweet, they also provide opportunities for new beginnings and fresh perspectives. We are confident that our school community will continue to thrive and flourish, guided by the shared commitment and passion of our dedicated staff.

As we look forward to the upcoming holidays, I want to express how much I have enjoyed this academic year.

It has been a year filled with busyness and productivity, and together we have achieved

so much. Our school community, I firmly believe, is a place that nurtures the well-being and best interests of our pupils, and this wouldn't be possible without your unwavering support. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the parents for your on-

going involvement, encouragement, and partnership. Your support has been invaluable in creating a nurturing environment for our pupils to learn and grow. It is through our collaborative efforts that we can truly make a difference in their lives.

As we bid farewell for now and prepare to embrace a well-deserved break, I hope the summer holidays provide you and your family with rest, relaxation, and moments of joy. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year, where we will continue to work hand in hand to provide the best possible education.

Thank you for all your gifts and particularly for all kind words in the numerous cards, which I cherish most of all.

Have a super summer holiday and see you in September,

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



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After 22 years at the school the time to move on has finally arrived, but I will take away with me so many fond memories. Over the years I have seen a lot of changes in the school - changes of staff, changes in the buildings, changes in the curriculum, even changes in the school lunches, but the one thing that has remained the same is the spirit, enthusiasm and dedication of the St Christopher's children. It has been a joy to see so many children develop and become adults themselves, starting their own careers with successful jobs. They are the reason I come to work every day. I will

miss the cheery faces every morning, the laughter and singing but I wish you all, both colleagues and children, every success in the future.

## Memories and Goodbyes

from

**Miss Arnott, Miss Palmer  
and Mrs MacDuff**



After 21 years as a paediatric nurse, I was offered a job in Kindergarten at St Christopher's "just for a term"! The fact that I am actually only leaving now speaks volumes about how much the School has meant to me. 15 years - a quarter of my life (almost!). There have been happy times,

sad times, a lot of fun and a lot of love. Yes, love! The community spirit at St Christopher's is utterly unique, and is one of its most wonderful assets in my opinion. For me, the funny things the children say, the support and trust from parents and the great friendships among the staff are what keep this community going. You should all be patting yourselves on the back for your contribution to this community, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the great memories you have given me. I leave with a bit of a heavy heart, but also with great excitement for the adventures to come.

Thanks again, Mandy MacDuff



It is sad for me to say goodbye to you all at St Christopher's, but the time has come for me to have a change in career. My 9 ½ years at St. Christopher's has given me the joy of

working with the littlest members of the St Christopher's community in Pre-school. With this age group no two days are ever the same and I have always been kept on my toes! The years have been filled with fun and lots of interesting questions (which sometimes Google has had to help me with answering!). There have been lots of changes over the years with staff coming and going and watching builders come in and transform the school, giving hours of entertainment to the children, and I am so happy that our turn finally came to transform the Preschool classrooms. I was very excited to finally have some caterpillars this year to watch grow and change to butterflies with the children. I will miss the Pre-school Christmas concerts (especially the reindeer song!), Preschool Sports Days and of course the randomness of everyday life. It's been an absolute pleasure to be part of your children's journey and see them grow and mature as they move through the school.

I wish everyone here at St Christopher's and those moving on, all the very best, Miss Palmer.

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### A Celebration of Pupil Progress - Academic Year 2022/2023

This year, our academic focus has been to analyse pupil progress throughout the year. We have done this by looking at value-added progress across the school, which is a fair measure of the progress that pupils have made. Looking at value-added progress plays an important role in providing evidence for self-evaluation and school improvement. We then aim to drive improvements by identifying performance above or below expectation across the main curriculum areas.

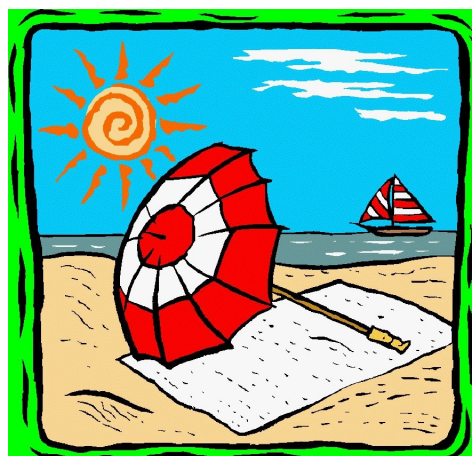
Rather than relying solely on assessment results, we take into account each students' starting point and the progress they have made. This has allowed us to

ask the right questions about individual subject strengths, share best practice between departments, support judgements about assessment and support, and tailor individual pupil target-setting.

By analysing both our formal assessments and class teacher assessments across the year, we are delighted to share that in Maths, 88% of our pupils are working at an expected level for their age or higher than expected. In English 85% are working at an expected level or higher than expected for their age. These are incredible results to celebrate and as well as being proud of the efforts and hard work from the children, this is also an opportunity to recognise that this can only occur due to the high level of teaching and learning that is being provided by our excellent teaching staff.

### Preschool

What a fantastic and exciting year we have had in Preschool. The first term saw our fabulous new Preschool building completed with lovely bright, clean and cosy classrooms. Our Christmas concert soon followed with great success and confident performances all round. We enjoyed our Christmas party and Gordon the entertainer was, as usual, a highlight, amazing us all with his magic tricks. The Spring term brought the visit from the theatre group on the theme of Superheroes where the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring their own hero attributes. The Summer term was perfect weather for exploring growing plants and watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies. The children enjoyed taking part in our Sports morning – lots of fun and laughter ensued, especially in the parents' race! The year ended with our 130<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. We added our own contribution to the time capsule with the theme of 'When I grow up I would like to be ....'. It has been a really enjoyable year, with the loveliest children, and we all wish them all the very best as they begin their school journeys next year.





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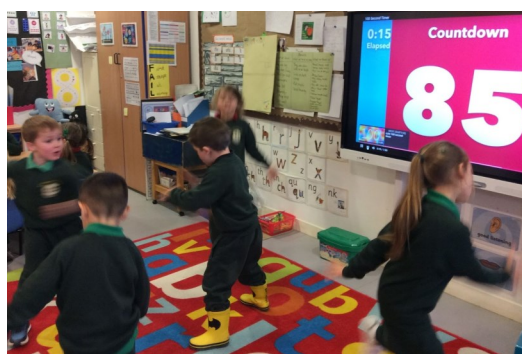
### Reception

What an amazing year we have had in Reception. From the moment we started back in September, all of the children have embraced every learning opportunity with enthusiasm, excitement and good humour.

In January we went on our first Reception trip to The Discovery Story Centre in Stratford. Everyone enjoyed the coach ride across London and the children enthusiastically took part in the story workshops.

In March we celebrated the children being at school for 100 days and had great fun taking part in a sponsored carousel of activities related to the number 100. The Reception children have also been lucky enough this year to share some momentous and historic celebrations. In May the children joined

in with the rest of the school marking the historic coronation of King Charles III and last week we had a bumper week of celebrations and activities - celebrating the 130th birthday of St Christophers, Sports Day, the School Fair. We have had a fantastic year in Reception and all of the teachers wish the children all the very best as they move into Year 1.



### Year 1

We have had a lovely year and can't believe how quickly it has gone. We started enthusiastically with a great trip to the Horniman Museum, looking across the park to the views of all the buildings in London. In February we got creative and went to Dulwich Picture Gallery after studying the seascapes of Turner and Hokusai. Mr Carter came with us and we loved going in the mini buses! The summer term has been so busy. We visited Hall Place, where we learned about plants and did some gardening. We ran around the grounds and found the Queen's Beasts! We love playing 'trolls' with Mrs Cornish, Mrs Craig and Mrs West. Since then we have really enjoyed going swimming every week. We immersed ourselves in learning all about castles and finding out about the Battle of Hastings. We are now so much better at reading and writing and even maths! (Also at getting changed independently). We have had a brilliant year and are ready for the challenge of Year 2. Mrs Cornish and Mrs Craig wish you all the best in Year 2; we will miss you.



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### Year 2

We have had such a busy year, full of exciting activities and learning opportunities. The highlight of the Autumn Term was our nativity, Prickly Hay, where the children had the tough task of memorising lots of lines. They all performed with gusto, showcasing boundless confidence! As part of our topic on the Great Fire of London we set alight to some houses on the Prep School playground, but don't worry, they were not real houses! One of our favourite parts of the Spring Term was learning all about materials in Science. The children enjoyed immersing themselves into experiments and investigations whilst wearing their lab coats, and made some excellent scientific predictions! The children loved our Power of Reading book, Rabbit and Bear, which taught them a few fairly unpleasant

facts! The Summer Term saw the start of weekly swimming lessons at Trinity School, which have really helped to develop swimming skills. One of the most memorable experiences of the year was our trip to Go Ape, where we travelled by train and pupils conquered their fears through determination and perseverance. Year 2 really has been a very special year, and the children are all well-equipped and ready to embark on Prep School life!



### Year 3

After a successful transition into the Prep School, we are so proud to see how much all of the Year 3 pupils have grown. Independence is a key skill we nurture in Year 3 and we have noticed that our children are far more capable of thinking for themselves and using our many Character Values, especially Common Sense. The year has seen a number of exciting events take place, such as a Viking workshop; an Ancient Egypt themed day and even an African drumming masterclass. A core memory we will always remember is our trip to Frylands and how much fun we had together, and of course... Miss Arnott's famous sausages! What a fantastic year!





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### Year 4

What a fabulous year we have had in Year 4! Full of fun, adventures and learning. We could not be more proud of our wonderful children - how hard they have worked and the enthusiasm they have shown. Here's a photo of us at Lullingstone Roman Villa on our way to our amazing residential where the children blew us away with their maturity, resilience, teamwork and determination. Thank you, Year 4 for making this year so memorable. We will miss you!

### Year 5

What a fantastic year full of wonderful memories, outstanding learning and many laughs along the way. Some particular highlights for us have been: our day trips out to the Transport for London Museum and Bromley Reform Synagogue, our exciting Workshops exploring The Ancient Greeks and Extreme Earth and, more recently, our residential trip to Bowles. We have also loved reading a diverse range of texts in English and linking parts of our learning to computing. Our Science week was also a great success where the children worked collaboratively and really got involved with their Parachute project. Our Great Bread Bake off was also a day to remember; we were astounded by the skills, dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by the whole year group and we were impressed by their delicious bread. Finally, their maturity and teamwork shone through when cleaning the teachers' cars in support of our school charity and SCA. We are so proud of everything Year 5 have achieved this year and will really miss them but happy and excited for the next part of their St Christopher's journey.



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### Year 6

We are very proud of all that the children in Year 6 have achieved this year and the memories they can take away with them this Summer and into Year 7. From an amazing residential week at Rockley Point, Poole back in May, to a phenomenal end of year production with a 'Suitably Happy Ending' which caused laughter and tears amongst the audience, each child can leave school feeling that they have done their very best and been the best they can be. Maya workshops, an Animal Farm, hair raising experiences at the Science Museum, loud Hakas, to hands on experience as trainees anaesthetists, We wish Year 6 all the very best and many more successes for years to come. Well done, 6C!



### Sport

After an epic year of sport, with our last year in the membership of the ISA, we went to many tournaments from Hockey, Netball, Football and Athletics. Our best and greatest achievements have been reaching the ISA U11 Football Nationals at St Georges Park for the second year running and also making it to the ISA Junior Athletic Championships in Birmingham for the second year running. In between many of these events were those in ISFA Football for girls and boys teams and also Cricket tournaments, that were fantastic experiences for all. Next year we embark upon the challenges of the IAPS sport events. Bring it on, we are ready!

To showcase the children's sporting abilities our Pre-School, Pre-Prep and Prep children participated in our annual Sports day. This year was more epic than before with all of the children cheering each other on, to encourage their house to win the Cup. From points in the Field Events to individual races, the children gave everything to achieve their best. We would like to thank all of the parents for their support, the SCA for the refreshments and Mr Davies for all his help with setting up. Next year will be even better!





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### Computing

It has been a pleasure to see how much the pupils have progressed in their Computing over the last year. We have covered so many topics and learnt how to go about solving all manner of problems along the way. We can confidently say that from Reception through to Year 6, we have brought out the computer scientist in them all. One of the many highlights of the year was the school's Science Week where we got our students to use computer science to help solve problems. Some of the Pre Prep put what they have learnt into practice during Science Week when they programmed a floor robot to reach different locations on a map they designed. Our Prep school students had the joy of making a virtual race track and programming characters to race on it. Who knows what we have planned in the future? (We do – and it is going to be awesome!)



### Modern Foreign Languages

What a fantastic year for languages at St.Christopher's the Hall! The launch of Spanish into our curriculum has been a huge success and all year groups have enjoyed taking part in engaging and interactive lessons with Mrs Dubeck. There has been a real emphasis on having fun in language lessons and developing an understanding of both the language and the culture of the countries where French and Spanish are spoken. We have worked hard to ensure a whole-school approach to language learning through a variety of enrichment activities.



We were proud to receive the British Council International School Award in recognition of our drive to promote internationalism and to raise the profile of languages across the school. Our European Day of Languages was another great success and provided the children with a valuable opportunity to learn about the diversity of languages spoken in our own school community. More recently, we were thrilled that four of our children made it through three stages to achieve a place at the Spanish Primary Bee National final at the University of Cambridge.

Next year, we will continue to build upon our successes, and we are particularly looking forward to launching our first trip to Madrid and working towards British Council accreditation by forging a link with Colegio San José in Argentina.



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### Music and Drama

It has been a busy year in the Music and Drama departments! The Grandparents' Tea in early November, was a wonderful day for audience and performers alike. This was swiftly followed by our Christmas events; the Pre-Prep Nativity 'Prickly Hay', Preschool Christmas concert, and our whole school Carol service which enjoyed performances from the Orchestra and Senior, Junior and Chamber Choirs. In the Spring term we held an epic music concert for Year 5 and 6, and a music and drama showcase performed by Year 3 and 4, with Year 4 performing a radio play of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which was recorded for our school YouTube channel. The Chamber Choir also entered the Bromley Music Festival and won the trophy for our school. The Summer Term included a Music concert

from Year 1 and 2 and the Junior Choir in May. The Choirs, orchestra and soloists gave fantastic performances at the Summer Fair where we were literally 'Singing in the rain!' The Year 5 and 6 production of 'A Suitably Happy Ending' was enjoyed by both audience and performers. The Year 5 Orchestra formed a 'pit band' and we had Year 5 performing some 'Samba' alongside the Year 6 battle scenes (which were choreographed by our very own West End Assistant Director!).

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful array of musicians and actors across the school and we would not be able to do what we do without this amazing pool of talent and the support of the Visiting Music Teachers, staff and parents in rehearsing and presenting all the events. Here's looking forward to next year!



### Head Pupil and Deputy Head Pupil of School

Two weeks ago, sixteen brave and willing Year 5 children presented their Head and Deputy of School election speeches in a whole school assembly. After the presentations, the children from Reception to Year 6 cast their two votes as to whom they would like to represent them as Head and Deputy for the next academic year. All the Year 5 children who stood for election should be extremely proud of themselves for not only producing unique speeches that represented their personality but also for their courageous spirit to speak publicly, perhaps for the very first time.

A huge thanks to Lexi and Evie for being wonderful ambassadors for St Christopher's as Head and

Deputy of School this year and congratulations to all our Year 5 candidates on their excellent presentations. We are delighted to announce that our Head of School for next year is Emma Jones and our Deputy Head of School is Anthony Dempsey.



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### Charity

This year has seen the whole school community come together to raise an incredible amount of money for various charities, including this year's charity chosen by the children, Freddie Farmer Foundation. The highlights of the year have to be our sponsored class charity events where each class has held an exciting event to raise money for the Freddie Farmer Foundation.

Next year, as well as continuing our valuable charity work we are also looking forward to launching our St Christopher's in the Community Project where as a school we pledge to give 130 hours of our time to those in need. A reminder to please let Mr Carter or Mrs Rudge know if you give of your valuable time in any way so we can celebrate this and add it to our community hours total.

Thank you once again for all your continued support and generosity with our charity and community ventures.

Charity	Event	Money Raised
Young Minds	Hello Yellow Day	£366.95
The British Legion	Selling Poppies	£360
NSPCC	Number Day	£125.20
The British Heart Foundation	Year 3 Sponsored Charity Event	£178
Freddie Farmer Foundation	Christmas events, SCA Quiz Night donation, Class Charity Events	£3,351.90
SCA-PrePrep Playground AstroTurf	Donation	£1,417.37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£5799.42</b>

### Prep Book ECHO

In Book Club, the children have been delving into a range of diverse texts to promote deep conversations and an enjoyment for reading, partnered with juice and biscuits.

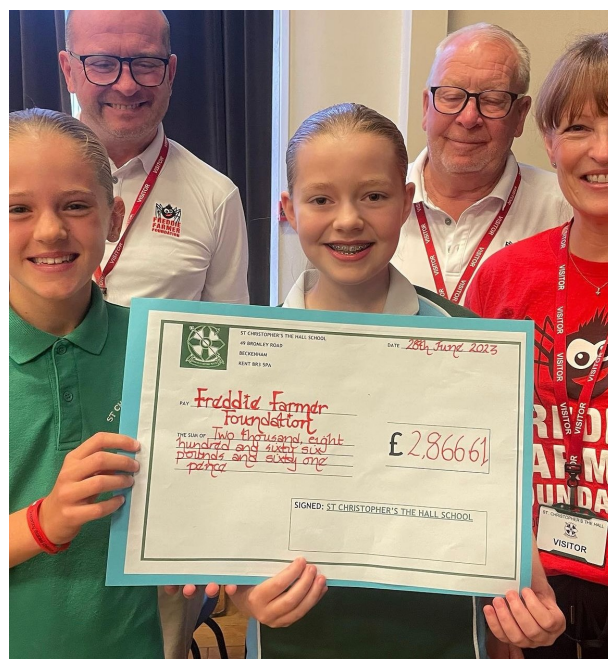
In our most recent session, the children had the opportunity to read a variety of books, by LGBTQ+ authors, that celebrate difference, equality and tolerance as part of Pride Month. Some of the titles included:

A Day Of Pride by Roy Youldous-Raiss

My Shadow is Pink and My Shadow is Purple by Scott Stuart

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell.

For more books like these, please click [here](#).





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### SCA

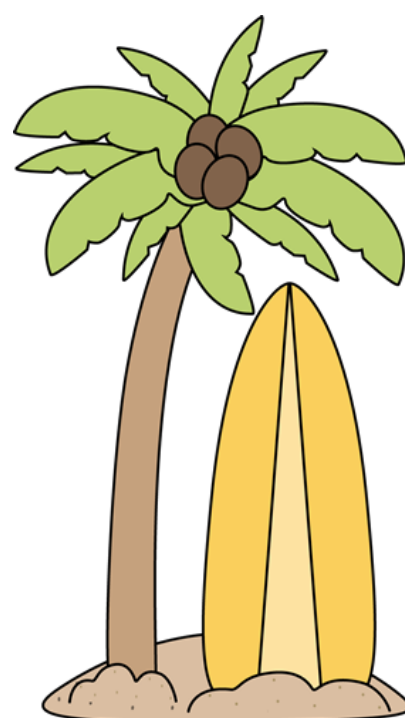
Thank you all for your support at the Summer Fair last week. Despite the challenges we managed to have some fun and raise a fantastic £3,395!

Next year Emma Hill and Bobby McHugh will take over as Co-Chairs of the SCA and we know each of you will support them. Both are really looking forward to their new roles and we know they will do a brilliant job. They are looking for new Committee members and volunteers to join from September. Specifically they are looking for a Co-Treasurer to work alongside Fiona, who has done a great job over the last two years. Fiona was stepping down but will now remain on the committee, working with another Treasurer. If anyone is interested please do contact Bobby or Emma directly.




Lastly, a huge thank you to each and every person that has supported the SCA. Bronwen and I have really enjoyed acting as Co-Chairs, especially as we have such a fantastic committee and parent, carer and school support network. To everyone that weighed flour for the bake boxes, folded a gazillion raffle tickets or hauled items up and down the cellar stairs, your help was invaluable and truly worth every minute! Thank you also to the staff, especially Mr Carter for always greeting us with a smile (despite the random requests), Mr Davies and the wonderful Mrs Jeffery and Ms Ibini. It would be impossible to mention everyone and even more impossible for the SCA to run without each and every one of you.

Have a great summer!

*Sam and Bron*



### ***What's Happening Next Academic Year***

-  **Wednesday 6th September**
  - First day back at school - gate opens at 08:15
-  **Thursday 7th September**
  - Welcome Meeting for Parents in Year 1 & 2 (08:15-08:45) - in classrooms
-  **Friday 8th September**
  - Welcome Meeting for Parents in Year 3 & 4 (08:15-08:45) - in classrooms