

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year at St. Christopher's School. The start of this year has seen all our pupils settling in beautifully, especially those new to the School, including those in Reception and Preschool. Our new staff members have also seamlessly become a part of our school community, adding fresh perspectives and energy to our team, and I hope parents in those teachers' classes have enjoyed meeting them and welcoming them to our school...

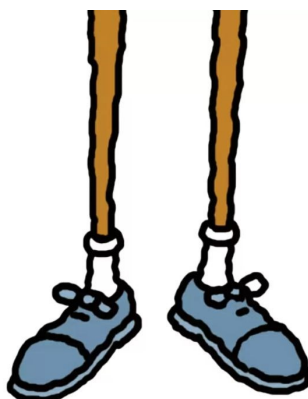
Our Welcome Meetings for each year group seemed to be well received; I hope you found them both informative and reassuring. Communication is paramount and we strive to keep you well-informed and connected to your child's educational journey. On this note, next week, you will have your individual 5-minute remote meetings with the class teacher on either on the 19th and 21st. You should have already received the necessary links for this meeting from your class teacher.

During our recent assemblies, I talked to the pupils about starting a new school year. I likened this experience to putting on a new pair of shoes - and I showed the children my new shoes for this school year! Just as new shoes can feel uncomfortable at first, so too can the challenges of a new academic year. However, it's important to remember that this discomfort is a valuable lesson in embracing the unfamiliar, a sign that we are willing to step out of our comfort zones. Additionally, like finding the perfect fit for our shoes, we must also discover the learning methods that suit us best and never hesitate to seek assistance when needed. Finally, our education, like well-cared-for shoes, is a precious asset that requires nurturing and appreciation. Just like breaking in new shoes, we may feel unsettled initially, but with determination, we grow more confident with each step. Mistakes are

integral to this journey, serving as stepping stones towards growth and knowledge.

On Wednesday, we focused on the theme of charity, emphasising that performing charitable acts is about providing help selflessly, without expecting anything in return. While financial contributions are valuable, I reminded children about the importance of showing kindness and mercy to those in need by dedicating our time to help. This ties in with our initiative, St. Christopher's in the Community, and is all about our commitment to giving back. At our 130th Birthday celebration we pledged to contribute 130 hours to the local community this year. This applies to our staff too, and a few of our staff will be talking to the children

about the charitable endeavours they do in their spare time. I asked the children to try and think of something they could do which could be assisting a neighbour, offering your time to perform various tasks, planting produce for donation at Harvest, helping local parks with litter collection, or initiating a pen-pal project with senior citizens in nursing homes or children in local hospitals. I wonder if you too can help them think about things that you might be able to



do together. I am sure that you will have creative ideas, and if you and your child engage in some charity work, please let me know, so we can feature this in our newsletter and around school.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that we have several Parent Education events planned for this term. Mrs. Wanstall and Mrs. West sent a letter earlier this week with more details. These sessions are excellent opportunities to understand what and how we teach at St. Christopher's, enabling you to better support your child's learning journey at home. Lots of information regarding these events is available on our website's parents' area, which also includes timetables, reading lists, club details, and other valuable resources to keep you informed and engaged in your child's education.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### Welcome back from Phase Leaders

It has been fantastic to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Summer break and to welcome our Reception classes and new starters. All the children have been doing so well adjusting to new routines, teachers and classrooms. We also have a new chef in the kitchen, so we have all been waiting in anticipation to see what delicious dishes each lunch time brings!

As always, we have a busy and productive term ahead of us, packed with class trips, workshops and more. We are looking forward to starting a new term of ECHO clubs, with Paper Engineering, Construction, Make a Board Game, Nature, Mindfulness and Art and Craft clubs on offer.. We are particularly excited to introduce our new children to the opportunities Echo clubs bring - enhancing their learning and development through learning new skills and forging friendships across the year groups.

*Mrs Chamadia*  
Head of Pre-Prep

We have had a fantastic start to the Year in the Prep School. The children have settled into their new classes incredibly well, and are enjoying working with their new teachers.

This term, the children have many new learning experiences to look forward to: Year 3 will be visiting the local church and the Horniman Museum as part of their RE and humanities topics; Year 4 will enjoy learning about life during the Stone Age period through a hands-on drama workshop; Year 5 will be exploring life in space at the Royal Observatory Museum and Year 6 will be delving into their new text 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', linking their humanities topic with English.

The children have already shown outstanding enthusiasm and resilience over the past two weeks, and I am sure they will continue to demonstrate all of our Character Values as the term progresses.

*Miss Rule*  
Head of Prep





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### School Council and House Reps 2023/2024

Teaching our students the values of democracy, leadership, and active participation in their community is an essential part of their growth and development. Our School Council and House Rep elections, which happened this week, serve as a hands-on lesson in these important values, providing our students with a real-world understanding of how decisions are made and leaders are chosen.

Each class selected their new School Councillor which will change termly, whilst each House, Campbell, Johnson, Hillary and Blyton, had the opportunity to elect their House Representative. In the House meeting, our Year 6 pupils took the stage and put forward short speeches explaining why they would be successful candidates and why they desired to represent their peers. This process, though nerve-racking for some, was a valuable lesson in public speaking and self-expression.

We want to commend all the pupils who stood for elections as this experience has valuable learning teaching our pupils that winning isn't always guaranteed, no matter how much effort is put in. It's the process of participating, engaging, and putting oneself out there that truly counts. Our pupils experienced both the thrill of victory and the grace of defeat, understanding that in every competition, there are valuable lessons to be learned.

#### School Council Representatives



#### School Council Reps Autumn 2023

<b>Reception</b>	Max and Nura
<b>Year 1</b>	Jack and Knight
<b>Year 2</b>	Ray
<b>Year 3</b>	Anaiya and Tilly
<b>Year 4</b>	Inez, Oliver and Zachary
<b>Year 5</b>	Zoe and Polina
<b>Year 6</b>	William and Adnan
<b>House Rep</b>	
<b>Hillary</b>	Emily
<b>Johnson</b>	Adnan
<b>Blyton</b>	Rafi
<b>Campbell</b>	Daniel

We would like to extend our congratulations to the students who have been elected as School Council Representatives and House Representatives. Your commitment to serving your peers and your willingness to participate in this democratic process exemplify the values we hold dear at St Christopher's The Hall.

#### House Representatives

Campbell	Hillary	Johnson	Blyton
Daniel	Emily	Adnan	Rafi



### Welcome Presentations

The [welcome presentations](#) are now available on the parents' area of our website.

We hope these are useful to help you make your transition into the new year seamless.

Remember, we are always here to assist you. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to visit us in person. Your partnership with us is invaluable, and together, we'll make this year a fantastic one for your child.

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### E-safety and the Digital World



Every week, we aim to provide you with valuable insights and tips in our parents' newsletter, focusing on digital safety and strategies for navigating the digital world alongside your child. We understand that raising children in today's digital age can be both exciting and challenging, and we want to empower you with the knowledge and tools you need to ensure their online experiences are safe and constructive.

Additionally, we want to inform you about an upcoming parents' education event, which we highly recommend attending. As people's digital lives continue to grow, we know that for young people, spending an increasing amount of time online, holds lots of potential risks and concerns. To allow you to help your young people navigate themselves through their ever rapidly growing digital lives, whilst at the same time allowing them to be independent digital users, we are running a special live, virtual online safety presentation on **5th October at 7pm** (On Zoom). We know that many feel overwhelmed trying to keep up with the constant evolution of games, apps and social media platforms and are quite often understandably worried about cyber-bullying, online grooming and what they are sharing online. It will offer further guidance and resources to help you effectively support your child in their digital journey. We believe that together, we can create a safer and more enjoyable digital environment for your family.

We will remind you again nearer the time, but do make note of this date and the invite details:

#### **Zoom Invite details:**

**Topic:** Parenting in the digital world - St. Christopher's The Hall School

**Time:** Oct 5, 2023 07:00 PM

**Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84637371443?pwd=SXRidVpxcC93Nfk2YUQ2QXJvcWNjQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 846 3737 1443

**Passcode:** 856275

Please join the meeting at **least 5 mins prior to start time.**

You will 'NOT' need to turn your cameras on, should you wish not to. We're happy for you to sit back with a cuppa and just watch!

### Top Table and Celebration Assembly

At St Christopher's, we believe that celebrating our pupils is a vital part of their educational journey. Our main aim is to promote self-esteem and confidence among our pupils, and this term, we are excited to introduce a new initiative that complements our weekly Celebration Assembly.

Each week, during our Friday Celebration Assembly, a pupil from each class is nominated by their class teacher for specific positive reasons, demonstrating their commitment to learning and the values we uphold. They receive a special sticker from Mr. Carter; a symbol of our appreciation for their outstanding efforts.

Starting this term, we are taking our celebration of these pupils to the next level! The chosen children will have the opportunity to join Mr. Carter, Miss Rule, or Mrs. Chamadia at the top table on the stage in the Hall during lunch on that Friday. This unique reward scheme is designed to make our students feel even more special and appreciated for their hard work and positive contributions to our school community.

Last week, Mr. Carter had the pleasure of enjoying lunch with our Pre-Prep students, and this week, he had delightful food and engaging conversations with the Prep pupils. We hope this treat provides a chance for our students to connect with school staff in a relaxed and friendly setting, fostering a sense of belonging and self-worth.

Our new initiative to celebrate students complements our existing programs, including merits, character counters, and the class star of the week. We firmly believe that the more we celebrate our pupils, the better they will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our pupils are truly wonderful, and it is our privilege to recognise and celebrate their achievements and qualities.



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### SCA



A big welcome back to all our children and parents and a big welcome to all our new children and parents from the SCA. We would firstly like to thank our previous Chairs, Mrs Sam Miles and Mrs Bronwen Rose for all the hard work over the past two years for doing such a fantastic job as Co-Chairs of the SCA and making such a positive difference to our school. For the next two years, Bobby McHugh (mum of Sofia 30) and Emma Hill (mum of Kitty 1HD) are thrilled to have taken over as Co-Chairs, and are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

The school year has started off with a bang with our SCA Coffee morning, held on the morning of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We had an amazing turnout and even managed to recruit some new Committee members!

The theme for this year is Sustainability, and the SCA together, with Mr Carter and the School, will be looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and look at more sustainable ways to do things.

The SCA is a voluntary committee made up of parents who are always looking for new ideas and initiatives. We are always looking for new members to join as permanent Committee members or to just help out when they can. If you are interested or have any ideas, please do email [stchristophersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:stchristophersassociation@gmail.com); contact your class rep, or please do speak to a member of the SCA, if you know them! Look out for our upcoming events and initiatives, and please do get involved if you can.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the upcoming year. Please stop and say hi if you see us!

### Emailing teachers

**REMINDER:** ALL emails to teachers should use the [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)



It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.

### Mobile phone use and social media

On the theme of the digital world, there was a very insightful article in the Times last week which highlighted the struggle many parents face in balancing their smartphone usage with being present for their children. They describe the scenario of a tired parent seeking solace in their phone while their child yearns for their attention. The article emphasises the negative impact of "phubbing" (phone snubbing) on children's emotional well-being, citing studies linking excessive parental phone use to depression and feelings of rejection among kids. The author suggests that mindful smartphone usage is key and offers practical advice, including self-reflection to identify triggers, finding healthier alternatives to smartphone distractions, and setting digital boundaries to strike a balance between screen time and parenting, ultimately encouraging parents to prioritise meaningful interactions with their children. You can read about it by clicking [here](#).

### School Photos

Next Wednesday morning (20th September), the photographer is in school to take individual and siblings photographs. All pupils should arrive in school wearing their school blazer, and if you child is wearing a school shirt please can they also wear a tie. Pupils do not need to wear their jumper for the photos, but they may bring it in to school.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

-  **Monday 18th September**
  - Year 4 Rugby v Merton Court (all boys to play 14:00-16:30) .
-  **Tuesday 19th September**
  - 5 min Virtual Parents' Meetings with class teachers (Reception-Year 6) (15:30-17:30)
-  **Wednesday 20th September**
  - Individual + Sibling Photographs
-  **Thursday 21st September**
  - Year 1 Toys Workshop (in school day)
  - Year 3 Visit to the Church (in school day)
  - 5 min Virtual Parents' Meetings with class teachers (Reception-Year 6) (15:30-17:30)