

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

We are both delighted to be writing this newsletter. Mr Carter has been busy at the IAPS Heads' Conference

for three days this week and we look forward to hearing about that in due course.

At the end of last week we had the pleasure of attending a very inspiring conference in Heathrow. This was the ISPN (Independent Schools Partnership Network) conference which provided us with a unique opportunity to share experiences and to discover leading-edge solutions from the sector's most innovative suppliers.

The two days featured a fantastic agenda of presentations and panel discussions from senior leaders who are at the forefront of innovation, transformation and improvement in the education sector. A few key takeaways for us included how to champion equity, how our school can become more sustainable, developing resilience and wellbeing amongst pupils and staff and how to further embed digital and AI into our curriculum. We look forward to talking to staff more about some of these key issues and ways in which we can further improve our school.

On Monday afternoon, we welcomed our Reception parents for a Parent Education session on reading and phonics. This is probably the most important part of a young child's education and it is crucial that we work together to develop early reading skills and foster a love of learning from

a young age. We use the Read Write Inc. model of teaching phonics and in Pre-Prep the children are placed in phonics groups according to their phonic stage, not their age. At the same time every day, across the whole of Pre-Prep, children participate in small group phonics sessions, targeted to their specific needs. As we shared at the Parent Education session, correct pronunciation of the letter sounds is vital at this early stage and if you would like to learn more about the session, please have a look at the 'Reception Reading Meeting Powerpoint' on the school website.

We had a very successful and busy Open Morning on Tuesday with a wave of prospective parents. We both enjoyed leading this in Mr Carter's absence and talking to the parents about what they look for when choosing a school for their children. It was very promising to see such a lot of interest in our school and receive so much positive feedback from their visit. Yet again, our Year 6 pupils did a fine job showing the parents around all of the classrooms and facilities. We would like to thank our Governors and SCA for being on hand to chat and answer any questions; it really is an invaluable part of the Open Morning.

Year 6 were busy with Bikeability this week and it looked like they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We popped out a few times to see how they were getting on and were very impressed with their listening skills, enthusiasm and general attitude towards the instructors.

We hope you all have a wonderful and restful weekend,

Mrs West and Mrs Wanstall

Black History Month

Black History Month 2023 is a momentous occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. In alignment with the national recognition of 'Black History Month' during October, we are excited to commemorate this significant month through engaging curriculum content, activities, workshops and assemblies. Although Black History Month only happens once a year, the teaching of Black history doesn't begin and end

there. Our curriculum supports children learning about this all year round. Further information about this with more details of the planned events and activities will be sent out by email to you today.



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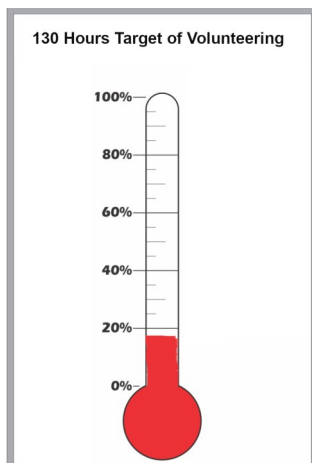
St Christopher's in the Community

Our St. Christopher's in the Community initiative is where we intend to engage in acts of charity which involves offering assistance selflessly, with no expectation of reciprocation. It entails demonstrating kindness and compassion to those in need by dedicating our time to aid them. As part of our pledge to contribute 130 hours to our local community, we wish to highlight some of the volunteer efforts from our teachers.

Mrs. Wanstall consistently contributes her time to a FoodBank, where she helps organise, sort, and distribute food to individuals who face difficulties affording groceries after meeting their financial obligations.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Morris volunteers as a Guide leader, inspired by her own fond memories of being a Guide during her childhood. She spoke about this in assembly this week. Guiding is a significant commitment for Mrs. Morris, as she devotes her time every week, during summer holidays, and beyond. The joy that girls derive from these new and thrilling opportunities is the driving force behind her continued dedication to volunteering.

Mr Pretara volunteers at Queer Britain. He is part of the welcome team, greeting guests, developing relationships and ensuring accessibility requirements are met are some of the key aspects of the role to make for a truly inclusive environment for all. Mr Pretara has enjoyed his voluntary role and help create more inclusive education opportunities for young people.



Preschool

The Preschool children have settled into their new classes brilliantly this term. We have been having lots of fun playing and learning, both indoors and outdoors! We have been talking about our families, our feelings and our bodies, and sharing lots of ideas about how we can keep healthy. Well done, Bumblebees, Butterflies and Ladybirds; we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.



Review

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

<https://g.page/r/Cd0V7pq2h8TCEAg/review>



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Bikeability for Year 6 (HC)

Tuesday morning was the first day of Bikeability training for eleven of the Year 6 children. Bikeability Training (formerly known as Cycle Proficiency Training) is designed to teach children to cycle on the road with confidence. The children undertook level 1 on the Pre-Prep playground before commencing level 2 on the roads, under the watchful and careful supervision of the friendly and helpful instructors, Matt and Jo. The children had a thoroughly amazing time and learnt so much about cycle safety, bicycle maintenance and being mature users of the roads. Well done to you all!

"It was really fun!" - Matteus

"We got to do U-turns and learn how to pass parked cars safely" - Felix

"I am really looking forward to getting back on to the roads as I feel a lot more confident now" - Florence



Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story! You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehall) on insta as well at [stchristhehallsport](https://www.facebook.com/stchristhehallsport) to get all the inside info from school life!



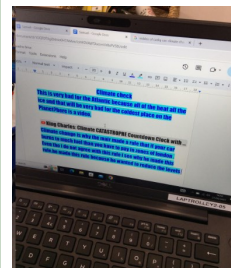
News and debating ECHO

News and Debating Echo Club are proud to be a part of the National News Club that is open to all schools, in conjunction with Sky Kids and First News; we even have our very own logo!

Each week we start the session by watching the weekly Sky Kids News Show, featuring three current news items such as the Earthquake in Morocco and how they are promoting STEM in schools.



The constant theme running through every week's news club is that of Climate Change and this week we learnt from an interview with Sadiq Khan his reasons as to why he decided to widen the ULEZ zone from Inner London to our very own Bromley in Outer London.



We are also learning that some news can be fake news so not to believe everything we read, see or hear in the news - did you know that an American man actually cut off the roof of his car so he could fit a real buffalo in the

passenger seat and drove around like that! (the buffalo looked like a stuffed one to us at first) He was cautioned by the police and told that he would have to stop driving around with his buffalo as a passenger as it was 'unsafe'!

Once we have watched the weekly news programme, we choose a feature that interests us and fire up the laptops to write our own articles on the topic, either as to what we have learnt or what our own views are on our chosen subject. We also discuss and debate the topics that have been featured. We definitely have some budding junior journalists in our midst.



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E-safety tip (CO)

This week we focus on an app, popular with the online gaming community, called Discord. The following is a link to an article from the NSPCC titled Should I let my child use Discord?



Should I let my child use Discord?

Discord is a messaging service where a user can set up a message board and invite others to contribute to it. It has an age rating of 13+ and is incredibly popular and is growing its base of users beyond the gaming community to other interests.

Users are able to post messages in the form of text, but also pictures and in addition there is a function to post voice messages. Furthermore the options to engage in live voice chat and to invite others into "private" messaging and conversations should be of concern to any parent.

A direct quote from the article:

Young people who have contacted Childline have described the platform as being a good place to meet new people outside of their normal social circle. Some also spoke about it being somewhere they can explore romantic connections and talk to others with similar interests to them.

However, they also reported experiencing abuse and harassment on the platform. Some also shared that they had been exposed to harmful and inappropriate content on the app.

The article covers safety settings and what the potential pitfalls could be for your child. It is essential reading for those with children who enjoy spending time in games with an online element.

Pupil Success

Well done to Nesta (2J) and Guy (RC) Mullen. They passed their recent swimming challenge with flying colours. Nesta passed level 22 and received a swimming award for 18 lengths, 450m unaided and Guy passed level 15 and achieved 10m unaided. This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of them both.



Well done to Tilly Beaton (3O), who has been awarded 'Player of the Year 2022-2023' at her Girls' Football Club (Dalmain Athletic Girls' Football Club). Tilly worked so hard throughout the season and she should be extremely proud of herself!

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

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 2nd October**
 - Year 3 Netball V Royal Russell, all Year 3 girls to play. (15:00-17:30)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 3rd October**
 - French day (all day, dress up if you choose).
 - IAPS U11 Football Tournament @ Bishop Stortford. Selected children.
 - Secondary School Transfer meeting for Year 6 parents (17:00-18:00).
- 🔔 **Thursday 5th October**
 - Year 4 Stone Age Workshop in school.
 - Preschool and Reception Black History Month story Workshop

Reviews

We love hearing your feedback, so if you have a Google account, and feel inclined, please leave a reviews for us by using the link or the QR code:



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