

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I have enjoyed being back in school this week, after being away in Liverpool for the IAPS Heads' Conference, last week. I am incredibly grateful to our Senior Leadership Team and, in particular, Mrs. West and Mrs.

Wanstall for steering the ship while I was away.

During the conference, there were opportunities to discuss the future of the private education sector and the challenges it may face. It's worth noting that Labour's proposed tax on independent school fees may have consequences that extend beyond its intended targets, possibly affecting hardworking parents who make significant sacrifices to send their children to private schools. In light of the current cost of living crisis, we understand that this could pose a challenge for some families. As a school, we are committed to doing our best to shield our parents from excessive financial burdens. A key insight from the conference was the importance of advocacy and engaging with our local Member of Parliament and parliamentary candidates. This engagement is crucial in addressing any potential short-term and long-term impacts resulting from proposed policies. The upcoming Labour conference, scheduled from Sunday through Wednesday next week (ironically at the same venue where we held our own conference in Liverpool last week), is expected to provide more details and draw intense media attention to these matters. We will be closely monitoring these developments and remain mindful of their potential consequences for our school community.

On a lighter note, Liverpool was a lovely place to visit, and I had the chance to appreciate the work of George Stubbs, a renowned artist. If you haven't already, I encourage you to consider a visit to the National Gallery in London, especially if you're interested in art and culture. It can be a delightful trip to take with your children, exposing them to the rich world of art.

I am delighted to inform you that our comprehensive resources for spelling, vocabulary, and grammar overviews, along with book recommendations tailored to your children's enjoyment, are now readily accessible in the

Parents Area of our website under the "English Resources and Curriculum Guidance" section. These resources provide a valuable insight into what will be taught throughout the academic year. It's important to note that much of our instruction is seamlessly integrated into our English lessons, rather than presented as explicit standalone subjects. These overviews will help you understand the topics, concepts, and skills your child will encounter. To access these valuable resources, simply click on this [link](#).

I have some important staff news to share with you. Mrs. Rudge, our Assistant Head (Pastoral), will be stepping back from teaching at Christmas. Mrs. Rudge has made the decision to shift her focus towards charitable endeavours, and as a result, she will be bidding farewell to our school community at the end of this term. Additionally, Mr. Jacob, one of our computing teachers, will also be departing to pursue his passion within the broader computing field. While we will undoubtedly miss their presence and contributions, we want to express our appreciation for their dedication to our pupils. As a result of these departures, there will be some adjustments in the Senior Leadership Team and staffing roles, which we will provide more details about in due course. We wish Mrs. Rudge and Mr. Jacob the very best in their new pursuits.

As we usher in the month of October, we are excited to celebrate the start of Black History Month at our school. It offers us a special opportunity to recognise and honour the rich and diverse contributions of individuals throughout history. Our curriculum will be enriched with lessons that highlight the achievements, struggles, and remarkable journeys of Black leaders and changemakers. In addition to classroom activities, we will also host workshops, assemblies, and special lunches dedicated to the exploration of Black history and culture. Our aim is to create an inclusive and educational environment where our students can learn, appreciate, and celebrate the immense impact of Black history on our world today. We look forward to a month of meaningful exploration and discovery with your children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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French Day

On Tuesday, 3rd October, St Christopher's the Hall was a sea of red, white and blue as we celebrated our first ever 'French Day'. There were some fantastic outfits on display, ranging from mime artists, footballers and haute couture.

Mrs Dubeck began the morning with an assembly where some of our very own French speakers impressed by introducing the day in French and then children from Year 6 shared interesting facts about France's culture and traditions. The children also learnt about the importance of the French language worldwide, with over 300 million speakers in five continents. We were then treated to a wonderful rendition of the song *Jean Petit qui Danse* by 2J. *The Year 2 children brought the room to life with their enthusiastic voices and dancing.*

During lessons, children from Pre-School to Year 6, learnt new vocabulary, practised their conversational skills, heard stories, sang songs and learnt new facts about *La Francophonie*, *an organisation which maintains cultural links between French-speaking countries across the world.*

At breaktime, the dining hall was full of the scent of delicious baked goods as children eagerly queued to buy French inspired treats from our French café. Every House had a table, piled high with croissants, macarons and madeleines to name a few. The House Representatives, Head and Deputy Head Pupils expertly led the café,



taking orders and encouraging everyone to use as much French target language as possible.

At lunchtime, we were all treated to a wonderful French menu from the catering team. The dining hall decorations looked super and the crêpe bar proved a huge hit. It was



fantastic to see how eager the children were to try new foods.

We rounded off the day with children enjoying a French story led by Mrs Dubeck, Mrs West and Mr Pretara.

We were so pleased that our inaugural 'French Day' was a real success. Children

and staff entered into the spirit of the day and we all had so much fun together. Mr Walters, an escoffier trained chef, was particularly impressed with the quality and creativity of the children's baking. Congratulations to everyone who took part and especially our House winners who received their very own baking kit in Celebration Assembly today. The bake-sale raised an impressive **£416.96** and all of this money will be handed over to this year's Children's Charity.

Finally, thank you so much for your incredible support whether it was helping your child choose an outfit, baking a treat with them or giving a little change to spend at our bake-sale. All of your help was greatly appreciated. We do hope the day has really ignited the children's enthusiasm for learning a language and that French in our school will continue to go from strength to strength.



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Black History Month

On Wednesday, we welcomed Ms Aderinola (mum to Seth (Yr 4) and Naomi (Ladybird class)), to our Whole School Assembly to help kickstart our Black History Month focus. October is a time dedicated to honouring and celebrating the incredible contributions of Black individuals. The theme this year is 'Celebrate/ Salute Our Sisters', shining a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of Black women throughout history who have made their mark on our world in her own special way. Be it writers, scientists, leaders or sportswomen, their stories are filled with inspiration. Their stories show determination, creativity, resilience and the sheer power of believing in oneself.

Ms Aderinola introduced us to some Black women in the field of STEM that we had never heard of such as Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE who was super smart with computers, even as a child. She helped other boys and girls learn about Science and Maths with her group called STEMettes. She passed an advanced computer exam when she was only 11 years old. Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock is an space scientist and talks about space on a television programme called 'The Sky at Night'. She has built special tools to help scientists look at stars. Chi Onwurah used to build cool technology objects as an engineer and now she helps to make the rules in Parliament. She believes that both boys and girls can be



superheroes when it comes to technology.

Ms Aderinola kindly donated the school some posters which can be found displayed around the school. Look out also for our Black History Month working wall display board in the front entrance hall.

Always remember, as we delve into these stories and workshop activities over the next couple of weeks and throughout the coming academic year, they serve as a testament to the incredible potential within us all, no matter our gender or background.

The Pre School and Reception children enjoyed fantastic workshops from the Freshwater Theatre Company this week. Through drama activities and story telling they all thoroughly enjoyed learning about and celebrating stories from black writers and traditional tales. The workshops were designed to support the work we are doing in school during Black History Month and to help develop the children's awareness of the past.



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Construction ECHO

Our construction club has been a huge success. The children have been using their problem solving skills alongside creative thinking. They have had to evaluate and think analytically to build and construct using a variety of materials, which in turn has seen them developing their knowledge of STEM. The children have learnt to evaluate and edit their designs and when they have encountered problems they then revised their structures. We have built strong bridges from paper, tall towers, sturdy structures from spaghetti and marshmallow, as well as tall buildings from our playground bricks.



Pupil Success

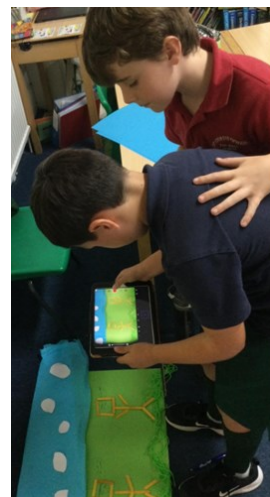
George (Year 1) is a member of Maidstone Rugby Club and last weekend, he was awarded 'Player of the Week' for his performance, determination and teamwork. Bravo, George.



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

Stop Motion ECHO

The first Stop Motion ECHO club has been a great success so far! The children have learnt how to use a brand new app called 'Stop Motion', have planned their animations by making miniature flip-books and are now on their way to becoming producers, directors and editors! Over the last few weeks, the children have worked wonderfully in



pairs, to plan out their animation and how they are going to create a stop-motion movie. This week, they created their own

props, backdrops and scenes and began to set it all up, ready to capture each scene using the iPads. The children captured each frame-by-frame shot, in chronological order, just like individual frames of a movie! Next week, we will enhance their animations by adding audio clips, titles, credits and filter effects. We will then host a movie premiere to showcase their films.

Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story! You can follow us at [@stchristthehall](#) on Insta and X, as well as [@stchristthehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! You can also now follow us on Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group



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St Christopher's in the Community

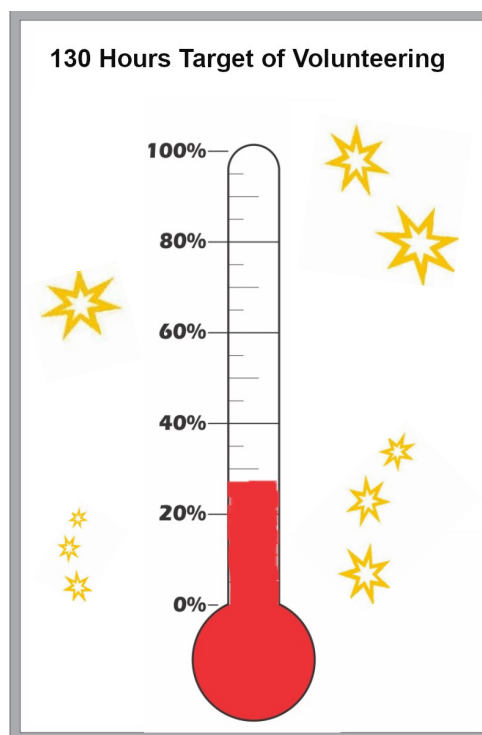
Our School is all about the wider community and everyone is an important part of this. Our governors are an important part of this community and their job in itself is a voluntary position, and we are grateful for all the time and energy they invest into supporting and guiding us within school.

However, on top of this, members of our Governing Board take on additional charitable volunteering, and this week we are going to feature their endeavours which will add to our targets of committing 130 hours this year.

Mrs Curtis, our Chair of Governors, has always been keen on sport, be it participating or watching. As a child, she swam for her home town swimming club and was grateful for the time and effort that the parents, including her own, put into running the club for them. As a parent, she believes it is important to support her own children and give them the opportunity to play sports with their friends and peers in a positive and encouraging environment. This year is the 9th season that she has been team administrator for her son's football team: the Glebe Tigers, where she makes sure that fees are collected, coaches and referees are paid and kits are ordered. She enjoys this volunteer work as she has watched the team grow and develop both as players and as young men. She is also the Colts Registration Secretary at a local cricket club, OD CUACO CC. Again, she finds this rewarding to support the work of the coaches and managers there, to help a small, family orientated club and to make players and their parents feel welcome. Volunteering for a local team is a great way to become part of the local community and without volunteers children's grassroots sport would simply not exist.

Mr Martin, our Chair of the IT and H&S Committee is involved in a local scout group, as Group Secretary handling the waiting list and general administration, as well as a member of the team organising the annual Beckenham Fireworks and Easter Egg Hunt. Last year over £90,000 was raised for local charities, with donations including £10,000 each for St Christopher's Hospice and the local Living Well food bank. He also can often be found leading rides with the Penge Cycle Club on Sunday mornings, introducing new riders to the lanes of Kent.

Do let Mr Carter know if your family, especially your children alongside you, are involved in anything which involves volunteering of any kind as we strive to reach 130 hours before July.



Emailing teachers

REMINDER: ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

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



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/Cd0V7pg2h8TCEAq/review>



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E-Safety Tip

This week, we would like to share an excellent resource from CEOP in the form of a playable game for children and a set of three videos connected to it that cover a range of strategies to stay safe online.



Play Like Share follows the adventures of Alfie, Ellie and Sam as they form a band and enter their school's Battle of the Bands contest, taking on the mean but 'cool' Popcorn Wizards as they go. The three friends learn that while the internet can help, they need to use it wisely and safely.

The aim of the films is to help 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe online. In particular, the films teach them to spot the early signs of manipulative, pressurising and threatening behaviour by people they might meet online, and develop their confidence to respond safely and get help.

You can watch Play Like Share with your child and use this to start a conversation with them about the internet and being safer online. All three episodes can be found on the CEOP [website for 8-10 year olds](#), where you will also find a fun interactive game called *Band Runner* that helps this age group learn how to be safer from risks they might encounter online.

Music - piano for sale

A local family is looking to find a good home for this baby/ boudoir grand piano and are offering it for free. It plays well and has much sentimental value within the family, who had connections with St. Christopher's in the 1970s. If anyone has any interest in this please contact Mrs. Gay at musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk for more details.



SCA.

Children's "Toy Swap Shop"



To kick-start our sustainability theme for this year, children from Reception to Year 6 are invited to participate in our first children's "Toy Swap Shop" on Thursday 12th October. Reuse rather than recycle or throw away.

For a £1 donation, children are being asked to bring in a pre-loved or unwanted toy or game (age appropriate) and will have the opportunity to swap this for another toy or game. As per school policy, trading cards are not permitted.

Mufti Day / Fancy Dress Day

In addition, on Tuesday 31st October for a donation of £2 all children are invited to either wear fancy dress, this can be Halloween themed if the children so wish or children can wear their own clothes for the day if they prefer.

The SCA will be at the school gate on both mornings to collect donations.

What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 9th October**
 - Yr 3 Rugby/ Netball v Eltham College all Yr 3 to take part (14:30-16:30)
- Tuesday 10th October**
 - Black History Month Workshops for Years 1-6 (all day)
 - Parenting in the Digital World (remote workshop for current parents 19:00-20:00)
- Wednesday 11th October**
 - KS1 Gymnastics Comp (Year 2). Selected children (08:45-13:30)
 - Year 5/6 Swimming Gala @ Bromley High, selected children to take part (14:30-16:30)
- Thursday 12th October**
 - Yr6 Rugby training look around @ Trinity School - Year 6 boys to play (10:30-14:00)
- Friday 13th October**
 - Year 3 trip to the Horniman Museum (all day)
 - Year 5/6 X-Country @ Colfes School - selected children to take part (12:30-16:30)