

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe that we've reached the halfway point of this term already. These past six weeks have flown by, filled with the energy and enthusiasm of our wonderful pupils.

Black History Month continued to be a vibrant and enriching experience for our pupils where we integrated celebrations and awareness of Black history and culture into our entire curriculum, ensuring that every lesson was an opportunity for learning and appreciation. Additionally, our students in Year 1-6 had the pleasure of enjoying an amazing workshop earlier this week, which was met with enthusiasm and engagement. This workshop culminated in a drumming workshop that allowed pupils to connect with the rhythmic and cultural aspects of Black heritage. You can read about it below. In addition, I know many of you have appreciated the reading suggestion on the parents' area of the website, and in the spirit of Black History Month, I wanted to point you towards 12 essential poetry books by Black authors, which I think will provide meaningful insights and stories to share with your children. You can access these resources by clicking on the provided [link](#).



Thank you for your generous harvest donations this week. Today, we had the pleasure of celebrating your contributions with a talk from Living Well, the organisation to which your donations will be sent. Your kindness and support truly make a difference in the lives of those in need, and we're grateful to have such a compassionate school community.

Following last week's announcement about Mrs. Rudge and Mr. Jacob's departure at Christmas, I have some exciting changes to our Senior Leadership Team structure, starting in January. Mrs. West and Mrs. Wanstall will step into the roles of my Deputy Heads, contributing their expertise to our school's leadership. Miss Rule and Mrs. Chamadia will become Assistant Heads, overseeing the academic and pastoral wellbeing of the pupils in their respective phases. Mrs. Cornish will take on the title of Head of Pastoral Care, where she will lead efforts related to pastoral and mental well-being, as well as being our Designated Safe-

guarding Lead. In addition to these changes, I am thrilled to announce that Mr. Codd and Mrs. Shivers will be taking on a new and important role within the school. They will be responsible for coordinating the PSHE curriculum, driving our EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) initiative, and leading our charitable endeavours, including spearheading the St. Christopher's in the Community project. The official title for this role is yet to be decided, but both staff members are brimming with innovative ideas, and I am confident their enthusiasm and forward-thinking approach will greatly benefit our school community. Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that Miss Atkinson has accepted the responsibility of overseeing Computing across the School. Starting from January, she will assume this role and will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays to ensure a smooth transition and provide continuity in our Computing department. I believe these changes will have a positive impact on our school's continued growth and success. The dedication and expertise of our staff are invaluable, and I have every confidence in their ability to lead our school into an even brighter future.

I'm delighted to see that so many of you found last week's e-Safety remote parent partnership talk valuable. It's reassuring to know that this crucial topic was well received, as online safety continues to grow in importance in safeguarding your child as they navigate the digital world. Your engagement in this area is truly appreciated. The recording of the event is now available on our parents' area of the website and there is more on this below.

As we approach the half-term break, I want to wish you all a happy and restful holiday. Don't forget that ALL pupils should be in the winter uniform when we return. Information about the winter uniform is contained later in the newsletter. Additionally, on the first Tuesday back, we have a Halloween-themed dress-up day planned. Your child is welcome to come to school dressed to scare(!), or they can opt to wear their own clothes for a donation to support our SCA. Enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in high spirits after the holiday.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

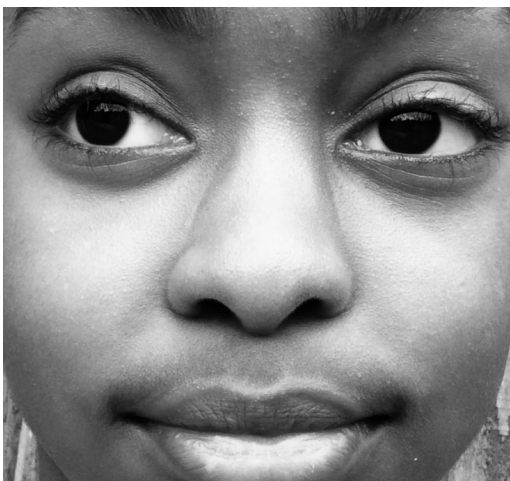
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Photography ECHO

Last week, in the photography club, the children looked at famous portraits. They all had great fun trying to recreate them in their own unique style. Have a look at some of our work and see if you can identify which famous portraits inspired us!



Make a Board Game ECHO

This term, the children have been creating board games from scratch in ECHO Club. This was a process of choosing a theme for their game, creating a background for their board, assigning spaces for the pieces to move through, and once they had decided on their rules, to play the games together! It was fantastic to see Pre-Prep children of different year groups playing their games together with sportsmanship and pride over what they had created. At the end of the half term, the children sat and discussed what they liked about the games they played and plenty of them wanted to make more board games after this one.

Year 4 Stone Age Workshop

Our lucky Year 4s participated in a whole day of Stone Age activities as part of our Stone Age to Iron Age topic this term. Our workshop leader Stevie brought in lots of artefacts for us to handle and learn about. We held animal skins, replica skulls, bones and weapons to name but a few! We also sketched a wide variety of bones having discussed what they would have been used for in Stone Age times. We came up with some interesting suggestions! After that activity, we learnt about cave paintings and had a go at replicating our own on slates with chalk and charcoal. Our final activity was to practise our hunting skills with some bows and arrows. This was highly exciting as we aimed for pictures of some of the prey that would have been around during these prehistoric times. It was a really engaging day and the children learnt a lot about this time period in history.



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Black History Month

On Tuesday, Year 1-6 were transported to the continent of Africa for the day with Kwame, from Ghana, as our guide.

Firstly, we were treated to his expert storytelling of African tales, as well as singing and dancing. How could the Pre Prep forget Anansi tricking the lion back into the pit and the Prep School, the image of Kwame's own pet dogs racing around the village with his pet monkeys riding on their backs!

Mid morning, our hall was transformed into an 'African art skills studio' where Kwame shared with us his simple yet effective trademark painting technique. Using only paint, paper and paint-brushes, we learnt how to 'create' people using



the four primary colours, painted in certain shapes and finished off with black detail. Our crowds of African people looked fabulous!

In the afternoon, we became 'djembefolas' with everyone being given the opportunity to learn how to play a djembe drum. Kwame taught everyone how to play 'bass' (use both hands in the middle of the drum) and 'tone' (only use 4 fingers of each hand on the edge of the drum.) These different techniques created very different sounds on the drums and we all played 'copycat' rhythms in style! The sound of 60 rhythmic djembe drums resounding / resonating around the school corridors all afternoon was truly electrifying!



YouTube and our new STEM video

We want to take a moment to remind you to subscribe to our YouTube channel if you haven't already! Our channel features a growing collection of videos, including our stunning school promotional video. But that's not all – we're committed to keeping the excitement alive! We're continually working to populate our channel with fresh and engaging content that you won't want to miss.



We're thrilled to announce that we have a brand new video for you to enjoy. In the spirit of innovation and education, our STEM team has been hard at work, exploring ways to enhance STEM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) throughout our school. We're excited to share that two of our budding journalists have been diligently investigating this matter. To watch their insightful report and stay informed about the latest developments in STEM education at our school, please follow this link [here](#).

Pupil Success



George (Year 3) won the U9 Batting award for New Beckenham Cricket Club despite being the youngest member of the team! Well done, George; keep hitting those 4s and 6s!

We are also very excited to announce that Ellemie (Year 6) has been cast in an exciting show and



will be making her West End debut next month. We are not allowed to disclose what show it is just yet, but we are very proud of her achievement, and we have included her professional actor headshot!

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

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St Christopher's in the Community

Last week, we featured the volunteering some of our Governors partake in and this week, we are featuring Mrs McHugh, who is our co-chair of the SCA.

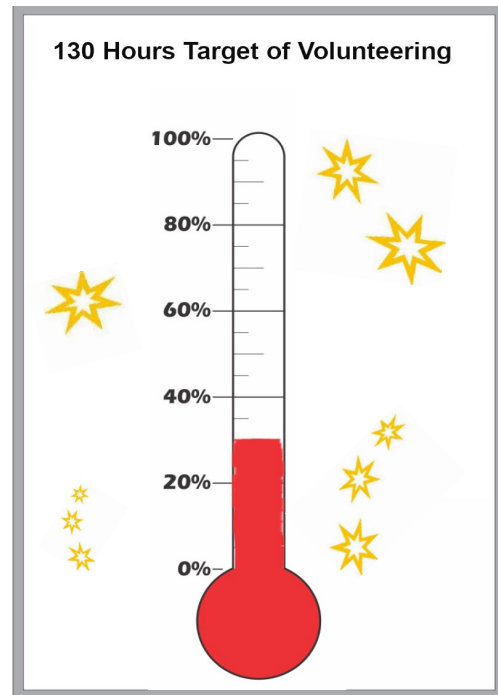
She participated in a Thames river clean up in Tower Hamlets for World Clean Up Day (16th September) with her colleagues and other office building residents. In one hour, her team filled 10



large bags of recyclable and non recyclable rubbish. The majority was sadly made up of non recyclable material: crisp packets, chocolate wrappers and polystyrene that would have washed up from anywhere along the river. The event was so inspiring,

that neighbours and passers by joined in, resulting in the event being repeated this week with further dates to be added.

This is a great piece of volunteering and Mr Carter is keen to hear about more ventures as we continue to work towards our 130 hours goal this year.



No Pens Day - Wednesday 1st November

We have an exciting announcement to share! After the half-term break, on Wednesday, November 1st, we will be hosting a "No Pens Day". On this special day, both pupils and teachers will put their pens down and embrace innovative methods of communication and learning. This initiative serves multiple purposes, including encouraging our children to enhance their speaking and listening skills and reinforcing our commitment to reduce the use of paper and worksheets. To ensure a truly pen-free day, we will be implementing strict guidelines, including the prohibition of whiteboards and pens. Interactive whiteboards will be permitted only if teachers refrain from writing on them. Rest assured, this day is not about doing something entirely different, but about delivering the curriculum in creative and engaging ways. We can't wait to see the wonderful ideas and experiences that will come out of this exciting day!



Sport Round Up and Successes

Our pupils have experienced huge success in sport this half-term, and have turned these children into determined winners. Our boys have now made their way into two National Football Tournaments: the U11 ISFA and the IAPS Tournaments. Our Year 3 girls have also been winners in every netball game they have played and remain unbeaten so far! And we experienced much success with the children who took part in the gym competition as well cross-country this week.



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Winter Uniform

As Autumn arrives and Winter approaches, it is time to put away those summer dresses and short sleeved shirts until April next year.

After half term all pupils should be in their winter uniform. Please see the guidelines below about winter uniform requirements.

The Uniform Shop will be open during half term on Wednesday 25th October between 10am-12 noon. Please call into the shop if you need to purchase any items or alternatively, you can order them online for collection. Send an email to uniformshop@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

Winter Term PreSchool Uniform

October half term through to Easter break.

WINTER UNIFORM

- ▶ Sky blue polo shirt
- ▶ Bottle green joggers
- ▶ Bottle green sweatshirt
- ▶ PE socks
- ▶ Blazer
- ▶ Waterproof fleece or duffle coat
- ▶ Bottle green woolly hat/scarf/gloves



Winter Term Pre Prep & Prep School Uniform

October half term through to Easter break.

BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

- ▶ Grey trousers
- ▶ Long sleeve shirts (sky blue)
- ▶ Tie
- ▶ Bottle green V-neck pullover
- ▶ Short grey socks
- ▶ Blazer
- ▶ Waterproof fleece or duffle coat
- ▶ Bottle green woolly hat/scarf/gloves

GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM

- ▶ Long sleeve blouses (sky blue)
- ▶ Tie
- ▶ Bottle green skirt
- ▶ Bottle green pullover
- ▶ Bottle green tights or socks
- ▶ Blazer
- ▶ Waterproof fleece of duffle coat
- ▶ Bottle green woolly hat/scarf/gloves



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Half Term Activities

With the half-term approaching, you may be thinking of things you can do with your family. We are so grateful to Mrs Patel, one of our parents, and a trusty weekly librarian at lunchtime, who has provided some resources that you may want to investigate. There are some wonderful online and in-person resources for young artists this holiday, all of which are completely free.

Tate Kids is a website run by the gallery that has dozens of fun activities for all age groups to do at home - [Tate Kids website](#)

Tate Britain - free admission and if you ask guides, they will tell you where you can eat your own packed lunch. Tate Britain has two dedicated permanent 'play studios' for children, with stories, dress-up, green screens and more. [Tate Britain](#)

Tate Modern Gallery – free admission and lots of outdoor space for picnics - this wonderful gallery is in an old power station and has ramps and big spaces for children to move around! Uniqlo Tate Play put on free activities at weekends and during the holidays [Tate Modern](#)

National Gallery – free admission and places to eat picnics - the Gallery has a wonderful augmented reality app for children 7+ (or younger if assisted) that guides them through the Gallery, asking them to solve a mystery by finding clues in the paintings. There are also activities and art projects to do at home [National Gallery](#)

The National Portrait Gallery was the recently refurbished. NPG offers free activity packs to families - [National Portrait Gallery](#).

The V&A has family-friendly guides and games online, and riddles to solve in some of their gallery rooms. [Victoria & Albert Museum](#)

Galleries and museums can feel intimidating, but children and grown-ups don't need to know anything in advance in order to enjoy them. Art is for everyone!

Try asking your children:

- What is your favourite piece of work?
- How does it make you feel?
- Why do you think the artist used that colour?
- What does it look like if you turn upside down?
- What would the painting smell like?

E-Safety Tip

Thank you to all those who attended the Parent Education session on E-Safety last week. Our thanks go out to Richard Pomfrett and the Stay Safe Initiative for delivering such a comprehensive and thought provoking session. Many of you were able to attend the session and we hope you were able to take plenty away from it. Richard and his team here are keen to hear your feedback, and you can do this by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/5E3fqvdUeX7TTiuQ9>



The Stay Safe initiative has given us a significant bank of resources to host on our website and these can be found within the Parent Partnership section which you can find here: <https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parents Online Safety Advice Sheet.pdf>. We were also lucky enough to be able to record the session and Richard has provided us with that recording. We ask that no part of the recording is shared on any social media platforms, but the video will also be available to view on our website from within the Parent Partnership section which can also be found by clicking here: <https://youtu.be/wCLi6MCUKKg>. It is well worth a view if you were unable to make the session, or even to dip back into the section relevant to your questions.

What's Happening Next Half Term

- 🔔 **Tuesday 31st October**
 - **Halloween outfit/Own Clothes Day**
 - Yr 5 Netball V Royal Russell, all Yr 5 girls to play. (14:30-16:45)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 1st November**
 - No Writing/Pens Day in school
 - Year 6 Parents' Meetings (15:30-17:30)
 - Preschool Parents' Information Evening (16:00-17:00)
- 🔔 **Thursday 2nd November**
 - Yr6 Rugby training look around @ Trinity School - Year 6 boys to play (10:30-14:00)
 - Year 6 Parents' Meetings (15:30-17:30)
- 🔔 **Friday 3rd November**
 - Flu immunisation