

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I hope that you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break with your families. I am delighted to welcome our pupils back for the new half term.

This week, our school was transformed into a spooky and thrilling place as pupils donned their ghost and ghouel costumes. The excitement was palpable, and the creativity of the costumes was truly remarkable. We also had a Halloween-themed lunch in our festively decorated hall, adorned with pumpkins carved by the winners of our competition. Congratulations to Michael (RC), Seb (RCo), Dennis (2J), Josh K (3O), Phoebe (4M), Neve (5L), and Maya (6P) for their outstanding pumpkin carving skills!

We were delighted to have Mrs. Powar (mum of Arjun and Isla) join us at school this past Wednesday to address our assembly. Her work with KIDS, a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, truly exemplifies the spirit of giving. She shared the importance of investing time and effort to learn and grow while emphasising the profound impact of small acts of kindness in charitable work. Hearing from parents like Mrs. Powar who are actively involved in charity work serves as an invaluable example for our St. Christopher's in the Community initiative. If there are any other parents who engage in charitable endeavours and would be willing to share their experiences with our pupils, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We would love to have you come into school!

Additionally, on Wednesday, we celebrated our first "No Pen Day." This day encouraged students to put down their pencils and focus on honing their speaking and understanding skills. It's a fantastic opportunity for us as educators to think more creatively about how we deliver our lessons and foster a more engaging learning environment.

Last term, in my newsletter, I mentioned the recent Labour Party proposal regarding private school fees, and there is now a parent-initiated petition that may interest you. This petition, started by a working family with a child in a private school, addresses Labour's pledge to end the tax-exempt status of education, potentially adding VAT to

private school fees. We recognise that private schools cater to a diverse range of pupils, with families often making significant sacrifices to choose specific schools. Labour's proposal has the potential to displace many families, compelling them to transfer their children to already overcrowded state schools. This will not only burden state schools and local authorities, but it may also increase the financial strain on parents who currently pay school fees in addition to contributing to school funding through taxes. The petition calls for support to urge Labour to reconsider their proposal of introducing VAT on school fees and to recognise the value of private schools. The goal is to encourage Labour to formulate an education policy that benefits all children, rather than imposing financial challenges on working families who have chosen private education. It's an opportunity for concerned parents to make their voices heard and advocate for the preservation of educational choices that best suit their children's needs. You can access the petition [here](#).

Finally, as we embark on this new term, we'd like to provide a few gentle reminders:

- **Healthy Snacks:** Please ensure your children bring in a healthy snack for their break time. We are not going to stipulate what should be brought in and what can't be brought in, but we encourage nutritious options, and kindly request that pupils **do not bring things like chocolate or packets of crisps as a snack.**
- **Winter Uniform:** Students should be in their winter uniform, which should be clearly named. Additionally, please ensure that your child wears proper school shoes rather than trainers unless they are dressed in PE kit on days when they have Games/PE.
- **Hair Ties:** Hair ties should be in the school colour to maintain a uniform and tidy appearance.

We appreciate your cooperation in upholding these guidelines, which contribute to a positive and organised school environment. We look forward to another term filled with exciting learning experiences, achievements, and growth.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Year 3 Trip

On a rather grey looking Friday at the end of a long half term, Year Three braved the elements and took a trip to the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill. Excitement levels were high as we boarded the "huge minibus" and went people spotting on the way. We took the chance while the rain held off to explore the gardens and the music station, the animal trail and the World, Nature and Sound galleries.

Then the main event, our workshop on Ancient Egypt. The museum holds many artefacts from this period of history thanks to the private collection of the Horniman family. The children were able to show the knowledge they have gained from our lesson by answering the presenter's questions extremely well. They then donned their white gloves for a special look at real objects from ancient Egypt. After that they came together to look at how these objects would have been used in a burial, thousands of years ago. An amazing opportunity!



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.



Languagenut Competition

We are excited to announce that Mrs Dubeck has enrolled St Christopher's into the annual Languagenut Competition which will begin on 6th November and close on 3rd December. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to practise their language learning at home in either French or Spanish. As children complete activities, they will be awarded points and can see their ranking position. When the competition closes, the top 50 students on the UK leader board will receive Amazon vouchers up to £50, and all participating students will receive a personalised certificate for taking part. Mrs Dubeck will be speaking to the children about how to access the website if they would like to take part. Please note that the competition is just for fun and not compulsory.

Happy language learning!



Maths Parent Partnership Evening

We want to remind you about our first-ever Maths Parent Partnership Event. This event, scheduled for **Tuesday, November 7th from 18:00 to 19:15**, is an important one and aims to provide you with a deeper understanding of how we approach teaching Mathematics at St. Christopher's the Hall School. During this evening, we will explore the Maths curriculum, emphasising the importance of building a strong foundation of mathematical fluency to master complex real-world problems. The event will include a presentation, interactive sessions tailored to your child's educational phase, and an opportunity to learn about specific teaching methods employed in your child's education.

To ensure we accommodate all interested parents, we kindly request that you complete this [Google Form](#). Your participation is highly valued, and we appreciate your involvement in your child's education. We look forward to your active engagement in this exciting Maths Education Parent Partnership Event next week.

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St Christopher's in the Community

We are so proud of Emily (Year 1) who gave up her time to do two hours of litter picking during half-term which will count towards our 130 hours of community service we are aiming for. Emily really enjoyed helping the environment! Mr Carter is keen to hear about more ventures as we continue to work towards our 130 hours goal this year, so do let him know if you or your family have taken part in any charity or community work.

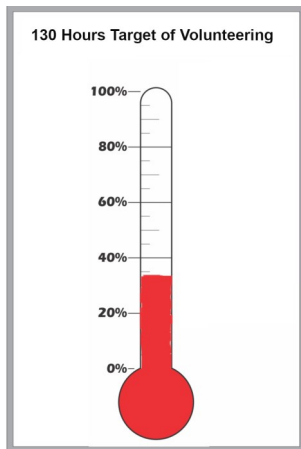


to relieve pressure on families in a practical way, by providing them with essential items. Many families have extreme financial pressures and others have been referred to the charity by health service professionals in the area, as they flee domestic violence.

Helping over 800 children each year, this charity compiles family Christmas Hampers and has asked if we could donate **shampoo, conditioner and shower gel** for the hampers.

Donations can be accepted at drop off from Monday 6 November until Tuesday 14 November. Donations will be stored in school and delivered to BBB on Wednesday 15 November.

Please do help us support this very worthy cause where possible. Thank you in advance for supporting this extremely worthwhile cause.



Additionally, as part of our charity work at St Christopher's, coupled with our initiative of St Christopher's in the Community, we are keen to support our local charity Bromley Brighter Beginnings.

Founded in 2012, Bromley Brighter Beginnings is a volunteer-led charity in Bromley with a mission

A festive poster for 'CHRISTMAS in a bag'. It features a blue background with white snowflakes. The text reads: 'Calling all families of St Christophers! WE'RE COLLECTING FOR BROMLEY BRIGHTER BEGINNINGS "CHRISTMAS IN A BAG" Please donate SHOWER GEL, SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER by 15 November 2023'. There are images of pink and purple bottles of shower gel and shampoo.

Preschool

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Preschool information meeting on Wednesday. We hope that the information provided gave you some insight into the Early Years Foundation Stage and the ways in which we are helping your

children to develop and learn in the Preschool. We will be emailing out the information for those that were unable to attend and we will be organising an opportunity for Preschool parents to come and see their child's Early Learning Journey at the end of term

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Nature Club ECHO

In Nature Club, we are embarking (!) on using natural items we find around our playground to use in interesting and creative ways within art. This week, we created Autumn trees and we are looking forward to creating nature based collages, crowns and bracelets, as well as completing leaf rubbings in the coming weeks.



Remembrance Day

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, we at St Christopher's The Hall, are gearing up for a week of reflection, respect, and gratitude. On this significant occasion, we pay tribute to the sacrifices made by those who served in the armed forces and remember the profound impact of their contributions.

To commemorate this solemn day, we will be hosting our annual Remembrance Assembly on Friday next week, a heartfelt and poignant event that brings our school community together. As a meaningful part of our Remembrance activities, Year 6 pupils will be stationed at the front gate each morning next week at 8:15, and also around the school, to sell poppies to anyone who wishes to wear this emblem of remembrance. The red poppy has become a symbol of reverence for the fallen, and wearing one is a way to show your support for veterans and their families.

We kindly request that those who choose to acquire a poppy contribute a donation. Your

generous donations will go towards supporting the Royal British Legion and their invaluable work in providing assistance to veterans and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation for their sacrifices and help those in need.

Thank you in advance for your support in purchasing a poppy in honor of Remembrance Day. Together, we can ensure that the memory of our heroes lives on, and their sacrifices are never forgotten.



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E-safety tip

This week's E-Safety message focuses on using technology and looking at online safety positively. The NSPCC has created six tips for keeping things positive when children are exploring the online world.



1. Screen Time: Be aware of exactly how much time is being spent online. Use the built in wellbeing settings on apps like Instagram and TikTok.
2. Enable children by showing them how to block accounts, words or phrases that they do not want to see. Navigate the negative.
3. Is it fake? Encourage children to challenge what they see online and to know if a source is trusted.
4. Keep positive. Mistakes can and will happen. Use them as a learning opportunity to enable and protect in the future.
5. Lead. Take the initiative to model positive examples like screen time, content access and lead by example.
6. Talk. Don't forget to talk about the positives of being online as much as the negatives, and really listen to what they're telling you.

For more information, follow this [link](#). and take the quiz together. The page also explores each of these ideas in more detail.

Social Media

You can follow us at [@stchristthehall](#) on insta as well at [stchristthehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life!



Youtube and social media

Remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel if you haven't already! Our channel will feature a new video each half term, including our stunning school promotion video. You can find our content page [here](#)

Additionally, make sure you also follow both our main insta page and our sports page which house content from the week to keep you more up to date with what is going on in school. Go subscribe and follow, by clicking this [link](#)

Pupil success

We are delighted that Rex (Year 1) has received his yellow belt (second grading) in Kung Fu on Saturday. What an achievement!

If you have any successes or news outside of school, do make sure you email in and let us know. Mr Carter loves hearing about these things.



Reviews

We hope you enjoyed your child's experience within our School! At [School Name], we are committed to providing the best possible educational environment for your child, and your feedback plays a crucial role in helping us achieve this goal. Leaving a review is a simple process. Just click on the link [here](#). Your review will take only a few minutes of your time, but it will mean the world to us.

What's Happening Next Half Term

- 🕒 **Monday 6th November**
 - School Council Trip to Mayor's Chamber at the Civic Centre (09:00-11:00)
 - Year 4 Rugby/Netball v Colfes, (all yr 4 children to take part) (14:00-16:45)
- 🕒 **Tuesday 7th November**
 - Year 6 Rugby V Colfes, selected Year 6 boys to take part.(14:20-16:30)
 - Parent Education - An insight into our Maths Curriculum (18:00-19:15)
- 🕒 **Wednesday 8th November**
 - Year 5/6 X-Country @ Merton Court selected children to take part (12:30-16:30)
 - Year 6 Parents' Meetings (15:30-17:30)
- 🕒 **Friday 10th November**
 - Year 5/6 Eltham Netball Tournament, selected children to play (13:30-16:30)