

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I hope you have been enjoying the crisp autumn days. It has certainly felt a little nipper at the gate in the morning, and I think it's definitely time I bring out my gloves and ear-warmers (a lovely present from Mrs Chamadia and Mrs Cornish!) as we embrace November.

At our school, we pride ourselves at giving pupils lots of opportunities to take on responsibility. Pupil leadership roles in school are important as it nurtures personal development, fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability, and empowers them to become confident and capable individuals. Therefore, to further this, on Monday, our School Council embarked on a journey to the Mayor's Chambers at the Civic Centre, after Councillor Mike Botting had kindly invited us to come, following his visit to our school during our 130th birthday, to open our Legacy Garden. Our young leaders had the opportunity to share their creative ideas with the Mayor, as well as have a look around where decisions in the Bromley Borough are made. I am grateful to Mrs Rudge and Miss Atkinson for taking these pupils on this trip. For a detailed account of the School Council's exciting experience, please see the article below.

We had more visits this week too, when our pupils made a visit to Jansodean Care Home as part of our St Christopher's in the Community commitment, on Tuesday. Here, they engaged with the residents, dedicating their time to foster connections which we tied into Remembrance Day. Thank you to Mrs West and Ms Woodison for escorting the children, and again for further information about this heartwarming initiative can be found in the article below.

Additionally, on Tuesday, we also hosted our newest Parent Partnership event. The event centred on helping parents gain a deeper understanding of our Maths curriculum and our approach to teaching this subject. We believe that these events play a crucial role in bridging the gap between home and school, ensuring that you can support your child's education effectively. I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Morris and



Mr. Chowdhury for their exemplary leadership and dedication in organising the Parent Partnership Initiative, as well as other staff members who also stayed to assist with this. Their hard work ensures that our Maths curriculum remains cutting-edge and engaging for our pupils. I hope the parents who attended found it a useful experience. Although this will not fully give you the experience of the event, the slides from the workshops can be found on our website, in the parents area, [here](#) in the academic drop down menu. Additionally, there will be a feedback form sent to all parents to allow us to gather honest comments and opinions regarding the evening so we can keep making these events pertinent and useful to you, so I would ask that you complete this to help us for the future.

Finally, today, we came together as a school community to commemorate Remembrance Day. Our super Year 6 volunteers have been selling poppies at the gate this week in preparation for our assembly. Thank you to Amelia, Lottie, Maya, and Elah. The assembly, led by our House Representatives - Daniel, Rafi, Emily, and Adnan - was deeply moving. I am so proud of these pupils who masterfully conveyed the significance of the occasion, reminding us all of the importance of remembrance.

Anti-Bullying Week is just around the corner, which reinforces our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all our pupils, and raise awareness about the importance of kindness, empathy, and respect in our daily lives. This all kicks off on Monday where we are inviting pupils to come in wearing ODD SOCKS. Odd Socks Day is all about having fun, celebrating individuality, and raising awareness of bullying by wearing odd socks – no need for expensive costumes, just a simple gesture to support the cause. Donations are not needed; the primary focus is spreading the message of Odd Socks Day.

Wishing you a "chill-tastic" weekend as there is an apparent upcoming cold snap on the way. I look forward to hopefully seeing an array of colour clashing socks on Monday.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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School Council Visit to Civic Hall

On Monday, School Council were invited by The Mayor of Bromley to host their half termly meeting in the Bromley Council Chambers at The Civic Centre. On arrival, we were greeted by Peter, The Mayor's Assistant who accompanied us to The Chambers. In the corridor to The Chambers are photographs of all the Mayors who have held office since Bromley Council was established in 1965.

We conducted our School Council meeting with louder voices than usual and discussed our items



on the agenda: our class sponsored events and what we can do to support sustainability, particularly recycling.

At the end of our meeting, Peter brought the Mayor to join us: he knocked on the door and asked us

to all stand as they formally processed towards The Mayor's seat at the Head of The Council Chamber. The Mayor was wearing his traditional 'civic regalia' of his red robe and his chain of office and Peter was carrying the official Mayoral mace. The Mayor requested permission to address our School Council and then welcomed all members to his Chambers. We asked him a host of interesting questions which included:

"What is the most enjoyable thing you do as Mayor?" (Tilly)

"Meeting all the different people in Bromley."

"Do you need to have any heritage to be The Mayor?" (Adnan)

"No, but before you become The Mayor you have to be a councillor and then the councillors have to nominate you and elect you democratically."

"How long are you Mayor for?" (Zoe)

"A year, from May to May the following year, so I'm half way through my year now."

We also found out that The Mayor's wife has been Mayor twice before him and that she finds it difficult to let him be the boss!

After our School Council meeting had ended, The Mayor and Peter processed out. We were then invited to Rochester Palace where the Mayor's office is located. The Bishop of Rochester would stay here when he was travelling to London as it was too far to travel all in one day. The wooden entrance hall reminded us of our school as it had a grand staircase just like ours.



In The Mayor's Drawing Room, which used to be a bedroom, Peter showed us the 5 different chains of offices that belong to the 5 different areas that make up The Council of Bromley : Orpington, Beckenham, Penge, Chislehurst and Bromley and Polina and Knight had the opportunity to dress up as The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Following this, we were allowed to visit The Mayor's Office (which also used to be a bedroom) where he works everyday. He has a visitor's book which is signed by The Queen and Prince Philip and we asked him more questions about things that he had in his office.

To conclude our visit, we were taken to The Mayor's Function Room which backs onto a beautiful garden and were given juice and biscuits before returning to school.



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Visit to Jansodean Care Home

On Tuesday afternoon, some Year 6 pupils visited Jansodean Care Home, as part of our St. Christopher's in the Community initiative. The children



confidently presented two readings to the residents, one poem called 'The Ballad of Harvest Past' and 'We Shall Keep The Faith', by Moina Michael. The children then described how this powerful poem was written in response to John McCrae's famous poem 'In

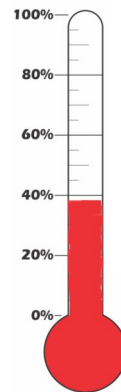
Flanders Fields' and inspired Michael to wear a red poppy as a sign of remembrance.

She then went on to sell silk poppies to raise funds for disabled veterans and her efforts resulted in the poppy being adopted as a symbol of remembrance. After the reading, the children enjoyed meeting and talking with the residents, and even sang an impromptu Happy Birthday to one lady celebrating her special day!

Well done to those children, we know your visit brought a welcome breath of fresh air to their day!



130 Hours Target of Volunteering



Make & Create ECHO

We have had great fun looking at the work of Frida Kahlo and creating a self portrait, using mixed media and making it 3D. We have drawn cats like



Gustav Klimt, his favourite colour was gold. We have also printed firework pictures using paint and glitter.



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Lego and Library ECHO

This term, Lego in the Library has seen children from across the Prep School share their love for reading as well as incorporating skills they have developed across their STEM learning. They have had the opportunity to construct a range of characters and settings from their favourite fiction books, as well as things such as landmarks, music and sports linked to the non-fiction books in our library. Each week, the children get to work in a different team to discuss, design and construct their creations ahead of presenting them to the group.

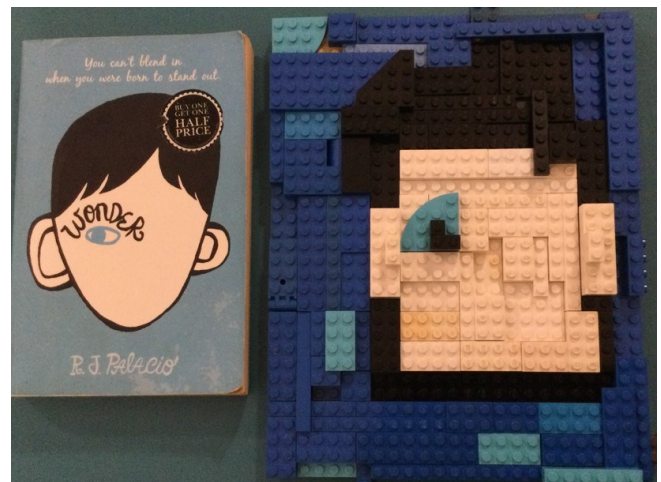
"My favourite thing about Lego Club is building with my friends. Me and my team are making the peach from 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl." - Freya 3H

"I like to build Lego based on books. This week, we are creating a brick house linked to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' ...oink oink!" - Junior 4S

"I really like using my creativity and imagination at

Lego Club. This week, we are creating Raj's Newsagent from the story 'Billionaire Boy' by David Walliams." - Aryan 5R

"I find Lego Club very fun and relaxing where I can have fun with my friends and create wonderful different settings and characters from my favourite books." - Emily 6C



School Travel Plan

We have been awarded the Travel Plan Gold Award. This represents a mark of excellence in our efforts to promote sustainable travel options, reduce congestion, and enhance the overall safety and well-being of our school community.

Key Takeaways of the Travel Plan Gold Award:

- **Safety First:**

The Gold Award signifies that we have successfully implemented a range of measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff when travelling to and from school. This includes improved pedestrian crossings, safer routes, and enhanced traffic management.

- **Sustainability:**

Our commitment to sustainability has been recognised. The Gold Award acknowledges our efforts to encourage eco-friendly modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, or using public transport. This not only reduces our carbon footprint but also promotes a healthier lifestyle for our students.

- **Reducing Congestion:**

By actively promoting alternative transportation

methods, we are reducing the number of cars around our school, which means less congestion and a safer environment for everyone.

- **Community Engagement:**

The Travel Plan Gold Award reflects our collaboration with parents, students, and the local community to develop a comprehensive travel plan that addresses the unique needs of our school. It shows that we are working together to create a safer and more sustainable future.

- **Continuous Improvement:**

Achieving the Gold Award is not the end of our journey but a milestone along the way. We will continue to work towards even more sustainable and safer travel options for our school community.

We are excited about the positive impact this award will have on our school and the community at large.

**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**



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Maths Parent Partnership event

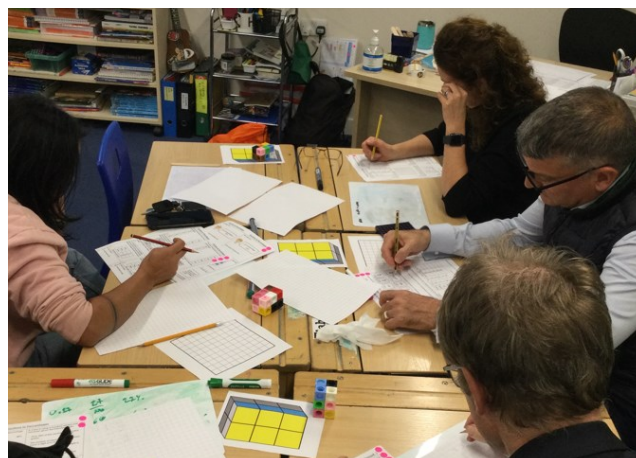
St Christopher's the Hall School held a twilight event to showcase our approach and teaching of Maths to parents. The event was hosted by Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury, the Heads of STEM, who explained the teaching strategies used to provide high quality education to your children. The parents were given an overview of the following topics: the approach used to teach Mathematics at the school, strategies to develop varied fluency, the application of knowledge to solve reasoning problems, and the development of Maths mastery. The importance of times tables and the use of Concrete, Pictorial, and Abstract (C P A) learning in classrooms was highlighted as well as many other important developments and strategies to ensure outstanding learning is delivered across the school.

After the introduction, parents were given the opportunity to experience learning appropriate to their child's age led by Mr Codd, Miss Johns, Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury, along with the support of Mr Carter, Mrs Chamadia, and Mrs West. Par-



ents were able to have a first-hand experience of how addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are taught and applied in lessons.

The evening was a great success, and we are grateful to the parents who attended and shared their mathematical strengths. The slideshow from the initial presentation is now on our website.



SCA

The SCA are very excited to announce the date of this year's Bavarian themed Christmas Fair on Monday 11th December between 3pm-6pm. Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, treats and Christmas cheer!

The firm favourites of Elfridges, Children's/Adult Tombola and Santa's Grotto will be there. Further details will be provided over the next few weeks, so watch this space!

In anticipation of the event the SCA will be collecting donations on the morning of Friday 24th November from 8.15am:

This year we are asking for: toys, games, books

for the children's tombola, bottles for the adult's tombola, pre-loved children's Christmas jumpers and fancy dress outfits, any monetary donations, raffle prizes.

Due to the success of the School's French Day, and the amazing baking skills demonstrated across the school, the SCA have decided to run a cake stand for all the aspiring bakers out there, therefore we will also be asking for cake donations on the morning of the fair.

If you have any suggestions, some time to spare or would like to volunteer, please do contact Bobby or Emma or email stchristophersassociation@gmail.com

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E-safety tip

Do you know your scam from your hoax? Do you know your misinformation from your disinformation? In the weekly News and Debating Echo club the children love the segment on Fake News and are amazed by the things that turn out to be true. This article from the NSPCC gives great advice on different types of fake news and how it is being spread: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/fake-news/> while this page from Childline gives some top tips for children on how to deal with fake news: <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news/> It ends with two sound pieces of advice. 1. Ask an adult you trust. 2. If you've been sent something and you're not sure if it's real, don't share it.



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.

Pupil success

We are so proud of Mert (Year 1) who was awarded 'Man of the Match' on Saturday at West Wickham FC.

If any pupil has success outside of school, let Mr Carter know as he loves hearing about the accomplishments of our children at school.



Social Media

You can follow us at [@stchristthehall](https://twitter.com/stchristthehall) on insta as well at [stchristthehallsport](https://www.instagram.com/stchristthehallsport) to get all the inside info from school life!



Review

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

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



Considerate Parking around school

Now that we have settled back into our routines after the half-term, we want to highlight the importance of being considerate when it comes to pick-up and drop-off times, especially in relation to parking.

We have received several complaints this week regarding the parking situation, including parking over driveways and on yellow lines. We understand that time is often of the essence, but considerate parking is equally essential. These parking issues can create unnecessary inconveniences and frustrations for our neighbours, and unfortunately, Mr. Carter has been managing numerous concerns related to parking. We kindly request your support in ensuring that this isn't something he needs to address regularly. Let's work together to maintain a harmonious relationship with our neighbours.

What's Happening Next Half Term

- Monday 13th November**
 - Anti-bullying week begins.
 - Wear your **ODD SOCKS**
 - Y3 & 4 Rugby v Farrington, selected boys to play (13.45-16.15)
- Tuesday 7th November**
 - Bromley Schools Swimming Gala (selected Yr 4/5/6) (08:15-10:30)
- Wednesday 8th November**
 - Workshop for Year 6 - interview prep (am)
- Friday 10th November**
 - Year 6 Rugby V Farrington selected boys to play (14:30-16:30)