

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The term seems to be gathering pace, as it always seems to do at this time of year. The week seems quite busy, and this was supposed to be the calm before all the upcoming Christmas events in the next few weeks!

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week, and the theme is "Make a Noise About Bullying". Our week began with the lively and colourful Odd Socks Day, where we celebrated individuality and set the stage for meaningful conversations. On Monday, Mrs Rudge led our assembly to kickstart the week, where she spoke about breaking the silence that often accompanies instances of bullying - to challenge the notion that hurtful actions can be dismissed as mere banter. As a community, we acknowledge that while we may not always agree, we can always choose respect and teamwork - both of which are part of our Character Values in school. In the assembly, and in PSHE lessons we discussed the impact of bullying, recognising how seemingly harmless banter can evolve into something more hurtful.

By standing together, we can make a difference, fostering an environment where bullying is not tolerated. I hope at the end of this week, pupils feel confident to amplify their voices and collectively make a noise about bullying. Together, we can create a culture where kindness prevails.

Our Year 6 pupils continue to impress me with their poise and dedication, especially as they navigate the 11+ exams. They are all managing the curriculum demands so well, and I must say, they are all doing it with good grace and smiles. My favourite part of the week is, without doubt, working with my Year 6 English group, who never fail to make me laugh during our lessons. On the matter of upcoming exams, we also recognise the importance of interview skills as part of the process, and this week, we welcomed Mrs. Lowe, a former head teacher, ISI inspector of schools, and one of our governors. Mrs. Lowe met individually with each Year 6 student, offering guidance and insights into effective interview techniques. Her feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlight-

ing the impressive qualities of our Year 6 pupils. Keep going, Year 6; we're nearly out of the woods!

On the matter of impressive Year 6 pupils, I am incredibly proud of the exceptional efforts of our Head and Deputy Pupils, Emma and Anthony. They took on the challenge of creating and devising an assembly for Children in Need, and today, they presented this to the school explaining the purpose of this event and highlighting the charity's focus on "bearpees" this year. Their dedication to raising awareness and contributing to such a meaningful cause is truly commendable. I would love to know if you or your family have done anything related to Children in Need - do let me know.



As we approach the festive season, I can't help but look forward to the celebrations ahead. Our Christmas tree, along with a garland for the staircase, is set to arrive next week. Building on the tradition we initiated a couple of years ago, where all pupils participate in decorating the tree, each pupil has a labelled Christmas tree decoration of their choice, which we keep in school and the pupil hangs onto the tree each year until they leave us in Year 6. Mrs Jeffery and I have sorted

the decorations and have sent them to the pupils' class teachers ready to bring to our tree. There will be a few pupils who do not have a decoration in school, especially those pupils who are new this year. Please assist your child in choosing a decoration and ensure it is labelled with their first and last name (not their class). The decorations need not be elaborate or expensive, and we kindly ask that you avoid sending in family heirlooms or precious items! If bringing in a decoration from home poses a challenge, I have some spares that the children can choose from in the office. This is a lovely tradition we have cultivated and it's heart-warming to witness the children come together to decorate the tree, fostering a sense of unity and festive merriment.

As the weekend approaches, I wish you and your families a delightful and restful time.

Mr. Carter

Head Teacher

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Performance Poetry ECHO

In our sessions, we have selected poems for the children to decide what they do and don't like about them. There is lots of discussion about whether they need to rhyme, how long they are and how peculiar the topics are! We look at how to perform the poem with actions and expression and have watched the fabulous Michael Rosen and Joseph Coelho, as an example of how to engage the audience. As our next step, we have looked to write our own ideas after gathering some initial ideas from each other. After we have created our own poems, we are able to perform them to the group. St Christopher's certainly has some budding poets!



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.



Mindfulness Club ECHO

This term, the children have been focusing on short mindful exercises, which can be used at any time. They have been practising various breathing exercises. A favourite is 'Flower and Candle', where the children smell the flower and blow out the candle. They have also dabbled in watercolour painting as they recaptured the image of a beautiful vibrant sunset. At the end of each session, the children are invited to partake in Mindful Yoga, a series of gentle stretching and movements.



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Anti-bullying Week

We started the week with a whole school 'wearing odd socks' assembly around this year's theme of National Anti-Bullying Week: 'Make a Noise About Bullying'. We discussed that having a joke or teasing somebody we know well or love (banter,) is part of human nature but, when the joke or friendly teasing goes too far, it tips into bullying if we let it and don't stop it.

We reminded ourselves that the definition of bullying is: 'the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or a group by another person or a group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online.'

So, how *DO* we 'Make a Noise' about it?

 STOP!	TELL SOMEONE THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE MEANT TO BUT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ THEY HAVE GONE TOO FAR ★ THEY HAVE HURT YOU OR YOUR FRIEND'S FEELINGS
 CHECK IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ ASK THE TARGET IF THEY ARE OK ★ ADVISE THEM TO TELL A TRUSTED ADULT ★ OFFER TO TELL A TRUSTED ADULT FOR THEM
 SPEAK OUT!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ TELL A TRUSTED ADULT THAT YOU NEED HELP YOURSELF ★ TELL A TRUSTED ADULT THAT YOUR FRIEND NEEDS HELP ★ TELL THEM WHAT YOU SAW OR HEARD
 SHOW KINDNESS	SHOW KINDNESS TO THE TARGET: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ ASK THEM TO JOIN IN YOUR GAME ★ OFFER TO SIT NEXT TO THEM AT LUNCHTIME ★ OFFER TO BE THEIR PARTNER

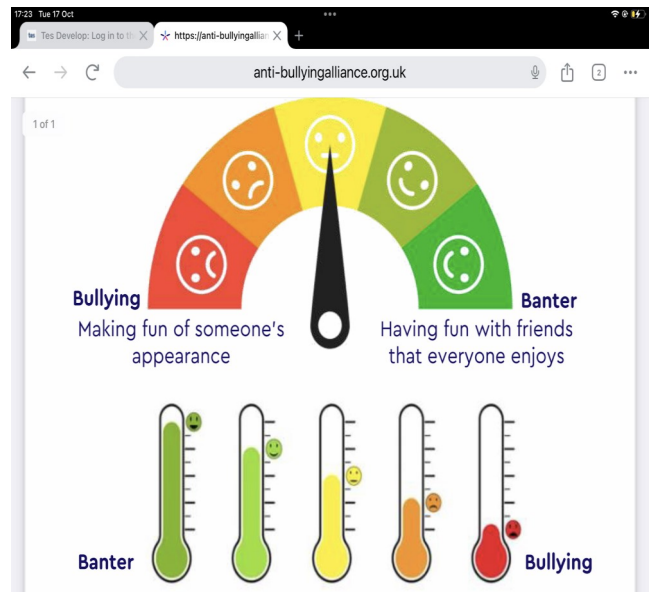
These messages were further endorsed in our PSHE lessons during the week and recognising that we can be like Jo Jo from Horton Hears a Who- our one voice can make all the difference if we are brave enough to stand up for what we believe is right and speak out, either for ourselves or

our friends. We also cited examples as to what classifies as 'banter' and when it can tip into 'bullying' using a 'bantometer'. We all agreed that bullying is unacceptable and it makes people feel upset, angry or distraught inside.

Our Celebration Assembly on Wednesday recognised those children in particular who have been ambassadors for anti-bullying: spreading their kindness, showing empathy towards others, telling a teacher if something has gone too far, including people in their games at playtime or sitting next to them at lunchtime as well as being respectful towards members of staff.

The main message we have taken away from this week: don't stay silent when you hear or see someone being hurt by actions or words; speak out.

We don't have to agree with everyone and we don't have to be good friends with everyone, but we **MUST** use our *Character Values of Respect and Teamwork to help avoid banter becoming bullying and 'Make a Noise.'*



Review

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



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

Social Media

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



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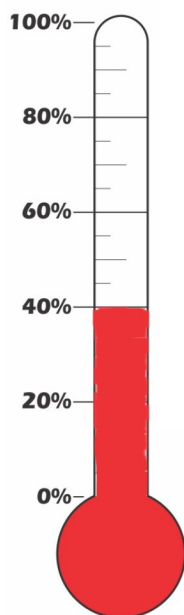
St Christopher's in the Community

We continue to encourage pupils to take part in some volunteering work where they give up their time to help out. Each year, we want to pledge a 130 hours, following our 130th birthday last term, to help those in need by volunteering their time or expertise. We are very proud of Lydia (3O) and Stefan(1C) who, during the last half term, spent one hour each to help clean the beach in Turkey with all the Tui hotel staff! Well done, both.

If you, or your family, have completed any charity work, or indeed done anything for Children in Need, do let Mr Carter know, as we work towards our yearly total of hours.



130 Hours Target of Volunteering



Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

Music or peris lesson	musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Sports or fixtures	sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Lunchtime or afterschool clubs	clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Finance	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (bookings)	scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (logistics or payment)	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Anything class related or for the teachers	mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for. Anything urgent or time sensitive – please call or mark email URGENT
Anything that needs the Head's attention	headsqa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

Gingerbread House Competition

Following the success of our pumpkin carving competition, we have a new competition for all pupils. We are challenging them to design their own Gingerbread House using the picture they can collect from their class teacher, and is also found on the next page.

All entries need to be in by 30th of November. The winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 1st December, and they will make their Gingerbread House with Mr Waters after school on Monday 4th December.

And remember... What's the best thing to put into a gingerbread house? – Your teeth!



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Festive Colouring Sheet



Season's Greetings from Harrison Catering!

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St. Christophers The Hall

CHRISTMAS FAIR

2023

Come and enjoy the festive season with us!

Activities include...

- Magic Mirror
- Games
- Childrens Tombola
- Arts & Crafts
- Elfridges Toy Shop
- Santa's Grotto
- The Secrets Room

Monday

11th Dec

15:30-18:00

Stalls include...

- Local Brewery
- German Biscuits
- Adult's Tombola
- Fizz Bar
- Food & Drink Vintage Van
- Traditional Bavarian Wurst
- Visiting Stalls

ENTRANCE £3 (+4 YRS)

Tickets & Currency can be purchased in advance at www.scasales.co.uk or on the door

RAFFLE DRAWN AT 17:30

Visiting Stalls

- The Br3wery
- The Body Shop
- The Infusionist
- Ginges Fitness
- South London Candle Co.
- Mulled Wine & Cider
- Christmas Wreaths

Meet Santa!

Pre-book Grotto online at www.scasales.co.uk

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Bromley Schools Swimming Gala

Congratulations to our swimming team from the Prep School on achieving third place in the Bromley Schools Swimming Gala. This took place on Tuesday 14th at the Beckenham Spa.



29 children from Years 4 - 6 competed in the Gala. Nicole in Year 5 won her heat as did the Relay teams. Another wonderful achievement, well done everyone.

SCA Update

The SCA have been working hard in the preparations for this year's German themed Christmas Fair and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to come and join in the fun. In case you have missed it, the fair will take place on **Monday 11th December between 3-6pm**. This year we will also have a number of visiting stalls including The Br3wery, The Body Shop and South London Candles.



To complement our German theme, you will be able to purchase traditional cooked Bavarian hot dogs from our very own Mr Waters, German biscuits and mulled wine.

The SCA will be at the school gates on **Friday 24th November from 8.15am** to collect all donations.

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

Entry tickets, currency and Santa's grotto slots will be able to be bought in advance from Monday 27th November from 11am. Raffle tickets will go on sale from Wednesday 29th November.

In addition, **Friday 8th December is Christmas Jumper Day** and Mr Carter has kindly volunteered to collect monetary donations on behalf of the SCA at morning drop off!

Pupil success

We are so proud of Adi (Year 6) who was nominated by Bromley District Cricket for the Kent County Cricket trials and assessments in Canterbury and has successfully been offered a place in the U11 Kent CAG (County Age Group) team for winter training and the 2024 program. He was 1 of only 24 for the whole of Kent to be selected for the U11's County squad.

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



What's Happening Next Half Term

- Monday 20th November**
 - Our Christmas tree arrives!
- Tuesday 21st November**
 - Pre-Prep Open Morning for current parents (8:15-8:45)
 - Writing workshop for Prep pupils (various times during the day)
- Thursday 23 November**
 - Prep Open Morning for current parents (8:15-8:45)
- Friday 24th November**
 - **Pupils to bring in donations for the Christmas Fair.**
 - Year 4 trip to the Natural History Museum
 - Reception trip to Dulwich Picture gallery
 - Year 6 Rugby V Eltham College, selected boys to play (13:45-16:15)