

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Hooray! Our festive season officially kicked off as the Christmas tree took its place by the staircase in the reception area on Monday. Next week, the magic continues as our pupils will add their special decorations, turning

it into a twinkling masterpiece – and that's when the real Christmas spirit will fill the air, not to mention the fact we have our first Christmas events with our Carol Service as well as our Preschool Christmas Concert!

In the meantime, our school is buzzing with Yuletide cheer. Rehearsals for the carol service and nativity are in full swing, transforming our halls into a hive of holiday excitement. It's heartwarming to see the children immerse themselves in the festive spirit.

Looking forward to next week, I'm excited to introduce what I hope will become a new school tradition. This Monday, following the spirit of Stir Up Sunday, we're bringing joy outside the school gates.

As pupils arrive, they'll find bowls filled with Christmas pudding mixture, and each one will have the chance to stir the mix and make a wish. I hope it'll be a fun way to kick off the week with a sprinkle of holiday magic. Parents, you're invited to join in the stirring too – just be sure to have your wishes ready!

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of hosting a special thank-you drinks event for our incredible SCA alongside my Senior Leadership Team. The SCA plays a vital role in our school community, and I am truly grateful for the dedication and effort they consistently put into organising events for the benefit of our school. None more evident than the upcoming Christmas Fair on December 11th, boasting a Bavarian theme that promises to be

a showstopper. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Hill and Mrs. McHugh for their exceptional leadership in steering the team. Your hard work and commitment make our school a vibrant and engaging place for all.

To cap this week, I enjoyed accompanying the Reception classes to Dulwich Picture Gallery today. Rare are the days I get to join school outings, so this was a delightful treat. The gallery has so much to offer, and the workshop was so engaging and encouraged listening and sharing of stories to help expand pupils' language skills. It's essential for us to provide trips that enrich and inspire across the entire curriculum, not just the usual ones, so having an Art focus linked to the work



Reception had been doing was super. This is also the first trip out of school for Reception, and I must say they were an absolute credit to the School and I was very proud to accompany them. Thank you to Mrs Chamadia, Mrs Cornish, Mrs Gobherdan and Mrs Craig for organising such a pleasant trip.

A quick heads up: our next Parent Partnership event is on Monday. We'll be diving into discussions about how we assess pupils' achievements in school and what that

means for your child. Hopefully, it'll be a valuable insight before our upcoming Parents' Evening the following week. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do so by registering through this Google form [here](#).

This is not the only event for parents next week, what with those Christmas events I have already mentioned and the first of our parents' evenings, so I will look forward to seeing many of you in school during the week.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

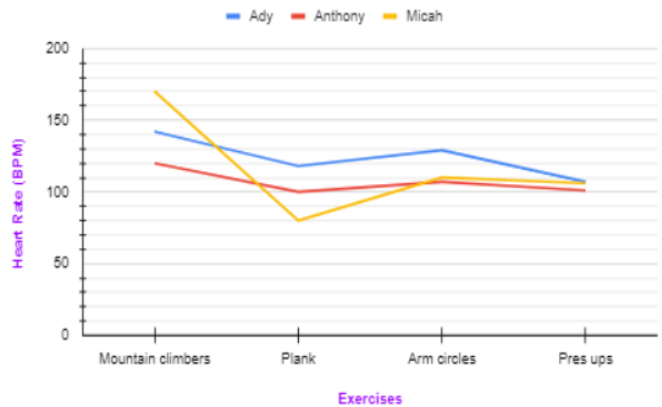
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### Year 6

Linked to our Science unit all around the human body, Year 6 has been learning about the circulatory system. In the past week, Year 6 have planned their own experiment to investigate the impact of physical activity on their heart rates. After collecting their resting heart rate in bpm, the children completed four different exercises, of varying intensity, and compared this to their heart rate after each exercise. Once finished, Year 6 used Google Sheets to input their data and create line graphs to represent their findings, commenting on what their data shows and drawing conclusions.

How do different physical activities affect my heart's BPM?



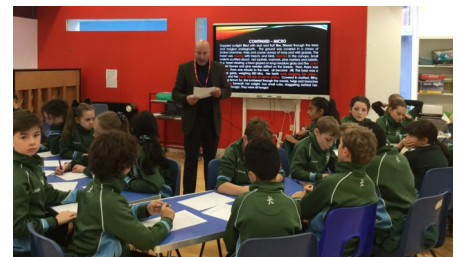
### Writing workshop

On Wednesday, Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in writing workshops hosted by the author and teacher, Marcus Dalrymple. The focus for the sessions were on some of the different elements of story writing, including settings, characters, dialogue and plot. Using pictures as stimuli for an action story, Marcus shared some top tips on how to get started with story writing, leaning into the five senses to bring writing to life. He also stressed the importance of reading to broaden our vocabulary and provide us with good models of writing.

By the end of the session, the children had each produced a piece of writing and enjoyed sharing their ideas aloud with their peers. We know that many of the children have continued their stories following the workshop so if they would like to share what they have written, they are welcome to bring their writing to Mr Pretara or Miss Johns.

*I enjoyed writing the character section of my story. My two main characters, Lilly and Milly, were go-*

*ing on a hike in the mountains before encountering the bear. I like writing because it's all my own ideas and I can't go wrong really because it's all my imagination. Fola - 4S*



*Because we were flying over an outdoor setting, I could use my creativity to imagine exactly what I might see without any limitations. I like story writing like this because the brief is quite open and I get to make my own decisions. Sid - 5R*

*My favourite part of the workshop was when I got to describe the grizzly bear and what it did when it encountered the teenage characters in my story. I used similes, alliteration and adjectives to make my writing more exciting to read. At the end of the workshop, I didn't want to stop writing because I was enjoying myself! Theo - 6P*

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### Primary Maths Challenge

The children in Year 5 and 6 and a handful of children in the younger years undertook the fun, but fiendish Primary Maths Challenge (PMC) over the course of two weeks.

What is the PMC? - Created by The Mathematical Association, the (PMC) is a fun and exciting mathematical challenge open to children in Key Stage 2 / Prep School.

The PMC is not designed to be just another test in the school year. At St Christopher's, we are of the belief that the PMC encourages enthusiasm,

boosts confidence in mathematics and shows the different ways questions can be asked. We believe in the importance of problem solving as a means of helping pupils develop their reasoning skills. All of this is offered through the PMC.

The second round of the challenge is carried out in February and the top scoring children, who have entered across the country, will be invited to go through to the next round. Fingers crossed, we will hopefully have several children, who scored amazingly well, be given the chance to shine and show off their brilliant Maths mastery.

Here is an example of one of their questions:



Ms Plummet has organised rock climbing for her class at a total cost of £415. She charges each child £12.50 and 30 children pay to go.

What is the difference between the cost and the money she collects from the children?

- A £12.50      B £25      C £40  
D £53.50      E There is no difference



### Paper Engineering ECHO

In Origami Club this Half Term, we have been learning the art of paper folding to create a variety of objects. We started with a simple puppy in week 1, and have been working towards a jumping frog in our final session. Each week the creations have become more complex and the children have risen to the challenge of following increasingly complex sets of instructions, challenging their listening and fine motor



skills. All the creations start with a square of paper and have been made using just careful folds of the paper - sticky tape and glue are not allowed! This week we were making a paper flower using two squares of paper to create a garden of brightly coloured flowers.

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### Spring Term Clubs

As the booking system worked well this term using Google Forms, we will continue with this for spring term bookings. You will receive an email on the 15th December with a link to the appropriate booking form. We will ensure that you all get confirmation of your chosen clubs on or by 8th January 2024. If there are any difficulties in allocating your chosen clubs, we will contact you via email during the holidays.

### E-safety tip

As educators, we are often asked about online learning and which apps are suitable for children to be using. There is a great selection from online safety experts Internet Matters <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/skill-building-apps-guide-for-kids/> which focus on key skills such as engineering, coding, languages and creativity. Most of the apps are free and while we do not endorse one over another, there is a good chance your child will find one they enjoy and can use safely. Internet Matters also produce a bespoke toolkit for your family in which they give you guides and knowledge based on the responses you give to some simple questions on how your children use the online world. This includes everything from Google Safesearch to Disney+ parental control setting. It is well worth a look if you want a safer digital experience for your children.



### Pupil success

Over this weekend, Erik (Year 2) achieved his wristband for completing 11 Parkruns. This is the equivalent of running a half marathon in total. He completed this with a new PB of 13.18 mins. Well done, Erik.



Matilda (Year 1) was very proud to receive her first swimming certificate. Well done, Matilda completing 10m!

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 Week*

- 🔔 **Monday 27th November**
  - Stir the Christmas Pudding mix
  - Yr 3 & 4 Netball v Croydon High, selected girls to play (15:00-17:30)
  - Parent Partnership Event for all parents - assessment (16:00-16:30)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 29th November**
  - Parents' Meetings for Reception-Year 6 (15:00-18:15)
- 🔔 **Thursday 30th November**
  - Carol Service at St George's Church (14:00-15:15)
- 🔔 **Friday 1st December**
  - Year 2 trip to Tower of London
  - Preschool Christmas concert (11:00-12:00)
  - Yr5 & 6 Rugby v Breaside, selected children to play (14:00-16:00)



### Swimming

On **Thursday 7th December** we will hold the Year 5 & 6 House Swimming Gala in our normal swimming time during the school day. All pupils will get a chance to earn points for their house whilst demonstrating the hard work they have put into their lessons throughout the term. Unfortunately, due to venue restrictions we are unable to invite parents to watch this event. However, we look forward to reporting back on what promises to be an exciting Gala!

