

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

As we dive headfirst into the holiday season, the Christmas spirit has truly taken hold at school this week. On Monday, as our pupils came into school, they took part in our newest Christmas tradition: stirring up

the magic in our Christmas pudding mix, and many wishes were made! The children had to navigate the challenge of using spatulas instead of wooden spoons – a lesson learned for improvements next year! The festive atmosphere continued as our children took their individual decoration to place on the school's Christmas tree on Monday and Tuesday. Unlike last year, the tree stands adorned, retaining a generous amount of pine needles post-decoration – a small victory! I hope you all enjoyed our Carol Service on Thursday. While some may find it early to embrace such traditions in November, the reality of having only one more full week and two days left in school before the holiday break, means we have to try and squeeze everything in! Following on from this, and on a heartwarming Christmas note, our Preschool children wowed us with their adorable Christmas concert this morning. Witnessing our youngest members showcase their talents is always a delight, and I can only imagine the pride felt by the parents in attendance. On the Christmas note, our school will be hosting its Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day next Friday, December 8th. Get ready by finding your children's most festive and flamboyant seasonal sweaters to wear next week. We'll be collecting contributions at the gate on Friday for the Christmas Jumper Day, so do feel free to bring any spare change you have.

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended our Parent Partnership event on Monday, where we delved into the crucial topics of assessment and data. We trust that the insights shared about how things work within our school were both informative and valuable. The discussion emphasised that while data serves as a useful tool to confirm classroom observations and pinpoint areas for intervention, it's vital to recognise that a

formal assessment score is just one component of a broader understanding of a child's progress. Your engagement in these conversations contributes significantly to our collective commitment to the holistic development of every child at our school. If you would like to listen to the key points from this event, you can find it on our website [here](#) - in the academic tab, or on our Youtube channel [here](#).

It was a pleasure to welcome parents to the first of our two Parents' Evenings, on Wednesday. I trust that the evening provided you with a genuine sense of your child's progress and allowed you to gain insights into how we are collaboratively working with each child to guide them toward their next steps on their personalised learning journey.

However, do remember whilst these are formal occasions scheduled for you to come in and talk about your child, our doors are always open, and we are here to support and help should you have any questions.

On Tuesday, we held our final Open Morning of the term for prospective parents. This event, which provided a glimpse into the vibrant life of our school, was well attended, and gave our visitors the unique opportunity to

witness the inner workings of our school. From engaging classroom activities to insightful conversations with our dedicated staff, the warmth and hospitality extended by staff and pupils alike, play a significant role in creating a welcoming atmosphere. It is through events like these that we can truly convey the essence of our school and the sense of community that defines us. Following this, we extended a warm welcome to both prospective pupils and parents at our Reception assessment, this afternoon. It was a delight to meet these eager new faces, and our play-based assessment provided valuable insights into how well they will thrive in our environment. We eagerly anticipate welcoming the next wave of St. Christopher's pupils, confident that our inclusive and nurturing atmosphere will foster their growth and development.

Have a super weekend.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



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### Year 4 Trip

Last week, Year 4 went on a highly exciting trip to the Natural History Museum. After travelling by train and tube, we first looked round the Evolution Gallery as we had a quiz sheet where we had to identify pictures and find information to answer the questions. It was fascinating to see the Cheddar Man skeleton and a model face based on what he looked like. We have learnt about the Cheddar Man and seeing this brought it to life as we were able to bring together our topic on the Stone Age to Iron Age.

After an early lunch, we popped up the escalator to travel through a meteorite before experiencing what an earthquake felt like for fun. The children were desperate to do this! After that, it was straight to our STEM Lego Robotics workshop where we were able to build a Lego mars rover



and code it to move, make sounds and flash lights. We were even able to test our prototypes on a mars surface to see if they

could manage the bumps. The workshop was full of creativity, teamwork and resilience as there were malfunctions! The day was a real success as the children and adults had a thoroughly enjoyable day and everyone learnt so much to talk about when we returned.



\* \* \*

*"I liked looking at the skeleton of the Cheddar Man as I thought it was fascinating."* **Eva**

*"Getting the train and tube was fun because I got to play games with my friends."* **Junior**

*"I enjoyed making the Mars rover with my friends. I also liked the earthquake simulator to see how it felt."* **Tamara**

*"I liked making the rovers with my friends Samuel and Arthur because there was a Mars surface area to test them on."* **Albie**

### Gingerbread House Colouring Competition

Ho, ho, ho! Drumroll, please! We are absolutely delighted to spread some holiday cheer by announcing the merry winners of our Festive Colouring Competition. Put your hands together for the incredible talents of Daniel (Year 6), Lily (Year 5), Eva (Year 4), and Freya (Year 3)! These creative dynamos will be donning their festive aprons and joining Mr. Carter on Wednesday for a jolly good time. Together, they'll be Santa's little helpers in crafting and decorating our school's spectacular gingerbread house. It's bound to be a lunchtime filled with laughter, glitter, and sugar-coated dreams. Let's deck the halls and roll out the icing – our school's magical masterpiece is about to come to life!



### Christmas Fair

With all the festivities starting in school, we want to remind you that our Christmas Fair is just around the corner, on **Monday December 11th**.



Please note that school will finish early on that day. **ALL pupils will be dismissed at 15:00**. We kindly request parents to be present at the school premises to collect their children promptly at this time, or book in for your child to go to SCAMPS.

Our Christmas Fair begins at 15:00 and there will be an array of activities, games, and stalls to explore, ensuring there's something for everyone. It's the perfect occasion to kick off the holiday season with a sense of togetherness and community spirit.

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### Children's Charity

This week marked a pivotal moment at our school as we came together to cast our votes for this year's Children's Charity. For those new to our school community, this tradition, now in its third year, sees our Year 6 pupils researching and presenting local charities or ones that hold personal significance. Last week, after careful consideration, Year 6 voted for the top three charities, each of which had the opportunity to present to the entire school on Wednesday. We're delighted to share that, through a democratic vote involving every child, they have chosen to support 'Mind' this year. Proposed by Anthony, William, and Felix in Year 6, Mind is a charity that provides crucial services, advice, and support to empower

those facing mental health challenges. Anthony's personal connection to this cause adds an extra layer of significance, making our collective support for Mind even more meaningful. We look forward to a year of compassion, awareness, and positive impact as we join hands to support this important cause.



### Music

The Music Department is excited to announce a new initiative of 'VMT Music Teas' starting next term. These will be short informal concerts in the Music room, hosted by the individual instrumental teachers alongside Mrs. Gay, to showcase their students and give an opportunity for parents to meet their child's instrumental teacher in an informal setting. We believe that these concerts will provide a 'friendly' opportunity for beginners to perform, giving them valuable experience of performance in a non-intimidating setting and building their confidence to perform on the larger stage as they progress. At the moment, we are launching these concerts with our piano and singing teachers; as the concerts become established we will endeavour to offer them for other instruments in the future. More information will follow by email to students of the individual teachers and we hope that the whole of their student cohorts will be able to take part. Dates are planned as follows:

#### **Spring Term:**

- Thursday 25th January 4pm - Mrs. Paulides' singing and piano students
- Thursday 1st February 4pm - Mrs. Ashcroft's piano students

#### **Summer Term:**

- Thursday 9th May 4pm - Mrs. Lovett's piano

students. In addition, our full Year Group Music concerts will be held in the main hall on the following dates, these will showcase all pupils, and offer a solo performance opportunity to intermediate and advanced instrumentalists, whether their lessons are inside or outside of school:

#### **Year 5/6 Music concerts (BOTH PERFORMANCES INCLUDING SENIOR CHOIR and ORCHESTRA)**

- Thursday 7th March Year 5 concert 9.15am
- Thursday 7th March Year 6 concert 2pm

#### **Year 4 Music concert and drama showcase (INCLUDING SENIOR CHOIR and RECORDER ENSEMBLE)**

- Wednesday 27th March 9.15am

#### **Year 1, 2 and 3 Music and drama presentation:**

- Wednesday 22nd May 9.15am (INCLUDING JUNIOR CHOIR) in addition to our concert series, Mrs Gay is always happy for children to play to their peers in music lessons if they are learning an instrument and have a piece ready to perform; it is so important for pupils to perform at every stage of learning an instrument.

We hope that the 'Music Tea' initiative will open up further performance opportunities and an opportunity for parents to meet our Visiting Music Teachers.



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### IAPS Football Final

On Sunday, November 26th, our U11 boys embarked on a journey to showcase their skills at the IAPS National Football Tournament held at Millfield Prep School in Glastonbury. The day brought a mix of challenges and triumphs for our young athletes.

The initial moments of our first match were a bit challenging, with our boys still in warm-up mode. Despite a 0-2 loss in the opening game, the team rallied and delivered a stellar performance against Brighton College, securing a convincing 3-0 victory. The momentum continued against Dulwich Prep London, where our boys, despite a



tough battle, showcased their skills and resilience, resulting in a 0-2 loss that did not accurately reflect their overall performance.

As we progressed to the final group

match, a hard-fought 0-0 draw earned us the third spot in our group, propelling us into the quarter-finals of the Plate competition. The quarter-final match against Repton Prep saw us take an early lead at 1-0, displaying control and determination. However, a peculiar equaliser led to a golden goal scenario, ultimately sealing our fate.



Despite the unexpected turn of events, our U11 boys exhibited commendable sportsmanship and skill throughout the tournament. This achievement is a testament to their dedication and hard work on the field. We extend our sincere thanks to the parents who were there to support and cheer for our young athletes.

In the face of both triumphs and challenges, our U11 boys have once again proved their mettle. Congratulations to the team for their outstanding efforts!

### Reception Trip

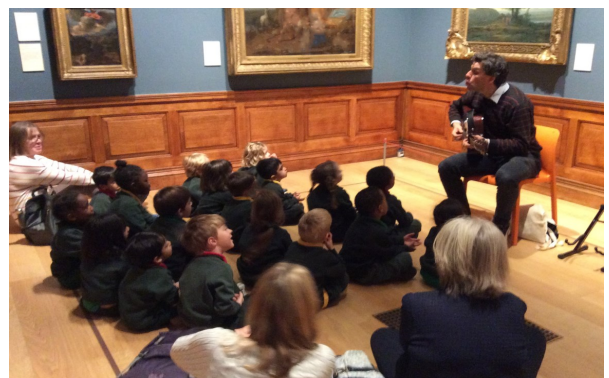
There was much excitement last Friday as the Reception classes went on their very first School Trip to The Dulwich Picture Gallery. An engaging story workshop that involved songs and drama related to individual paintings, enabled the children to look at the paintings in great detail and imagine the stories behind the images. The



children were thoroughly enthralled by the storytelling and music and they were still singing the songs on the way home! The classes then had time to investigate the gallery, finding their favourite paintings and exploring the colours, shapes and detail in the work. It was a fantastic introduction to an

art gallery for the children and many of them said they couldn't wait to visit a gallery again.

We were also very fortunate to be accompanied on the trip not only by Mr Carter, but also Mrs Curtis our Chair of Governors, and Mrs Coulson our Safeguarding Governor. They also thoroughly enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to coming along on our next Reception Class Trip!



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### Review

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



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

### St Christopher's in the Community

After another successful food drive for Harvest Festival, St Christopher's is pledging to aid the local community through the charity Living Well. Living Well has a number of food banks within the borough and relies on the generous donations of those within the community. We are asking for the families of St Christopher's to provide much-needed provisions for the community as we approach Christmas, which will be collected by the school on the 11th and 12th of December. More details on what Living Well is asking to be donated can be found on the poster.



**CHRISTMAS APPEAL**



**THE FOODBANK NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

To feed someone in need this Christmas: fill a bag with one of each of these items and bring it to school on 11/12 December



Or donate £40 to their Crowdfunder here - the cost of a full food parcel!



- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Tinned ham/corned beef | Jam/marmalade        |
| Tinned salmon          | Rice pudding/custard |
| Tinned veg             | Festive biscuits     |
| Tinned fruit           | Festive chocolates   |
| Tinned soup            | Cereal               |
| Long life milk         | Pasta                |
| Coffee                 | Toilet roll          |
| Tea bags               | Shampoo              |
| Hot chocolate          | Shower gel           |

Nothing with alcohol in please



[www.livingwell.life](http://www.livingwell.life)

### Cultural Celebration

As the new Heads of PSHE, EDI & Charitable Endeavours, Mrs Shivers and Mr Codd are eager to celebrate the incredible range of heritages and cultures at St Christopher's The Hall. Therefore, we would like to ask for parent volunteers to come in and deliver a 'Cultural Celebration Assembly' - teaching the children about your home country. If you are available on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February or Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 between 8.45-9am, then please email Mrs Shivers & Mr Codd on [headofpshe@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:headofpshe@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)

We look forward to launching this new initiative in Spring 2024.



### Y6 Textiles: Donations Needed!

Year 6 are starting their D&T unit where they'll be using different recycled textiles to design and sew their own waistcoats. If you have any clean, patterned fabric or clothing that you no longer require, please consider donating it by leaving it in a bag at the school office.

Thank you!

### What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 4th December**
  - Year 5 Trip to the Royal Observatory
- Tuesday 5th December**
  - Yr 5/6 Netball V Croydon High.
  - Selected girls to play (14:30-17:30)
  - Parents' Meetings for Reception-Year 6 (15:00-18:30)
- Thursday 7th December**
  - Preschool Entertainer workshop
- Friday 8th December**
  - Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch in school

