

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

A warm and cheerful welcome back to school, despite how cold it is outside! It was an absolute joy to witness the bustling return of our pupils on Tuesday, pouring back through the gates with boundless energy and excitement for the term ahead.

On the note of welcoming people, I previously mentioned Mrs Kalel and Mrs Vasey, who have joined our team, but I would also like to offer a huge welcome to our new catering manager, Mr Dean who started with us in January. His calm and approachable manner makes him the perfect person to deal with a busy kitchen environment! I know he will be a great addition to our team.

We kicked off the term in style during our first assembly where we literally "strutted our stuff" on the catwalk. No, we didn't turn into a mini Milan Fashion Week, but we did discuss the importance of choosing to 'wear' different attitudes for the new year, much like selecting the perfect outfit for various occasions. We had some fantastic volunteers who became our "attitude models," helping us explore the attitudes we want to 'put on' this year. I encouraged the children to be attitude trendsetters, supporting each other in making positive decisions about their attitudes. Whether it's showing kindness, perseverance, or just being helpful, our choices today shape the future for us and those around us.

On Wednesday, our assembly was dedicated to a topic close to our hearts – Neurodiversity. Mr Codd led the assembly which was about understanding and celebrating neurodiversity. He shared with the pupils about how proud he is of his ADHD and how his special brain helps him. This is important in our school because every mind is unique, and recognising and embracing these differences contributes to a nurturing and inclusive environment. To this end, Mr Codd and Mrs Shivers will be creating a Neurodiversity team, who will be able to help us promote the diversity we have in school. Through this, we can look to understand various ways of thinking and processing information, foster empathy, create a supportive atmosphere, and empower all our pupils to shine brightly. Diversity is our strength!

On Friday, during our usual Celebration Assembly, we had the pleasure of announcing our new School Council members. These pupils will be working alongside Mrs. West and Mrs. Wanstall this term to shape the future of our school for the better.

In addition to our fantastic start to term, I'd like to officially introduce the new structure to our Senior Leadership Team. Joining forces with me from this term are Mrs. Wanstall and Mrs. West, my dynamic Deputy Heads, who will be deputising for me in all aspects of school life. Miss Rule and Mrs. Chamadia are my Assistant Heads, overseeing specific phases of the school, and Mrs. Cornish takes the helm as the Head of Pastoral Care, leading our Pastoral Leadership Team. Finally, Mr Codd and Mrs Shivers officially take on the grand title of Head of PSHE, EDI and Community Engagement.

As we're on the topic of roles and communication, let me remind you that our doors are always wide open for any queries or concerns you may have. Remember the chain of command: start with your child's form teacher, and if needed, the Assistant Heads will step in. For more serious matters, my Deputies are ready to take charge. For all matters in the school, I am always kept aware, and as you know my door is also always open should you need me.

Finally, a massive well done to all the Year 6 students who've tackled the 11+ exams over the past month. The feedback I've received so far is incredibly positive, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Hold onto your hats, Year 6 parents, as we navigate the wait for final results before the February half-term. Whatever the outcome, we know our Year 6s have given their best. As our Year 6 pupils draw to the end of their 11+ journey, our attention now turns to Year 5, gearing up for next year's exams. I know they will tackle everything with equal dedication as I have seen from Year 6 this year, and I can't wait to work closely with Year 5 in English this term, and for the rest of the year

Here's to a fantastic Spring Term filled with growth, laughter, and lots of positive attitudes!

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



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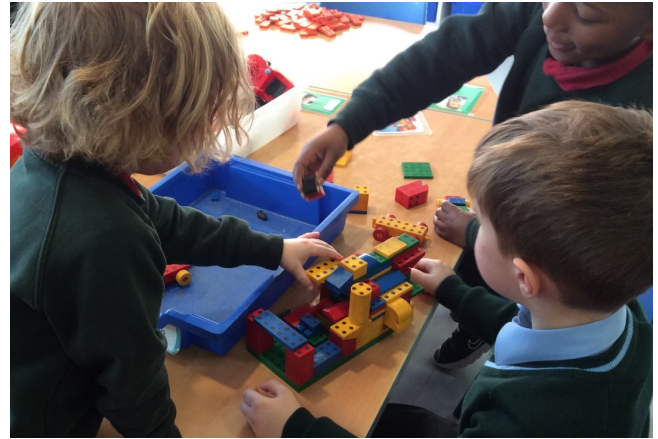
### Pre-Prep

It has been lovely to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Christmas break, full of excitement and news about the things they have done over the Festive period. All the children have settled back into the routines of school and are brimming with energy and enthusiasm for the new year ahead.

For the Spring Term, we have new class timetables, which means that Pre-Prep and Prep have playtimes, lunch times and Echo Clubs at the same time of the day. This is very exciting as this will give us the opportunity to do lots more cross phase activities, across the classes and year groups.

We have already voted for the new Pupil Voice Representatives from each class and the Pupil Voice Meetings will be starting soon. We feel it is essential to give the children a voice within school, to ensure they feel a part of the school community, and that we value their opinions and ideas.

We have another busy and productive term ahead of us, packed with class trips, workshops and more. We also have a new set of ECHO clubs for the children to choose from, including Monopoly Club, Alternative Sports, Sign Language, Construction and Disney Club. Of course the term will end on a high, with the annual St Christopher's Easter Catwalk Parade!



### Social Media

You can follow us at @stchristthehall on insta as well at [stchristthehall](https://www.facebook.com/stchristthehall) 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/review>



### Preschool

The Preschool children have quickly settled back into school life after their exciting Christmas break. They have been telling us all their news and we are looking forward to the next half term. Our theme for the next few weeks will be all about

transport, and will involve talking about the different ways we travel, including how we get to and from school. We are also looking forward to finding out about Lunar New Year, and this year is the Year of the Dragon, which will be lots of fun.



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### Prep

There are many things to look forward this term in the Prep school: Year 3 will be learning about the Saxons and Vikings; Year 4 will be studying the Romans; Year 5 will be learning all about the Victorian Era, linking it to their Power of Reading text, and Year 6 will be carrying out an independent project linking to their Geography topic, Amazing America and going back in time to learn about the Ancient Mayans. We also have our STEM week to look forward to, where the children get to work with other students from different classes and year groups. Finally, we have a range of new and exciting ECHO clubs for the children to enjoy! We look forward to a sensational Spring Term.



### Attendance

We wanted to share with you an important message that echoes through the recent media buzz and a national marketing campaign: 'Moments matter, attendance counts.' Aimed directly at parents, this campaign strives to underscore the profound impact of regular school attendance on your child's attainment, wellbeing, and overall development.

In a recent poll involving 1,200 parents, an intriguing revelation emerged – around one in four parents believe that the pandemic has reshaped the necessity of daily school attendance. This thought-provoking insight prompts us to reflect on the evolving perceptions surrounding education.

The Centre for Social Justice chief executive Andy Cook has stated that the Covid lockdowns have fractured the "contract of trust" between schools and parents. He highlights the potential consequences of widespread absenteeism: unfulfilled lives, fractured communities, and escalating costs to the taxpayer for mending the repercussions.

At our school, we diligently track attendance each term. Persistent absence is considered 90% or below, while there is a national expectation that pupils should achieve a 96% or higher attendance rate throughout the year. While we understand that children may occasionally fall ill, we encourage you to reflect on the time your child spends outside of school, be it for holidays or non-school-related activities.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child has the opportunity to build a solid foundation for success. We appreciate your partnership in fostering a commitment to regular school attendance, recognising its pivotal role in shaping the future of our students.

### Emailing teachers

**REMINDER:** - ALL emails to teachers should use the [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)



It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.

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## OD CUACO CRICKET CLUB

**Invitation to Winter Cricket Training**

**Girls & Boys, U8 to U11 (Year 3-6)**

### VENUE

**Langley Park School for Boys  
South Eden Park Road, BR3 3BP**

### DATES & TIME

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January -  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
5:30PM - 6:30PM**

Exc. 12<sup>th</sup> February Half Term

### FEES

**£5 Per Session**

**If your child would like to attend please email [odcuacocolts@gmail.com](mailto:odcuacocolts@gmail.com)**

**This will help us plan fun & effective sessions, thank you.**

**We look forward to seeing you**

### OD CUACO Winter Cricket Training

In the depths of a winter freeze, it's always good to think of warm summer months, so in preparation for that, please consider bringing your children along to the OD CUACO Cricket Club winter training. The club is organising coaching sessions for U11s - perfect to prepare for cricket in the summer or simply to have some fun on a Monday night.

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# St Christopher's



## in the Community

### St Christopher's in the Community

At our school, we take great pride in fostering a spirit of compassion and community engagement among our pupils and staff. Our St Christopher's in the Community is an initiative about making a positive impact and instilling the values of empathy and social responsibility in our school. We hope by the end of the year to have accumulated 130 hours of charitable work.

Over the Christmas period, our Bursar, Mrs Stamate, exemplified this commitment by generously dedicating 25 hours of her time to support the charity, Crisis. Crisis works tirelessly throughout the year to aid individuals across Britain in rebuilding their lives beyond homelessness. Specifically during the festive season, several hotels in London are repurposed between December 21st and January 2nd (with one site remaining open until January 19th) to provide respite for those without stable homes.

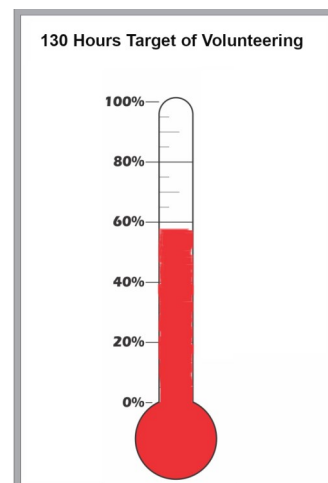
Despite all available spaces being filled, there remained a waiting list of 1000 people, highlighting the pressing need for such services. Crisis provides more than just shelter; it extends a comprehensive range of support, including meals, clothing, and access to medical professionals such as doctors, dentists, and opticians. Hairdressers, too, volunteered their services alongside specialists who offered support and counselling, assisting individuals in finding stable homes and gaining access to education and training.

The holiday season at Crisis is not just about meeting basic needs; it's also about fostering a sense of community and joy. Volunteers engage

in various activities, from football competitions and stadium visits to the classic game of Bingo. Celebrity supporters of Crisis add to the festive atmosphere, creating memorable experiences for all involved.

As a general volunteer, Mrs Stamate's role primarily involved assisting in the serving of meals and snacks, engaging in conversations with guests, and supporting the overall operation of the site. It was a rewarding experience that reminded me of the power of community when it comes together to make a difference.

If you or your children engage in any charitable work, whether individually or as a family, do inform Mr. Carter. We believe in celebrating these contributions and adding them to our running total of charitable hours, as each act of kindness brings us closer to our goal and, more importantly, strengthens our collective impact on the community.



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### Art

We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for our budding young artists! We are encouraging all children to enter and create some lovely artwork for the Royal Academy Summer Show. This is a fantastic chance for them to showcase their creativity and potentially have their masterpiece displayed in a prestigious art exhibition.

As part of this initiative, you may want to plan a half-term visit to the Royal Academy. It's a wonderful way for both parents and children to immerse themselves in the world of art. Don't miss the chance to explore the free permanent exhibition, which promises a rich array of artistic wonders.

Year 6 students have an additional treat in store, as they will be heading to the Royal Academy after half-term for the Entangled Past exhibition, opening in February. This promises to be an enriching experience, providing insights into the intricate connections between art and history.

To learn more about the Royal Academy and its upcoming exhibitions, please visit their website

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/>. Encourage your children to unleash their creativity, and who knows, their artwork might just be a part of the prestigious Royal Academy Summer Show!

Happy creating!

### Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

Music or peris lesson	<a href="mailto:musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
Sports or fixtures	<a href="mailto:sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
Lunchtime or afterschool clubs	<a href="mailto:clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
Finance	<a href="mailto:bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
SCAMPS (bookings)	<a href="mailto:scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
SCAMPS (logistics or payment)	<a href="mailto:bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>
Anything class related or for the teachers	<a href="mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a> 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	<a href="mailto:headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>

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### *What's Happening Next Week*

- 🕒 **Friday 19th January**
- Year 6 Football v Farringtons (all Yr 6 to play) 13:15-15:45