

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week has been a relatively calm one; the calm before the storm, you might say, as we gear up for next week packed with trips out of school for year groups and sport fixtures.

This Wednesday, we had the pleasure of hosting a representative from the charity, Mind. For those unfamiliar, Mind is a mental health charity dedicated to supporting and empowering anyone experiencing mental health problems. Our pupils voted for 'Mind' as the Children's Charity for this year as suggested and campaigned for by Anthony, William and Felix in year 6, so it was helpful for the children to know more about the vital work that they do and how the money we raise this year will help to support this meaningful cause. Thank you to Mr Codd and Mrs Shivers for organising this, as part of their new role.

We're thrilled to share that our annual Safeguarding audit took place today. Each year, we invite an inspector to review our practices and ensure our provision of safe and effective care remains steadfast. Our invited guest, Mrs Lafarge, was not only impressed with our policies and practices, but also praised our pupils for how articulately they were able to speak about safeguarding and how the School provides a safe environment, helps to promote good behaviour and discipline, and guides them to foster positive relationships with their peers. We are delighted with this and for our whole school who all know that safeguarding children is a collective responsibility.

I mentioned that we have a few sporting fixtures next week, and after a few years, we are very excited to announce that St Christopher's The Hall will be hosting, not one, but two home matches next week! I am so delighted that the PE department has agreed to my request to reinstate home matches. Should you wish to join us in cheering on our talented athletes you will be able to enter

by the **Field Gate** from 14:00 on Monday (Year 4), and on Friday (Year 5/6). We hope to see some of you in school during these fixtures, where we can create a positive atmosphere of support together!

I would like to thank those who completed the recent parent survey. Your feedback has been invaluable, and we will be giving you an overview of all opinions next week. However, one aspect that we really want to work on is streamlining the communication from our school. We acknowledge that there are a lot of different outlets currently and we want to avoid such a vast number of emails which can be overwhelming. While maintaining transparency is crucial, we are working on making the timing and efficiency of our communications more thoughtful. I will be sharing the steps we are taking

to improve this aspect next week once we have finalised the plan. Hopefully, this will be an improvement but, again, your feedback in this ongoing process is highly encouraged as we strive to create the best communication experience for you.

Our weekly highlight for the pupils made a triumphant return this week with the kickoff of our ECHO clubs. We had a range of new opportunities starting for pupils at this time, and there is more information about this below. I personally had a great time with Miss James and our group of pupils from Pre-Prep in our Disney club, where the magic was palpable,

and the enthusiasm infectious. I cannot wait for a term full of exploring the enchanting world of Disney!

As we wrap up this week, we want to wish each of you a warm and happy weekend. With the weather turning cooler, remember to keep wrapping up warm! If you're feeling adventurous, perhaps indulge in a bit of Disney magic yourself!

We look forward to seeing you next week, cheering on our teams and celebrating the boundless energy and talent within our school.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



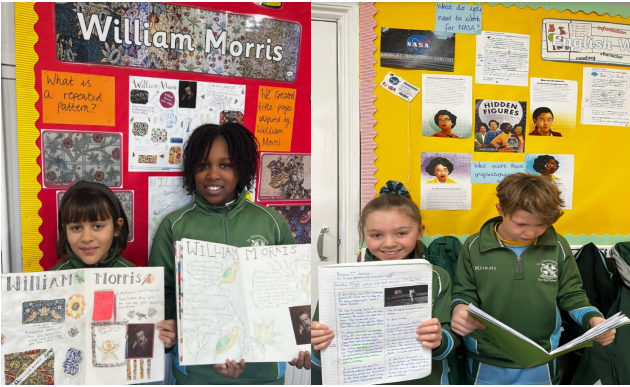
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Year 5

Year 5 has had a fantastic start to the new term. This week, we introduced our exciting new History topic, 'The Victorians'. The first lesson consisted of using historical sources to find out about the Victorian period, with lots of discussion and group work. We inspected a variety of paintings, to discuss and imagine what life was like during the Victorian times. This links with our new artist, William Morris, whose focus was on repeated patterns, using block printing. Within our Art lessons, the children created their own title pages, inspired by the artwork and style of William Morris. Lastly, to complete our Power of Reading book 'Hidden Figures', the children enthusiastically researched the historical event of Apollo 11 and wrote their very own newspaper reports, using factual information and the features learnt previously.



Year 2

In Year 2, we have launched our new Humanities topic, and will be learning all about Kenya. So far, we have learnt where it is on the World Map, and that it is in the continent of Africa. We are really looking forward to finding out more as the teaching sequence unfolds!



Year 5 and 6 Music Concerts

Our annual Year 5 and 6 Music concerts will be held on **Thursday 7th March** and we look forward to presenting an entertaining programme. In a slightly different structure this year, Year 5 will be performing at 9.15am and Year 6 at 2.15pm. We anticipate that each concert will last for approximately an hour and 15 minutes. Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and Orchestra will be performing in both concerts. All pupils will be performing together in their own Year Group's concert, and there is the opportunity for those having lessons in an instrument to perform if they wish. Please put the date in your diaries!

Pupil Success

CJ in Year 5 plays for u/10's AFC Wimbledon and last night they played Chelsea. CJ has been working hard to improve his football skills, which has paid off and resulted in his scoring 4 goals, helping them to win the match, Well Done CJ, we are so proud of you.



If any pupils experience success outside of School, we'd love to hear about it, so do let Mr Carter know.

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Spring ECHO clubs

Our Extra Curricular Holistic Opportunities (ECHO) clubs kicked off this Wednesday with great enthusiasm. Our pupils had the exciting task of choosing from a diverse range of clubs, providing them with unique opportunities for growth and exploration.

In Pre-Prep, our young learners were offered activities like lacrosse, alternative sports, Disney club, Construction, Monopoly, and Board Games. Meanwhile, our Prep students chose clubs from a wide selection such as STEM club investigations on weather, enjoyed fun maths and number puzzles, embraced Pokémon Mania, explored Thanks and critical thinking, or embarked on a language adventure with the Language Explorer club, where they'll immerse themselves in games in French and Spanish.

These ECHO clubs not only extend the curriculum but also foster a sense of community within our school. The vertical streaming aspect allows pupils to interact with peers from different year groups and teachers, creating connections that enrich their educational experience. It's a wonderful opportunity for younger children to learn from their older counterparts, while older students can take on leadership and peer mentoring roles.

We understand that ECHO clubs have become a highlight of the week for our children. In the coming weeks, we'll shine a spotlight on various clubs in our newsletter to give you insight into the exciting activities and projects our pupils are involved in.



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Sky Arts' Access Art Competition

Following last week, we are excited to announce another opportunity for our budding young artists! We will be encouraging all children to enter and create some lovely artwork of birds for Sky Arts. Sky Arts' Access All Arts week is happening in June and they have a programme called Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir that will broadcast on Sky Arts during arts week. This is a fantastic chance for the children to showcase their creativity and potentially have their masterpiece shown on the programme. To encourage this endeavour we have signed up for the RSPB school birdwatch and are hoping to entice some wildlife into the grounds for the children to watch and sketch or paint.

We would also encourage you to sign up for the birdwatch and count birds in your garden. Details [here](#)

Any artwork created can be brought into school and we can submit it. Please make sure it is fully labelled and given to Mrs Craig. If you would like further information on the competition please find it [here](#)

You can also download and fill in the consent form from the website if you would like to enter.

Let's unleash our children's observational skills and let them have fun creating beautiful artwork of our native birds. It may end up on the show!



Cultural Celebration Assembly

Following their appointment as Head of PSHE, EDI & Community Engagement, Mrs Shivers and Mr Codd look forward to welcoming some parent volunteers into school for our 'Cultural Celebration Assemblies'. This initiative looks to celebrate the amazing range of cultures, religions and heritages in our St Christopher's The Hall community. In this brief 15 minute talk, we would like you to teach our pupils about your home country or faith.

The content of your assembly can be supported by us, however it in no way needs to be too formal or prescriptive. For example, you might like to read a traditional tale, play the national anthem, talk about your favourite foods, teach the children where the country is located, or share some of your childhood memories from your country of origin. This term, our Cultural assemblies will take place on Wednesday 21st February and 20th March from 8.45-9am. We would greatly appreciate your help and look forward to celebrating the cultures within our school. Please email HeadofPSHE@stchristophersthehall.org.uk to book in your slot or ask any questions.

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 22nd January**
 - Year 4 Football v Farringtons, all Year 4 to play (14:30-15:45 - HOME MATCH)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 23rd January**
 - Year 6 trip to The Science Museum
 - Year 5 Football v Farringtons, all Year 5's to play (14:00-16:30).
- 🔔 **Wednesday 24th January**
 - Year 3 Football v Farringtons, all Year 3 to play. (15:15-16:45)
- 🔔 **Thursday 25th January**
 - Piano and singing Recital (Mrs Paulidas' pupils) (16:00-16:45)
- 🔔 **Friday 26th January**
 - Year 4 trip to Kelsey Park (09:00-11:00)
 - Year 5/6 Football v Breaside, selected children to play. (14:30-15:45 - HOME MATCH)