

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting week at St Christopher's with double Home fixtures, adventures, and more!

On Monday, we held our first home fixture for a long time,

where great football skills were showcased in some thrilling matches against Farringtons. The level of play was truly impressive, with some remarkable goals scored. A big thank you to those who attended to cheer on the children, and a special thank you to Mr Myatt for organising the event! We also have more home matches happening next week! For more sporting updates, be sure to follow @stchristhehallsport on Instagram.

This week, we had two exciting school trips: The Year 6 pupils explored the wonders of science at the Science Museum (more on that in the article later in the newsletter), while the Year 4s had a great time at Kelsey Park. School trips play a crucial role in the curriculum as they provide a hands-on, real-world context to the subjects studied, making learning more tangible and memorable. By exposing students to different environments, cultures, and experiences, school trips foster a holistic understanding of the world, promoting not only academic growth but also personal and social development. Whether visiting historical sites, museums, or engaging in outdoor activities, these experiences hopefully broaden our pupils' perspectives, fostering a lifelong love for learning and a sense of curiosity about the world around them.

We believe that kindness is at the heart of creating a supportive and enriching school community. Emphasising our steadfast commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment, we enforce a strict no-tolerance policy towards bullying. In our House Meetings, this week on Wednesday, Mr. Pretara (Campbell), Miss John (Hillary), Mr. Chowdhury (Blyton), and Mrs. Craig (Johnson) had conversations with the pupils in the Houses underlining the importance of kindness and collaborative play. I also followed this up in our weekly celebration Assembly today, when I asked teachers to let me know about a member of their class who consistently displays kindness,

tolerance, inclusion and empathy towards other pupils, and these pupils who were nominated (as with every week), joined me for lunch on the Top Table in the Hall. Encouraging a culture of kindness is more than just a policy; it's a daily practice that requires constant reinforcement. Recognising the importance of managing feelings, we understand that this is a challenging skill for children to grasp. Through ongoing coaching, we strive to empower pupils in our school with the tools to navigate their emotions, fostering empathy and the understanding that their behaviours can significantly impact the feelings of others. Building this emotional intelligence is an essential foundation for creating a school environment where every child feels valued and understood, contributing to a harmonious and thriving community.

We hosted our first Open Morning for the Spring Term for prospective parents, and it exceeded expectations! Despite this usually being a quieter time for school visits, we had a fantastic turnout, and each year our school becomes fuller and fuller due to word of mouth. Prospective parents were impressed, especially with our amazing students who served as tour guides. Your children truly shine, and we are always so pleased to hear prospective parents comment that they hope their child will grow up to be just like one of the Year 6 tour guides that had. It is also always useful to remind our parents that you are not just parents; you are essential ambassadors for our school. Your positive experiences and satisfaction with our school contribute significantly to its reputation. Your personal recommendations are incredibly influential and can make a substantial impact on prospective parents seeking a nurturing and high-quality educational environment for their children. Thank you for being our best advocates, and we appreciate your continued partnership.

Finally, we've compiled the main findings from the recent parent survey, and your input is invaluable. Communication emerged as a key theme, and we're committed to enhancing it, considering factors like timings. Keep an eye out for an article detailing our plans in this regard.

Have a super weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Sport

On Monday 22nd Jan we invited Farringtons school to play Football against our Yr4 boys and girls. They had a fan-tastic afternoon playing their first Football match of the term, with great success. It was wonderful to see so many parents watch the children play and we hope that you enjoyed the tea and coffee on offer.

And on the theme of football, a parents was luckily enough to meet Harry Redknapp this week and he had a little video message for our pupils! Click the link to view!

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Tp8a4n0jtE>



Parent Survey

We very much extend our sincere gratitude to the parents who gave us their invaluable feedback. Your insights provide a comprehensive view of our collective journey, and we are delighted to share both the positives and areas where we aim to enhance our efforts. The percentages we refer to here are those where there is a 4 or 5 rating.

Highlights:

- **School Leadership and Management:** An overwhelming 93% of parents acknowledge the school's leadership and management as being a positive aspect, ensuring a positive, nurturing environment.
- **Positive Attitude to School:** 97% of parents report the child has a positive attitude toward school life, a testament to our holistic and caring ethos. and especially heartening to hear.
- **Independent Learning:** 94% of Parents noted a significant improvement in their children becoming independent learners.
- **Broad and Balanced Curriculum:** 93% commend the school's curriculum for its breadth and balance, fostering a holistic educational experience.
- **Exciting and Innovative Teaching:** 90% of you appreciate the exciting and innovative approach to teaching, marking a significant improvement from the previous year.

- **Parent-Teacher Communication:** While 72% express satisfaction with communication between home and school, we do acknowledge the need to streamline our emails to enable a more efficient system - we have included more about this in the communication article following.

Areas for Improvement:

- **Homework:** Parents suggest fine-tuning the homework system for increased turnaround time and flexibility which we are looking into currently.
- **Parent Workshops:** Despite a positive response (71% attended), we'll consider accommodating different schedules and addressing child care concerns for wider participation.
- **Communication on Holiday Clubs/Workshops:** Enhancing communication about holiday clubs and workshops to facilitate better planning for parents.
- **SCAMPS Provision:** Responding to your input, we're committed to enhancing SCAMPS provision with a focus on healthier food options and increased structure.
- **Your feedback is invaluable, and we appreciate your commitment to working together for the best interests of our students. We look forward to a continued partnership as we strive for excellence.**

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Communication

We are grateful for the recent parent survey responses, and your insights have been invaluable in shaping our commitment to continuous improvement in communication. To address concerns raised regarding communication overload and to create a more organised communication flow, we have decided to do the following to hopefully help:

Streamlining Medical Tracker Emails:

We have decided to streamline the delivery of Medical Tracker emails. Starting immediately, all non-urgent medical updates will be sent out at 3 pm. However, in the case of a head injury, you will receive an immediate phone call, ensuring you're promptly informed. Parents in Preschool will receive these emails earlier in the day due to their shorter days especially as some do not stay for an afternoon session.

Consolidated Communication:

All non-urgent emails, including those from teachers and the school, will now be sent at 4.15 pm. This consolidated approach aims to provide you with a designated time for updates, reducing

the frequency of communications throughout the day. Time-sensitive matters may prompt a phone call instead. **Do note:** Emails from Mr. Carter or the Bursar will be sent when received, allowing for adequate response time.

Additionally, we will strive to include school-wide communications in the newsletter, minimising separate emails and ensuring essential information is accessible in one central location.

Trial Period and Feedback:

We understand the importance of effective communication, and we're eager to trial these changes to assess their impact. Before the Easter holidays, we will reach out for your feedback on these adjustments. Your thoughts will guide us in making further improvements to ensure our communication strategies align with your needs.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement these changes. Our goal is to create an environment where communication is thoughtful, streamlined, and tailored to enhance your experience.



Year 6

Year 6 had an amazing time at The Science Museum, on Tuesday. The children's new Science topic this term is Electricity and the they had the chance to enjoy wonderful hands-on opportunities at the museum.



Exploring the many practical activities, the children got opportunities to create digital films, program a robot to complete a task and explore who they were in the 'Who am I?' area of the



museum. Following lunch, we explored the main museum and looked at the vast array of models and exhibits that came about as a result of the discovery of electricity by Michael Faraday, including personal computers, spacecraft and modern aeroplanes. All in all, the children left with a buzz of excitement and jolt of interest for their future learning.

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ECHO: Pre-Prep Disney Club

This term, Miss James and Mr. Carter have embarked on a whimsical journey with Pre-Prep in their Disney-themed ECHO club. The club is a celebration of all things Disney, bringing a touch of magic to each week's activities.

This week, the enchantment continues as pupils were invited to explore the world of Disney royalty. The session began with a discussion on what princes and princesses might wear and what their personalities could be like. The young minds are encouraged to ponder on how royalty should be treated and to conjure up their own royal titles and origins, with sticky labels ready to display their newfound regal identities.

Following the imaginative exercise, the magic continued with a delightful Princess and Prince Dress-Up segment. The young "royalty-in-training" had the opportunity to create their own majestic crowns and tiaras, adding a personal touch to their royal ensembles. The children were enchanted when it reached its peak with a Royal Tea Party, where the children donned their handmade headpieces. The room transformed into a regal setting as the iconic tune of, "Be Our Guest" filled the air. Simple snacks and refreshing water or juice were served in cups as students role-played the sophisticated manners of royalty, learning the art of dining with grace and poise. See the picture where the pupils were trying to perfect their royal wave, and royal pout!

The Disney-themed ECHO club is not merely an escape into fantasy but an avenue for pupils to develop creativity, social skills, and a sense of community. As the term unfolds, the enchantment continues, promising more delightful moments in the world of Disney.



Parking and the school car park plea!

We kindly request all parents to be mindful of parking considerations when dropping off their children at school. It is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of everyone that we specifically urge parents not to drive through the school car park during drop-off times. As doing so poses a significant risk to the safety of staff, parents and children and creates congestion in the area.

To maintain a secure and efficient traffic flow, we politely ask for your cooperation in parking safely outside the school whilst not blocking our neighbours' driveways and following the established traffic patterns.

Your understanding and compliance with these guidelines contribute greatly to the overall safety of our school community. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a secure environment for all pupils and families.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 29th January

- Year 3 Football V Eltham, all Year 3's to play (14:20-16:30)

Tuesday 30th January

- Year 6 Girls Football V Bromley High, Year 6 and selected Year 5 Girls to play. (home) (14:30-15:30)

Wednesday 31st January

- Year 4 Girls Football V Bromley High, all Year 4's to play (15:00-17:30)

Thursday 1st February

- Year 5 Boys Football V Eltham and Pointers, selected boys to play (13:30-16:15)
- VMT piano concert for Mrs. Ashcroft's students (16:00-16:30)

Friday 26th January

- NSPCC Number Day
- Year 3 Trip to Beckenham Place Park (all day)
- Year 5 Hockey @ St Dunstan's, all Year 5 to play (15:30-17:30)