

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week has whistled past, and today, our school was buzzing with excitement as we celebrated NSPCC Number Day! This is an annual fundraising event organised by the NSPCC, where schools across the UK come together to have fun with numbers and raise vital funds in support of the NSPCC's work, helping to protect children from harm. Our pupils enthusiastically engaged in the joy of numbers and mathematics through various number-related activities, fostering their love for learning and charitable spirit. One of my highlights today was seeing our pupils channelling their inner rock stars as they dressed up in their favourite rock star attire; I know I enjoyed my rock star wig a little too much! This fun-filled activity perfectly complemented our ongoing weekly challenges on Times Table Rock Stars, which we announce during the Celebration Assembly, each Friday. By immersing themselves in the world of rock stars, our pupils not only had a blast but also reinforced their commitment to mastering their times tables - an essential skill that forms the foundation of mathematical proficiency. At St. Christopher's, we firmly believe that fluency in times tables is paramount for children to confidently navigate the mathematics curriculum. It serves as a powerful tool that empowers them to tackle complex problems with ease, ensuring a solid understanding of mathematical concepts.

While our pupils across the school were rocking their favourite costumes, I know that Year 3 (having dressed up on Wednesday!) embarked on an exciting trip to Beckenham Place Park! The pupils had a lovely time, and the teachers commented how well behaved they were to and from the park, and during the activity which they completed whilst there. I am so proud of you, Year 3.

And talking of dressing up, there is more about next week! Children's Mental Health Awareness Week starts next week, and we will be marking this in school. This annual event holds significant

importance as it shines a spotlight on the well-being and emotional resilience of our students. At St. Christopher's, we understand that nurturing not only academic but also emotional intelligence is crucial for our students' holistic development. Next week, we'll be focusing on promoting positive mental health practices, fostering open dialogue, and providing resources to support our students' well-being journey. It has been planned carefully by Mr Codd and Mrs Shivers, so I am looking forward to seeing the various activities as well as the opportunity to come in wearing a onesie or oodie next Friday (see article below)!

I'm thrilled to announce the launch of a new initiative aimed at further recognising and celebrating our pupils' achievements in a unique way. Starting now, I will occasionally be sending out Secret Letters to pupils who have caught the attention of our staff for their efforts or accomplishments. These letters will be sent by post directly addressed to the student, adding an element of surprise and delight. In an age where receiving personal mail has become increasingly rare, I hope this initiative will not only bring joy to our pupils, but also reinforce the importance of acknowledging hard work and kindness.

Each Secret Letter will highlight why the pupil has been recognised and why we are immensely proud of them. Keep an eye on your letterboxes throughout the year for these special letters making their way to you.

Finally, as a reminder, the mid-year reports will be sent out next Friday. These reports are designed to provide you with a summary of your child's progress over the past half-year. They serve as an opportunity to celebrate achievements, reflect on areas of growth, and set goals for the remainder of the academic year. We want every child to reach their full potential, so whether your child is working towards or at the expected level, please **this does not mean that he/she is not doing his/her best.**

Have a wonderful weekend, and see you for our last week of the half-term.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



ECHO: Construction Club

We have had lots of fun in Construction Club, using pegs and lolly sticks, (but no glue!) to build bridges. Some of our budding engineers challenged themselves and also built multi storey car parks and ramps. We tested our constructions by driving toy cars across to see if they would hold the weight, not shake and rock like the wobbly bridge in London. The children did really well and enjoyed being bridge engineers.



ECHO: Language Explorers

This term, a group of keen linguists has joined Mrs Dubeck in the Computing Suite to explore the fascinating world of languages. The children have taken part in interactive language games online in order to hone their French or Spanish vocabulary skills. They have worked independently and collaboratively on games such as Hangman, Pictionary, Pong, Duck Shoot, Connect 4, Noughts and Crosses etc. They have also had the chance to compete with children from other schools in virtual quizzes on websites such as Kahoot, Quizlet and Educandy. Over the next few weeks, the children will continue exploring a wealth of online language resources, and they will become language detectives in a 'code cracking' challenge to learn how words and languages from different countries are linked. Here are some comments below about what the children have enjoyed and learnt so far:

Lottie: I have really enjoyed developing my Spanish vocabulary and working alongside different children from different year groups.

Ashton: I have learnt a lot of new French words, and I especially liked the new Educandy game that we played. You had to answer questions correctly to fill your jar of jelly beans to win points. It was really fun.

Grace: I enjoyed our first lesson when Mrs Dubeck taught us about the importance of learning languages and the sorts of careers that we could go into when we grow up. We also learnt a lot of interesting language facts about languages from around the world in the quiz.

Max: I have loved using the headphones and microphone to record myself speaking French on Languagenut. It has really helped me improve my pronunciation.



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch Count

We have been encouraging our children to become "twitchers" this week. Having put up lots of bird feeders around the grounds the children have been out & about bird watching, bird counting and also sketching what they see. Pre School even went out with their lovely binoculars to see what they could find. You are never too young to start!

The school has signed up to the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch and last Friday was counting day.

The numbers have been added up and sent off. Well done everyone who took part.



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

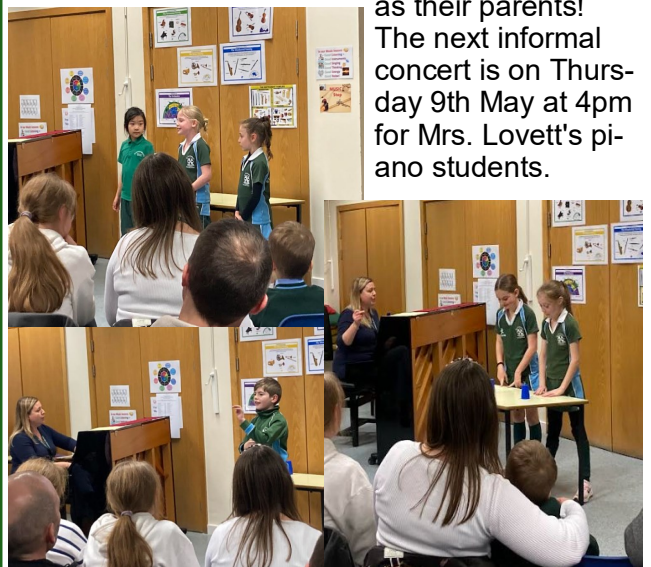
Next week, we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Week at St Christopher's. We are dedicating two form times, a PSHE lesson and our whole school assembly to teaching the children the importance of their mental health, ways to look after their mental health and reminders of what they can do and who they can speak to if they are struggling.

On **Friday 9th February**, we will be having a *onesie or oodie dress up day* in honour of the week. Your child can come into school wearing either of these over school uniform (or PE kit). We welcome donations to our school's chosen charity **MIND**.

Music Teas

A huge thanks to both Mrs. Paulides and Mrs. Ashcroft for showcasing their students the past two Thursdays in the first of our informal Music Tea concerts led by the Visiting Music Teachers. These concerts have provided a lovely platform for performance in an informal setting and given an opportunity for parents to meet their child's instrumental teacher. We enjoyed tea and home-made biscuits provided by the kitchen staff and lots of staff support; it was great for the children to perform to their teachers as well as their parents!

The next informal concert is on Thursday 9th May at 4pm for Mrs. Lovett's piano students.



PSHE/RSE Parent Partnership Event

Mrs Shivers & Mr Codd invite you to learn more about our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education), RE (Relationships Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum at St Christopher's. We inform you of the content that we cover for each year group, how we facilitate our sessions and answer questions that you might have about these lessons. This parent partnership event will take place on **Monday 4th March 2024** in the Upper Hall. We invite:

- Pre-Prep parents from 16:00-16:30
- Prep parents from 16:45-17:30 (you are welcome to attend both sessions).

We look forward to welcoming you into school then.

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Kent County Cricket Ground, Worsley Bridge Road, Beckenham BR3 1DR

12-16 FEB 2024

FEBRUARY HALF TERM TENNIS & MULTI-SPORT CAMPS 2024

INC NEW EARLY RISER &/OR LATE LEAVER OPTIONS 4-15 YEARS OLD

Equipment provided

Grouped in age & ability

Bring £1 for the tuck shop!

wet weather program

PRICING
 Mon - Thurs 9am to 3pm = £28.00 pp per day
 Or Mon - Fri 9am to 12.30pm = £25.00 pp per day (Tennis and Tennis Games only)
 Early Risers Mon - Fri 8.00am to 9.00am = £5.00 pp per day
 Late Leavers Mon - Thurs 3.00pm to 3.30pm = £2.50 pp per day
 Only in conjunction with your day/half day booking

ACTIVITIES:
 *Tennis *Football *Basketball *Golf *Baseball *Hockey *Volleyball
 *Cricket *Table Tennis *Badminton *Tug of War and much more

Martin on 07528 319723 or martin@bluetennis.co.uk

Book & pay www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/bluetennis

SCA



The annual SCA AGM will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 7th February at 7pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend the meeting. This is an opportunity for parents to hear from the SCA Trustees on the past year's initiatives, to review the annual report, the annual financial reports and discuss upcoming events for this academic year. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions of the SCA.

To attend the AGM, please register your interest via email to stchristophersassociation@gmail.com by Tuesday 6th February. An agenda will be communicated to all attendees early next week for those that have registered to attend.

We hope to see as many of you as possible next week.

What's Happening Next Week

- Monday 5th February**
 - Children's Mental Health Awareness Week begins
 - IAPS U11 Boys Hockey Tournament @ Charterhouse selected boys from Y5, Y6 to play (all day)
- Tuesday 6th February**
 - Y6 Football V Colfes, all Yr 6 to play (14:00-16:45)
- Wednesday 7th January**
 - U11 Bromley Schools Girls Football Tournament, selected girls to play (all day)
- Thursday 8th February**
 - Y5 and 6 Swimming Gala V Merton Court, selected children to take part (all day)
- Friday 9th February**
 - **Come in wearing a Onesie or Oodie for the end of Mental Health Awareness Week**
 - Year 4 Art Workshop
 - Yr 5 Football V Colfes, all Yr 5 to play (14:00-15:30)
 - **Mid Year reports to go out to Reception-Y6 parents (16:15)**
 - **End of Half-Term**

Measles and vaccinations

As you will have seen on the news over the last few months, cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems. Although there have not been any cases in the borough of Bromley, parents have been urged to ensure their children are up-to-date with vaccinations amidst this national concern over measles outbreaks. Parents can check their child's vaccination status through their Red Book or by contacting their GP. Those unsure or needing appointments can reach out to their GP practice for guidance.



The NHS links are below regarding Measles information. [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)