

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

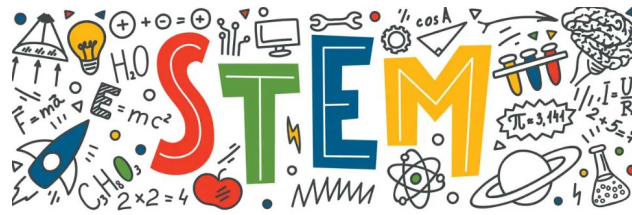
What an exciting week it has been here at school as we've been fully immersed in STEM Week with a thrilling twist – the entire week has been themed around the TV show, Doctor Who! Did you know that Doctor

Who is the longest-running science fiction television show in the world, first airing in 1963? It's truly a time-travelling adventure like no other, and our pupils have been enjoying every moment of it!

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and it is crucial for our pupils to engage with these subjects as they prepare for the future. STEM education not only fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills but also inspires

innovation and creativity.

This week, our classes have been mixed and vertically streamed, providing pupils with the opportunity to collaborate with different peers and teachers, truly embodying the spirit of teamwork and exploration.



We launched the week on Monday with a special assembly where pupils were asked questions which were either science FACT or science FICTION. Do you think an orange floats with its skin on, but sinks when it is peeled? Do you think by spinning an egg you can tell if it's raw or hard boiled? Do you think a pencil can conduct electricity? I wonder if your children can explain to you why some of these things are facts!

Additionally, after school on Monday, we had a very exciting collaborative parent/child STEM event. It was a chance for parents, staff and children to work together to create some very interesting structures. Mr Chowdhury and Mrs Morris gave all the teams some very clear instructions and guidelines: a structure at least 50cm wide, as tall as you could possibly make it and a Dr Who-themed style. Oh, and it had to be strong enough to house an egg without it breaking! The competition was high, the energy was electric and the hall buzzed with excitement as our STEM enthusiasts got going with their constructions. They only had newspaper, scissors,

a few strips of coloured paper and masking tape so it was certainly a challenge! A truly enriching event.

Another highlight of the week was undoubtedly the KAPLA workshop and subsequent exhibition on Thursday. Working individually and in small teams, pupils used hundreds of the Kapla planks to build amazingly intricate and innovative structures. Indeed, the creativity on display was impressive, with students constructing everything from replicas of famous landmarks to their own whimsical dream houses. The children were unknowingly applying ideas like mathematical stability, load distribution, and geometry as they built bridges, towers, and geometric shapes. It was an exhilarating experience for all involved! I hope parents also enjoyed the exhibit after school, and huge thanks to those who also helped with its demolition!

Our incredible Doctor Who-themed week will culminate this afternoon at our STEM exhibition, where we are inviting all parents to join us. It's been

an extraordinary journey, and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Morris and Mr. Chowdhury for their dynamic leadership, as well as to our entire staff team for their enthusiasm and dedication in planning and delivering such an exciting week for our pupils. In our newsletter next week, we will be dedicating it to a full deep dive into the week with plenty of articles giving detail of what went on. I hope your children have really enjoyed this special week, and have learnt lots!

On a final note, I am bursting with pride to announce that our Chamber Choir achieved remarkable success at the Bromley Festival, last Friday, winning both categories they entered! This achievement is a testament to the outstanding music education at our school and the exceptional talent of our pupils across diverse areas of study (more of this later in the newsletter)

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you have enjoyed some of the events this week. Have a great weekend, and let's hope for a little less rain!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



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Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk



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

Allergy reminder:

Please do not send in snacks which contain nuts or sesame seeds.



Easter Hatwalk

Get ready to strut your stuff at our now well established annual Easter Hatwalk on Thursday 28th March; the perfect finale to another

successful spring term! Check out the poster below for event times and this year's exciting themes for each year group. It's sure to be a catwalk extravaganza worthy of Milan or Paris!

Join us on the last day of term when we host our

PRE-PREP
Easter
HAT-WALK!
2024

Children who wish to participate can decorate a hat at home to bring to school on Thurs 28th March and parade down the Hat-walk in their creation!

Pre-Prep Hat Themes for 2024
Reception: Spring Has Sprung!
Year 1: Mary Had a Little Lamb
Year 2: Over the Rainbow

Thurs 28th March	10:45 Main Gate opens for refreshments
	11:00 Pre-Prep Hat-Walk
	11:30 Pre-Prep end of term dismissal from Main Gate

Join us on the last day of term when we host our

PREP SCHOOL
Easter
HAT-WALK!
2024

Children who wish to participate can decorate a hat at home to bring to school on Thurs 28th March and parade down the Hat-walk in their creation!

Prep School Hat Themes for 2024
Year 3: Hip-hop Bunnies!
Year 4: Eggs-tra Special
Year 5: Chick out this hat!
Year 6: I Carrot Wait for Easter

Thurs 28th March	11:25 SCAMPS Gate opens for refreshments
	11:35 Prep Hat-Walk
	12:05 Prep end of term dismissal from Main Gate

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Alternative Sports ECHO

This term, lots of children in Pre-Prep have had the opportunity to learn Lacrosse in ECHO time. They have been learning the techniques to scoop, run with, pass and catch a ball with a lacrosse stick, which isn't as easy as it looks! We have been playing a range of different games to nurture these skills as we aim to play a mini-match of pop-lacrosse by Easter time.

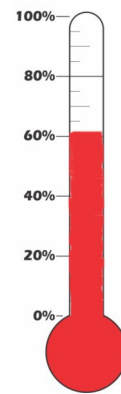


St Christopher's in the Community

We are still working towards our 130 hours total for the year, and we are delighted to say that Dustyn (Year 3) completed a sponsored swim this week with Beckenham Swimming Club. He swam 34 lengths (680m), swimming non-stop for 1 hour and, together with his team mates, raised a huge £700 for Comic Relief!



130 Hours Target of Volunteering



Music - Bromley Festival

Our Chamber Choir gave some wonderful performances at the Bromley Festival last Friday evening and were extremely excited to have won both of their classes, coming away with the Budds Choir cup and the Smith Isard Rose Bowl which now proudly adorn the music room! They performed four pieces in harmony across the two classes and the adjudicator complimented them on their 'worshipful feel and strongly tuneful harmonies' in Rutter's 'For the Beauty of the Earth', and their 'energised voices and well-choreographed actions' in the Jungle Book medley.

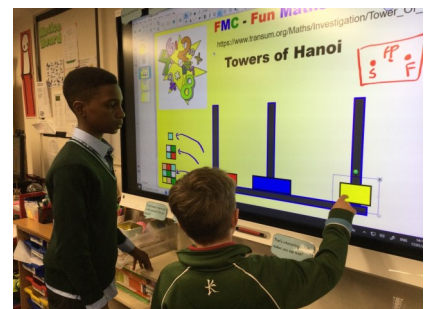
Thanks to Mrs. Paulides for coaching the choir so successfully and all the Chamber Choir pupils for their dedication and enthusiasm!



Fun Maths Club

This Spring Term has begun with several STEM opportunities available to the children across the Prep School, including FMC (Fun Maths Club) with Mr Chowdhury. The children are invited to take part in many mathematical challenges to test their numeracy and problem solving skills, including: Nurdle (a number based version of the popular Wordle); The Towers of Hanoi ([Play Tower of Hanoi \(mathsisfun.com\)](https://www.transum.org/Maths/Investigation/Tower_of_Hanoi)); Four Colour Challenge ([Four Colour Theorem \(transum.org\)](https://www.transum.org/Maths/Investigation/Four_Colour_Theorem)), Drips (<https://nrich.maths.org/drips/>) and Jackson Cubes (<https://wild.maths.org/jackson-cube>), to name just a few.

The children have really enjoyed applying what they have learnt in lessons and applying it across a range of fun, challenging and engaging activities, regardless of age or ability.



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World Book Day

Last Friday, St Christopher's celebrated World Book Day, with this year's theme being 'World of Stories'. The day started with a special assembly, which tied into the theme of 'World of Stories', that saw select children from across the Prep School read the story 'The Gruffalo' aloud to the rest of the school. Only there was a twist: the story was read in seventeen different languages. It was wonderful to see so many cultures represented throughout; you could hear a pin drop as pupils listened carefully to their peers.

Brian (2J) - *I liked standing in front of the school with my cousins, Trinity and Thaddeus, to speak some Yoruba. Did you know it is one of the three main languages in Nigeria?*

Leah and Elah (3H and 6C) - *My parents speak Cantonese and Mandarin at home so it was special speaking some Cantonese together with my sister, Elah.*

Florence (6P) - *It was nice for other children to listen to different languages to know how many we speak in our school. My friends got to see a new side of me.*

Over the course of the morning and afternoon, classes had specially planned lessons to mark the occasion, with pupils' also sharing their favourite books throughout the day.

Stefan (1C) - *Mr Codd read the story 'The Enchanted Wood' to us. I like that the story has lots of magic in it!*

Hazel (2J) - *I shared my favourite story 'The Paper Dolls'. I like how the paper dolls escape the toy dinosaur and the oven glove crocodile. SNAP!*



Maya (6P) - *I loved listening to MC Grammar's music and I found the way he writes his songs really catchy and engaging. We even got to have a go at writing some raps too. I*

found it a great, interactive way to learn and do something a little bit different.

At the end of the day, we were lucky to have Beckenham Bookshop

visit us to share a range of diverse stories, new fiction and non-fiction titles by some up-and-coming authors, as well as the classics that we all love. Children were able to browse the selection and spend their World Book Day vouchers.

Pupil voice:

Alex B (1HD) - *Me and my brother bought new books each. I bought the picture book 'There's a Tiger on the Train'. It was nice choosing my own book!*

Zachary (4M) - *I chose the story 'Fireblood: The First Flight' because I really like dragons and mystical creatures.*

Don't forget, your tokens expire at the end of March so don't forget to exchange them for one of the limited edition World Book Day 2024 books, or save £1 on a book purchase of your choice. (Available at most book retailers and supermarket chains)



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Pupil Success

We're thrilled to share the fantastic news of Miraya's (Year 5) success at the Bromley Music Festival! Despite only starting formal lessons this school year, Miraya participated in both piano and singing categories. While narrowly missing out on a bronze for piano, she was awarded a Gold medal in singing. Congratulations, Miraya!

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



SCA

The SCA are thrilled to be hosting the Pre-Prep and Prep disco's again this year and are looking forward to welcoming as many of the children as possible. Both discos will be held on Wednesday 27th March.

The Pre-Prep disco will run from 3.15pm-4.15pm and the Prep disco from 4.30pm-5.45pm. Tickets for both are priced at £10 per child and this will also include a packed lunch. The 27 March will be an 'own clothes' day for a £1 donation. Proceeds will go towards the Pre-Prep playground. If you have yet to buy your tickets, you can do this by visiting www.scasales.co.uk.



Sport

The Year 3 Girls had a fantastic Football Tournament on Monday at Eltham College. After playing lots of different schools in a round robin format, the St Christopher's Girls finished on top, coming home with gold medals. Well done, Girls!



Summer Term Clubs

As the booking system worked well this term using Google Forms, we will continue with this for summer term bookings. You will receive an email on the 28th March at around 12:30 with a link to the appropriate booking form. We will ensure that you all get confirmation of your chosen clubs on or by 16th April 2024. If there are any difficulties in allocating your chosen clubs, we will contact you via email during the holidays.

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 18th March**
 - Year 3 Hockey V Colfes, all Year 3 to play (14:00-16:45)
 - Year 5 parents meeting re: Secondary transfer and 11+ (17:00-18:00)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 20th March**
 - Year 5 Victorina workshop (am)
 - Year 5 and 6 trip to Churchill Theatre (13:00-17:00 - pick up from theatre)
- 🔔 **Thursday 21st March**
 - Pre-Prep Open Morning for current parents (08:15-09:00)
 - Parents' Meetings (15:15-18:00)
- 🔔 **Friday 22nd March**
 - Music Exams
 - Rec trip to Hall Place
 - Year 6 Football V Eltham College, selected all to play (13:30-16:00)