

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week, we're thrilled to present a special edition of our weekly newsletter focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities from last week. We hope you enjoyed looking round the exhibition on Friday, and now you can read in depth what each group got up to in their bumper week of exploration and discovery.

On Monday we resumed our 11+ steam train! Miss Rule and I had the pleasure of meeting with Year 5 parents to discuss the process and reassure them that we're here to support both pupils and families every step of the way. It was also wonderful to welcome Mrs. Codling, Head at Bromley High, who provided valuable insights into the 11+ journey, offering reassurance and guidance to parents who may be navigating this process for the first time. Over the coming months, we'll continue to offer support and guidance through various meetings to ensure that all families feel confident and well-prepared for the challenges ahead. Miss Rule emailed all Year 5 parents following the meeting; the slides from the talk can be found on our website, very soon. Whilst we are talking about 11+, you can find the results from this year's 11+ results, which are fantastic, on our website [here](#), along with trend analysis to give you a sense of our consistency over time.

On Tuesday, we hosted our final Open Morning of the term for prospective parents. These events play a crucial role in showcasing the vibrant and enriching environment here at our school. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to experience firsthand the ethos and atmosphere that sets us apart from other schools in the area. Time and again, we receive feedback from visitors who are impressed by the confidence and eloquence of our pupils, as well as their palpable pride in their school. Hearing these comments fills me with immense pride, as it reaffirms the exceptional qualities of our school community.

We also held the first of our termly parent meetings on Thursday, where you will have had an opportunity to discuss your child's progress face to face. I hope you found this meeting insightful and reassuring as we shared our strategies for ensur-

ing your child's continued growth on their personalised learning journey. As with last term, you will have received your child's up to date scores. It's important to remember that while data and assessments provide valuable insights, they are just one aspect of your child's educational experience. We firmly believe in nurturing a love for learning, fostering critical thinking skills, and recognising each child's unique talents and potential. As partners in your child's education, we remain committed to supporting them holistically, beyond just numerical scores or grades. Together, we can help them reach their full potential and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Today marked one of the most anticipated assemblies of the year, where we celebrated the outstanding character demonstrated by our pupils. Congratulations to Hillary House for the second term in a row for earning the most character counters this term, showcasing their commitment to our core values. As a reward, pupils in Hillary will enjoy the privilege of wearing their own clothes on Monday. Additionally, I had the pleasure of announcing the highest merit earners for the term, and I eagerly anticipate sharing a special lunch with them in my office next week. While today's assembly was a highlight, we look forward to culminating the term with an even grander celebration on the final day, where we'll announce our Character Counter Champions. I will personally write to the parents of these deserving students, highlighting the wonderful reasons for their nomination. As we approach the final week of term, let's reflect on the achievements and growth we've witnessed throughout this term, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Finally, next week, I want to remind you that school will finish on Thursday after the Easter Hatwalk (see last week to see the themes for each class). You're welcome to join us for this festive event and collect your child directly afterward. Alternatively, you can meet them at the gate at the designated times (**11:20 for Preschool from the Front Door, 11:30 for Pre-Prep, and 12:00 for Prep both from the Main Gate**)

Have a great weekend, and we will see you for our final week of the Spring Term.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Reception

Reception had an exciting week in our STEM classes exploring Space, the Solar System and the wonderful world of aliens.

We designed our own alien, naming it and writing a description using 'out of this world' adjectives. We then thought about what the alien would look like, whether it would be friendly or grumpy and where in the Universe it may have come from. Everyone then created a 3D model of their Alien using clay and a variety of other materials. We also learned about the planets in our Solar System and that Earth and the other planets are located in a galaxy called the Milky Way. We also created a 'Spaceship cockpit' and 'Flying Saucer' to explore our Solar System and the Universe.



Year 1/2

Year 1 and 2 went planet mad! The week started with discussing the solar system and some facts about the eight planets. The children then started painting, sticking in lights, adding glitter and using their imagination to create their space box!

The week didn't stop there and we quickly moved onto creating planet puppets for us to create a show. We studied how each planet looked, decided on some facts and made brilliant puppets to entertain and inform our friends. We loved learning about space and time this week and feel enthused by STEM!



Year 3 and 4

What a week Year 3 & 4 have had, developing and showcasing our STEM skills! We designed and

constructed our own aliens (inspired by Dr Who). We made our own Tardis, using our engineering knowledge of strong structures. Then, we made an alien assault course, where we programmed robots to travel through it, and once they met a competitor, they 'battled' using our personalised Top Trump cards. We learnt about stereotypes in STEM and celebrated a range of females in the industry - we even made our own badges inspired by Kyrstina Pearson-Rampeearie's company AviateHer. Our KAPLA workshop was another highlight of the week, where we created incredible structures and demonstrated lots of our character values.



Year 5 and 6



The mixed Year 5 and 6 classes had an amazing week delving into the world of Dr Who. Many had never experienced the fantasy world but felt like 'Whovians' (Dr Who fans) by the end of the week. The children explored the many careers available in STEM and discussed the skills

needed to be successful in such jobs. They then looked at who works in STEM fields and realised that jobs in science, technology, engineering and maths are for anyone. This was supported through our study of 'Smashing Stereotypes' and the experiences, journeys and successes of individuals including: Thomas Loseby-Taylor, Peter Barr, Eli Heath and Mimi Nwosu. They employed many of these skills when designing and creating model Daleks and towards making life size models that they could get inside and control, which proved to be a hit during the end of week exhibition. Well done, Year 5 and 6. We hope you enjoyed STEM week as much as we enjoyed teaching you!

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Music

STEM week in Music was heavily dominated by percussion activities relating to space!

Reception illustrated, with instruments, the story of 'Whatever next' in which Baby Bear builds a rocket and takes off to the moon! **Year 1 and 2** sang a selection of songs relating to space and explored the rhythms of Holst's 'Mars' using percussion. **Years 3 and 4** listened to John Williams' music from 'Star Wars' and the theme tune of Doctor Who, using both tuned and untuned percussion to replicate these themes.

Years 5 and 6 rose brilliantly to the challenge of writing their own 'Space raps'. They created some fantastic rhyming and rhythmic raps and performed these to each other!



Drama

In Drama, we had an exciting **Reception** lesson, imagining a cardboard box had turned into a rocket! We whooshed into space on a secret mission to find out if Mars could be inhabited by humans! The children immersed themselves in this imaginary play and mimed their way through the story with so much enthusiasm and expression! **Years 1 and 2** acted out the story of Wanda and The Alien in pairs, making up their own alien language which was very funny! They also mimed out key moments from the story.

PE

Pupils enjoyed using either Space (Pre-Prep) or Doctor Who (Prep) to inspire their PE lessons in STEM week. Reception travelled through space to see what it was like to land on all eight planets. We learnt how to swim on Earth, avoid lava on Mars and used hoops to recreate Saturn's ring. Year 1 and 2 enjoyed completing a



series of sporting challenges as either Team Earth or Team Alien.

The scores were close all week but the deciding points came down to the final Basketball game of the series. Luckily for us, Team Earth won with 43 points (only 4 points ahead of the Aliens), so planet Earth is safe for now. In the Prep school. Years 3 and 4 used the Tardis to travel back through the decades. Pupils enjoyed learning and creating routines inspired by the 1920s Charleston, 1940s Swing and 1980s Disco. Years 5 & 6 continued their Doctor Who theme with mixed teams throughout the week. Pupils were split into six teams and took on a range of sporting challenges, matches and team building exercises to earn points for their team. At the end of the week, Team Time Lords finished in first place, Team Cyberman second and Team Sonic Screwdriver third.

MFL

The children had a brilliant time in their MFL STEM-inspired lessons. They learnt about famous French and Spanish figures who have been pioneers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; for example, Magarita Salas, Diana Trujillo, Louis Pasteur and Gustave Eiffel. Reception children designed some amazing spaceships, labelling all of the colours in French. Years 1 and 2, learnt how to name the planets in French and produced posters putting the planets in the correct order from the sun. Years 3 and 4, explored French websites to complete a solar system fact - file and loved sharing all the facts that they had learnt. Finally, Years 5 and 6, produced some excellent pieces of creative writing in Spanish about where they would like to go on their time travelling machine. It was fantastic to see how enthused the children were about their learning and how much they wanted to explore the new topics.



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Computing

In Computing the children had a great time learning how to code.

Reception children embarked on an exciting coding adventure during STEM week, simulating a journey to space and racing rockets all the way to the moon! Lost in Space: Coding Adventures! Year 1 and 2 students embarked on a journey coding their very own spaceships that hurtled towards earth, passing rocks and shining stars.

In Years 3 and 4, children had the exciting opportunity to design their own 3D Kodu space planet! They let their imaginations create a unique planet with a Rover that roams the planet, scanning rocks and uncovering mysteries. In Years 5 and 6, students had an exciting opportunity to code using the Micro:Bit, a small computer device that allowed them to unleash their creativity and build their own digital micro:bit watches from an old pair of jeans and T-shirt!



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St Christopher's in the Community

Five of our Year 6 instrumentalists gave a public recital at St. George's Church last Friday; we were so proud of their performances and have received some lovely feedback from members of the public who attended. This is a fund-raising event that the Church holds every Friday lunchtime and therefore as well as being an amazing opportunity for our musicians to perform, it also counts towards our 130 hours of charity work! Thanks to Annabel Thwaite for taking on some of the accompanying and thanks to the church for giving us this wonderful opportunity!



Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story!



You can follow us at @stchristhehall on Insta and X, as well as @stchristhehallsport to get all the inside info from school life! You can also now follow us on Facebook where we have St

Neurodiversity Week

This week at St Christophers', we have celebrated Neurodiversity Week. This has been led via an assembly by our fantastic group of Prep students who belong to our Minds In Motion club, who have joined together to promote inclusion and neurodiversity. We have been really excited to talk about how everyone's brains work differently and celebrate our different learning styles. We have also been curious to learn about different celebrities who have dyslexia, ADHD, Autism or Tourette's Syndrome.



Allergy reminder:

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



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SCA

Thank you to all those who attended the SCA AGM in February 2024 when we discussed the 2022-2023 Chair and Treasury reports, and re-voted in our Committee. We had a good number of both teacher and parent representation, and we would like to thank all of those who took time to attend the meeting. The reports and the minutes from the 2024 meeting can be found by clicking this [link](#).



Only one week to go for the children's school disco that will be held on Wednesday 27th March for both Pre-Prep and Prep. The day will be an own clothes day for a suggested donation of £1 per child.

The SCA is also thrilled to announce the day of the Summer Fair of Saturday 6th July, once again we will be hosting a number of external stalls and the usual games and activities for the children and looking forward to welcoming as many parents and children as possible. The SCA are always looking for volunteers to help if you can spare some time, please do either contact your class rep or email:

stchristophersassociation@gmail.com

Cultural Celebration Assembly - Uganda

It was an honour to host Mrs Kabagambe, who led our debut 'Cultural Celebration Assembly', on Wednesday 20th March. This new initiative teaches us about, and celebrates, the heritages of our amazingly diverse, incredible community. Mrs Kabagambe's assembly was about Uganda and we were mesmerised by her incredible personal stories, as well as fascinating scientific and geographical facts. Thank you so much for educating us about Uganda! If you would like to led a 'Cultural Celebration Assembly', then please contact Mrs Shivers & Mr Codd via mail@



What's Happening Next Week (FJNAL WEEK OF TERM)

Monday 25th March

- Year 1 Florence Nightingale workshop
- Parents' Meetings (15:15-18:00)

Tuesday 26th March

- Prep Open Morning for current parents (08:15-09:00)
- Easter Egg Hunt for Pre-Prep and Prep (pm)

Wednesday 27th March

- Year 4 Music and Drama Showcase (09:15-10:30)
- Pre-Prep Disco (15:15-16:15)
- Prep Disco (16:30-17:45)

Thursday 28th March

- Pre-Prep Easter Hatwalk (11:00-11:30)
- Prep Easter Hatwalk (11:35-12:05)
- **End of Term (children to be collected between 11:20-12:05)**

Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

Music or peris lesson	musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Sports or fixtures	sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Lunchtime or afterschool clubs	clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Finance	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (bookings)	scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (logistics or payment)	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Anything class related or for the teachers	mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk 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	headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk