

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

What a whirlwind of a week it's been, as we settle back into the rhythm of school life for the first full week. On Monday, we marked Earth Day with all lights switched off throughout the

school. The corridors took on a mysterious ambiance, almost like stepping into a different world. Despite the lack of sunshine, the dimly lit hallways seemed to resonate with the children, heightening their awareness of the importance of energy conservation. In our assembly, Mrs. West and I enjoyed a game of charades with the children, with a special twist focusing on environmental superheroes. Throughout the day, our teachers adapted their lessons, steering clear of interactive whiteboards and embracing alternative methods of instruction. The day reminds us of the importance of reducing our reliance on electricity, particularly the fossil fuels that power it. By minimising our energy consumption, we not only mitigate the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions but also create a cleaner, healthier environment for all living creatures. Moreover, as an added bonus, cutting back on electricity usage can lead to significant cost savings - a win-win for both our planet and our wallets!

This week, I also wanted to write to you about a key area in our school. As educators, we want to promote a learning environment that celebrates the unique identities and experiences of every individual. That's why we're placing a renewed focus on ensuring that equality, equity, and diversity are not just buzzwords, but guiding principles that shape everything we do. Mrs. Shivers and Mr. Codd are leading the charge on this front, spearheading initiatives to ensure that these principles are at the forefront of all our endeavours. But it's not just about leadership—it's about collective action and shared commitment. That's why I wanted to bring your attention to a video I recently stumbled upon that beautifully illustrates the importance of our work in this area. The video sheds light on the startling reality that gender stereotypes can take root as early as the ages of 5 to 7. It's a sobering reminder of the power of societal influ-

ences and the urgency of our mission to challenge these stereotypes head-on. I shared this video with our staff, and the response was truly enlightening. Mr. Organ, in particular, seized the opportunity to use the video as a teaching tool in his classroom. The discussions that ensued were eye-opening, revealing the preconceived notions our students hold about gender roles and responsibilities, especially what they perceived were "jobs for mums" or "jobs for dads," - I wonder how many mums would raise an eyebrow to learn pupils viewed that most jobs were for them! Our goal is simple: to ensure that every child feels empowered to pursue their dreams, free from the constraints of outdated gender norms. Whether it's challenging assumptions we're committed to redefining the narrative and opening doors of opportunity for all. You can view the video [here](#), and I hope you enjoy it



Lastly, I wanted to draw your attention to my letter sent this week about our school's digital strategy. We are very excited about our journey toward a digital future where ultimately all pupils will be provided with a personal iPads. These devices will revolutionise learning, offering interactive and tailored lessons that cater to each child's

unique needs and preferences. We'll kick off the rollout in Years 3 and 4 in September, gradually expanding to all pupils in the Prep school from Year 3 to 6 by 2026. Embracing technology in education isn't just about keeping up with the times—it's about preparing our students for success in a rapidly evolving world. With a digital view of education, we empower our students to become adaptable, tech-savvy learners who are ready to thrive in the digital age. We're excited to embark on this transformative journey and can't wait to see the incredible opportunities it brings to our school community. This is an undoubtedly exciting time for the school, especially with a few small building projects we have planned for the summer holidays, not least a redesign of our Pre-Prep playground. I know these improvements will have a big impact on our pupils, be it at work or play!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### Pastoral Care

Many of us may be struggling with various aspects of life. As a school, we would like to support and help the young people and parents in our school community and offer suggestions and guidance as we would for the academic aspects of school life. Bromley Y offers free webinars on a variety of topics for young people and parents/carers. They are free and can be accessed from the comfort of your home. The Bromley Y website is a good source of information with a whole section for parents.

Webinars for [Young People](#).

Webinars for [Parents/carers](#).

These live webinars cover topics such as:

[Sleep](#) (parents/carers).

[Transition to Secondary School](#) (parents/carers).

[Exam Stress and Healthy Study Habits](#) (young people).

[Emotionally based school avoidance](#) (parents/carers).

*Anxiety* (both parents/carers and young people)

*Low mood* (both parents/carers and young people).

[Thoughts and Worries](#) (parents/carers).

We hope that these are useful.

### Prep

Welcome back to all of our Prep school students and parents. I hope you all had a wonderful and restful Easter. We have many things to look forward to this term in the Prep school: Year 3 will be exploring the Rainforest; Year 4 will be studying Rivers; Year 5 will be researching and learning about the topic 'Extreme Earth' and Year 6 will be carrying out their own independent project following the success of their work on Amazing America. We are also going to be preparing and making a range of foods as part of our DT Curriculum. In addition, the children will have a range of new and exciting Echo clubs to enjoy as well as joining with the Pre-Prep in the second half term for our new 'Phase Fusion' initiative. We look forward to a sensational Summer Term.



### Pre-Prep

It has been great to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Easter break and to see everyone looking smart in their Summer uniform - even if the weather isn't particularly 'Summery' yet! All the children have quickly settled back into the routines of the school day and we are all looking forward to the last term with our current classes. The second half of the Summer term is when we turn our thoughts to the future and we will start to prepare the children for the transition into their new year group. This process culminates in the children meeting their new teacher on 'Moving Up Morning' and this is always a very exciting time.

As always, we have a busy and productive term ahead of us, packed with class trips, workshops and more. On offer this term for ECHO clubs are: Mindful Doodling Club, Disney Club, Storytelling,

Yoga and Relaxation and Aerospace Engineering - lots more exciting opportunities for the children to enhance their learning and development through learning new skills. Also this term the Pre-Prep classes are all taking part in an exciting Circus Skills workshop, while Reception are off to the theatre, Year 1 are visiting The Story Centre and Year 2 will be swinging around in the trees at Go Ape. Add to all this Sports day, end of year celebrations and the Summer Fair and this term is quite a whirlwind of activity!





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## OD CUACO CC

*Are you looking for a fun, local,  
family friendly cricket club?*

**New Boys & Girls Welcome**

**Join us Sunday Mornings  
10:00 - 11:15 AM**



**Old Dunstonians Sports Ground  
St. Dunstan's Lane, Beckenham, BR3 3SS**

**For more information please contact [odcuacocolts@gmail.com](mailto:odcuacocolts@gmail.com)  
or visit our website [www.odcuaco.co.uk](http://www.odcuaco.co.uk)**



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### Pupils Achievement

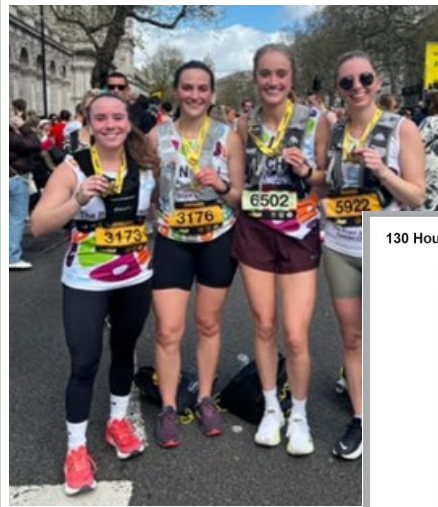
Ilani (RC) has been horse riding for 2 years now and, recently, she received a riding award for cantering and riding with no stirrups; what an achievement.

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



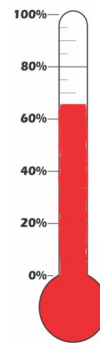
### St Christopher's in the Community

Over the Easter holidays, Miss Leaf and a group of her friends completed her first half marathon - the London Landmarks - to raise money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. In total, they raised £3481 and



completed their half marathon in 1 hour and 58 minutes.

130 Hours Target of Volunteering



### Air Ambulance Assembly

We have an exciting assembly coming up! On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of May, we have representatives from London's Air Ambulance coming in to educate us about their life-saving charity. Hector (2J) and Arthur (1C) will kindly be collecting donations for the Air Ambulance charity before and after school on Freedom Friday when we come to school wearing our own clothes (it could be something red). It is important for our children to understand the work of the Air Ambulance. The charity is funded only through donations, so our contribution will be very much appreciated.



### **Allergy reminder:**

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



### Summer Uniform

As the summer term unfolds with its sunny days and warmer temperatures, we kindly remind all parents to ensure that their children are dressed in the appropriate summer uniform for school.

For boys, this includes wearing short sleeve shirts paired with grey shorts, complemented by long grey socks and a green jumper. For girls, the summer uniform options include either summer dresses or grey shorts, accompanied by white ankle or knee-length socks and green cardigans or green jumpers. By adhering to the summer uniform guidelines, we not only ensure that our students are dressed comfortably for the season but also maintain a sense of unity and cohesion within our school community.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

- 🔔 **Monday 29th April**
  - Year 3/4 mixed cricket @ Royal Russell, selected pupils to play (15:15-17:30)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 1st May**
  - Royal Russell Maths competition (13:00-17:00)
- 🔔 **Thursday 2nd May**
  - Year 6 Cricket @ Colfes - all Year 6 to play (14:30-17:00)