

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I hope, you got to enjoy the sunshine, at the start of the week, that has finally decided to appear in what has been a pretty dull and wet start to the Summer Term!

I am delighted to announce a new initiative that we will be implementing starting from September 2024. As part of our commitment to fostering a supportive environment where pupils can thrive both academically and emotionally, we will be introducing an on-site counselling service one day a week in partnership with Tsunami Counselling Services. We recognise the vital importance of mental health in children's overall well-being and development, and early intervention and support can make a significant difference. By providing on-site counselling services within the school environment, we aim to make support more accessible, comfortable, and minimally disruptive for our students, ensuring that our school community has the opportunity to access the support they need. Additionally, specific pupils will have the opportunity for structured blocks of support. If you would like more information about this service, please don't hesitate to reach out to

[le@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:le@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)

Very excitingly, we will also introduce specialist teaching of Art/DT in the upcoming academic year, aiming to enhance provision in arts education. This decision comes at a time when many schools are reducing emphasis on arts subjects, despite their significance. Early exposure to art is crucial, as attitudes toward education are often formed early and having specialist guidance ensures personalised instruction and mentorship, fostering individual talents and interests while ensuring high-quality skill development. We are very excited about all these innovations for next year, and will share more details soon.

Continuing in the vein of new things, I want to share some updates regarding staff roles for the upcoming year. With the introduction of our digital strategy, we will be making some changes to roles within the school. Mr. Codd will be taking on the mantle of Technology and Digital Innovation Lead. His enthusiasm and expertise in computing and technology will undoubtedly drive forward our

commitment to embracing digital advancements. This change means that Miss Leaf will be transitioning to the role of Head of PSHE, EDI, and Community Engagement, alongside Mrs. Shivers. Together, they will continue to ensure that these aspects remain high priorities at our school, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all.

Today, in our Celebration Assembly, we were pleased to announce the new school council members. Having a pupil voice is incredibly important as it ensures that our students have a say in the decisions that affect them. I know our new pupils will make us proud in making our school even better.

Next week marks the first of our Residential trips for pupils in Year 3-6 as Year 6 embark on our inaugural trip to Madrid. They'll be diving headfirst into the rich culture of Spain, practising their Spanish skills, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. While I always make an effort to pop in and visit each year group during their residential trips, Madrid might be a tad too far for a day visit! Nevertheless, I'll be there in spirit, cheering them on every step of the way. Following closely on the heels of Year 6, our Year 4 students will be setting off on their own exciting residential trip the following week. And I'll be joining them! I am looking forward to sharing the adventures, laughter, and bonding moments with our Year 4s. And let's not forget about our Year 5s, who will be rounding off the half-term with their own thrilling trip to Bowles; they have a jam-packed schedule of outdoor adventures and team-building activities that will surely leave them with memories to cherish. Year 3 rounds off the programme with their residential which comes after half term. I really believe that residential trips provide invaluable opportunities for our pupils to step out of their comfort zones, forge deep friendships, and develop essential life skills such as independence, resilience, and teamwork. I know how eagerly anticipated these trips are by our students, and I have no doubt that they will return with hearts full of joy and minds enriched with unforgettable experiences.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead - and enjoy the Bank Holiday Monday!

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### Yoga and Relaxation ECHO

In Yoga and Relaxation Club we have been practising different Yoga poses and using the poses to tell a story. We enjoyed having a little rest at the end, focusing on our breathing and calming our mind. We finish the session off with some mindfulness colouring before we go back to our busy day.



### TTRS ECHO

The children really enjoy Time Table Rock Stars club as they get to practise their tables skills whilst sitting next to their friends as well as competing against them. We start off with everyone playing Garage, which is their personal tables that have been set by their form teachers, before we move on to be able to 'battle' friends. There is certainly a dose of very healthy competition as everyone is keen to beat scores and offer words of encouragement. It is a really friendly and supportive ECHO club with lots of energy. Time goes very quickly in these sessions because we are so engrossed!



### Royal Russell School - Inter-Schools Maths Challenge 2024

On Wednesday, a team of four Year 5 pupils were invited to attend the annual Inter-School Maths Challenge at Royal Russell School.

The St Christopher's team, consisting of Aryan, Siddharth, Jack and Preyenthen, went up against twenty other teams to tackle four rounds of challenging and fiendish questions and puzzles. The children had opportunities to apply their excellent mathematical skills, teamwork and resilience during fifteen-minute rounds in which they applied all of the school's Character Values.

Whilst team scores were being calculated, the children and accompanying teachers had the opportunity to watch a Rubik's Cube Workshop held by Mr Jeffrey, a Rubik's enthusiast who showed how the famous puzzle (which is celebrating its 50th year) and mathematics are both magical.

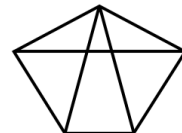
After a tense wait, the results came in and our

team came 10th out of the 20 teams. A wonderful achievement, considering the numerical excellence of every team.

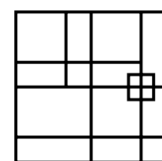
Here is an example of one of the questions they faced:

#### Spot the shapes 2

1. How many triangles can you count?



2. How many squares can you count?



3. Draw your own diagram to count triangles. Don't use too many lines! How many triangles can a friend find? Can you find more?

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### Celebrating 15 years of the Uniform Shop

15 years ago this June, the Uniform Shop opened its doors for the first time to St Christopher's parents.

As you climb the stairs outside Scamps, you'd be forgiven for thinking that you were in a dusty attic at Hogwarts, piled high with a vast array of uniform essentials from blazers to gum shields, but maybe that's all part of the magic of it.

The school ethos was, and still remains, to offer best value to our St Christopher's families. Now, we are proud to be the only private school to offer top quality uniform at highly competitive prices, saving parents hundreds of pounds a year per child compared to other fee paying schools in the area.

Over the years, the shop has evolved – we now sell most of our uniform via email request and the second-hand till (yes, we were cash only at one time!) has been replaced by the termly invoice making it as easy as we can for working parents to keep their children looking smart. But most importantly, the shop serves as a hub for new parents to ask questions, meet other parents and children at the school and to take away some of the anxiety that comes with the trauma of starting school.

Alongside the new uniform, the SCA has worked just as hard to create an unbelievable used uniform resource – and because we are determined to source high quality new uniform, while continually working to keep our carbon footprint down, we are now in the best position to offer our families new and top condition used uniform at affordable prices.

Without the continued support from parents donating old and buying new uniform, we wouldn't be able to offer a second hand option, so thank you all for your custom.



### Pupils Achievement

We are very proud of Orson (Year 5) who took part in his first Judo tournament this weekend at the Kent Interclub Development Event, placing 5<sup>th</sup> in his Under 12's league and bringing home a medal. Well done, Orson - we salute your effort, commitment and steadfast determination.

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



### **Allergy reminder:**

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



### *What's Happening Next Week*

- 🔔 **Monday 6th May**
  - **Bank Holiday**/Year 6 Residential (Mon-Thurs)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 8th May**
  - Preschool Drama Workshop (10:40-11:20)
- 🔔 **Thursday 9th May**
  - Air Ambulance Assembly
  - Year 5 Cricket Match v Colfe (all pupils to play 13:30-16:00)
  - Music Tea - Mrs Lovett's Piano students