

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The weeks seem to continue to fly by, and none of us can quite believe there is now just four weeks left until the end of term, and there is still such a lot to pack in.

We held our Digital Strategy Parent Partnership meeting on Tuesday, where we introduced our slogan: **Innovate, Integrate, Inspire**. It was a shame we did not have more parents in attendance, but for the parents who attended, we spoke about our commitment to inspiring our pupils, fostering innovation, and enabling greater technology integration in our curriculum. We explained to parents how we will enhance student learning and prepare our children for a digital world, not least with Year 3 and 4 pupils receiving a personal iPad. These will facilitate engaging and interactive lessons. By equipping our young learners with this technology, we aim to nurture their curiosity, innovation, and love of learning within a modern educational environment. Our approach integrates technology into every aspect of our curriculum, ensuring that digital skills enhance the overall learning experience. In preparation for this Mr. Codd, Mrs. Morris, and Mr. Chowdhury received their first bespoke training session, with another scheduled for next week. Specialist teachers will also receive training in the coming weeks. To further promote this, we also debuted a video to promote our initiative on our YouTube channel. Ms. Wooderson did a fantastic job creating the 'trailer' for: 'Mission Digital Strategy' - coming to a school near you! You can watch and enjoy it by clicking [here](#).

A new section of the parents' area of the website has been added to give more information on our Digital Strategy and to provide FAQ. Please ask your question [here](#).

We were pleased to host our termly Open Morning for current parents of both Prep and Pre-Prep pupils this week. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come in and have your child share their work with you. These Open Mornings are invaluable, not only because they allow children to proudly display their work and classroom environment to their parents, but also because they provide us all with a moment to appreciate their achievements and growth. Thank you to those parents who were

able to join us and for enjoying the experience with your children.

As we begin to think about the end of the academic year, we are also looking ahead to the next one. It was wonderful to welcome our new Preschool children for a play afternoon today, to help them familiarise themselves with our setting before September. It hardly seems any time at all since we were welcoming this year's Preschool children, who now look very grown up compared to our soon-to-join new cohort. Seeing the excitement and curiosity of our incoming Preschoolers reminds us of the continuous cycle of growth and learning at our school, and we are eager to embark on another fantastic year with them.

Finally, a little bit of staff news. After a period of absence, I wanted to inform you that Mr Myatt is leaving St Christopher's the Hall to pursue other avenues. There are no safeguarding concerns. Mr Myatt has been with the School for over thirty years and we would thank him for his contribution. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours. Sadly, Miss Symonds will also be leaving us next year to take up a new challenge in a larger department at Colfe's School. Although she has been with us a short time, she has been instrumental in shaping our PE curriculum to be more well rounded and gender-inclusive, and I am deeply grateful for her contributions. There is more regarding PE in an article below where we have outlined the plan for the new PE Staff Team from September.

A little reminder that next week we have our class photos on Tuesday. We sent an email earlier this week about the specifics, but in essence, we request that children come into school wearing their summer school uniform, looking smart, as well as their proper school shoes, and not trainers. Boys should wear ties with their shirts, but there is no need for a blazer. Year 6 will have their photo at 8:15, so on this day we request that they arrive early at 8:00, so we can be ready to start and to keep the organisation on the day slick, and so that those who are attending their Year 7 transition day can leave promptly.

I wish you a lovely weekend, and hopefully a little more sunshine .

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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St Christopher's in the Community

This week, five of our Year 6 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit the residents at the Jansonodean Nursing Home on Oakwood Avenue. As always, the residents were overjoyed to see the children. The visit kicked off with lively conversations between the residents and the students, and we were extremely proud of how well our students conducted themselves.



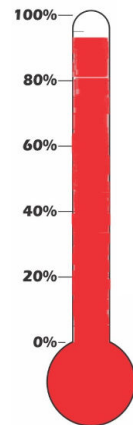
Listening intently, the children were captivated by the residents' stories and eagerly answered their questions with such confidence. Following this, the children planted seeds in pots for the residents to take back to their rooms to watch them grow and flower.

It was truly heartwarming to see our young pupils engaging so naturally and confidently with the elderly residents. We were immensely proud of each child. We look forward to our next visit, knowing how much the residents cherish these interactions.

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130 Hours Target of Volunteering



Poetry Week

On Wednesday, Mr Pretara and Miss Johns led a poetry appreciation assembly. At the start of the assembly, the School was treated to a preview of the LAMDA pupils' poetry performances ahead of their assessments in July. Their performance piece titled *'Homework, Oh Homework!'* was a particular crowd pleaser, with children in the audience joining in with the repeating structure throughout the performance. As the assembly continued, the School was able to listen to other wonderful examples of poetry, which were shared by the House Reps, and discuss some of the themes.

Here are a few joyous performance poems for you to enjoy at home:

- ['Talking Turkeys'](#) by Benjamin Zephaniah
- ['Hot Food'](#) ("Niiice!") by Michael Rosen
- [Potter Puppet Pals](#) by Neil Cicierega



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PE

This year, we appreciate that there have been some disruptions in our PE provision. Managing these challenges has been our top priority, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we worked diligently to maintain the high standards of our sports programs.

Recruiting the right talent takes time, and we have had to accommodate notice periods for our new staff members. We are thrilled to announce that for the upcoming school year, we will be welcoming two outstanding professionals to our PE department: Mr Murphy will lead the department as Head of PE and come highly regarded. He will be accompanied by Miss Davidson, as PE/Games teacher, who also has glowing credentials.

Both of these new members bring a wealth of experience, having spent many years teaching sports in schools both in the secondary and primary years. They have excellent knowledge of the independent sector, as well as coaching professionally outside of the school setting where some of you may know them from. Additionally, they participated in team sports outside of school for their enjoyment. Their extensive backgrounds ensure they possess the knowledge and skills necessary to further enhance our sports program.



We are confident that Mr Murphy and Miss Davidson will integrate seamlessly into our team, and work together positively and successfully alongside Miss Steeden. Their combined expertise will not only enhance our PE lessons, but will also foster an environment of teamwork, sportsmanship, and inclusivity. We believe that their influence will resonate throughout the department and the entire school community.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the new opportunities and improvements in our PE curriculum, and our new staff members are already brimming with ideas to promote and enhance our current provision. They are keen to provide lots of opportunities for pupils to develop and gain skills, as well as experience a variety of different sports which is so key in the primary years. We are also looking forward to many

events in the coming months where parents can join in and come into school to learn more about how PE is taking place, as well as the regular fixtures, where we are looking forward to being able to host more on our home turf. We remain committed to providing the high-quality sports education that our students deserve and are known for. Thank you once again for your continued support and understanding.

Phase Fusion

Children in Prep School joined Miss Leaf and Mr Chowdhury, to explore a range of fun learning activities outdoors which built upon their Art and DT learning each week. The children had a range of activities, including situational chalk art (in which the children created large scale artwork that featured themselves), watercolour painting outdoors, bug hotels (constructed from resources found in the Pre-Prep and Prep playgrounds) and LEGO shelters (which allowed the children to create discrete and camouflaged model tree houses from the famous construction blocks), to name but a few of the fun things that we carried out. The children especially enjoyed working in small teams with children from outside their own classes and

year groups. All in all, it was a brilliant few weeks where the children had lots of fun, were able to be creative and work in teams they had not experienced before.



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Sport at St Christopher's

It has been an exciting Summer term of sport at St Christopher's as pupils have been working hard in their lessons, at Cricket fixtures and other sporting events. As we prepare for Sports Day, Pre-Prep pupils have had lots of fun practising races ahead of the big day, whilst Prep pupils have been developing their technique and understanding of Long Jump, Hurdles and Sprinting, ready to impress spectators on Friday 5th July. For our budding tennis players, pupils have enjoyed learning new skills and playing games during their lessons with Mr Tyler. We have been so pleased with our pupils dedication and focus to improve their performance ahead of fixtures. Their hard work has been rewarded with some fantastic results recently and we are so proud of all involved.



Colfe's Swimming Gala

On Tuesday 11th June, our Trinity Club Swim Team participated in the Colfe's Swimming Gala, competing against Colfe's and Alleyns. After a series of intense races, St. Christopher's secured an impressive 2nd place overall. Our students showcased exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship throughout the event. All pupils contributed to a fantastic score of 177 points, with an exhilarating mixed year group relay to end the event.



Tonbridge Prep Schools Cricket Festival

On Wednesday 12th June, six pupils from our U11 Cricket Team participated in the Tonbridge Prep Schools Cricket Festival, a highly competi-

tive event that brought together 32 Prep Schools. St. Christopher's demonstrated remarkable skill and teamwork throughout the day. The team's overall performance was commendable, and they played with great spirit and determination, representing our school excellently.

Bromley Schools Athletics Meet

On Thursday 13th June 24 athletes ranging from Year 4 to Year 6 competed in the Bromley Schools Athletics Meet,



facing tough competition from 12 other schools in the area. Our athletes delivered outstanding performances across various disciplines, ultimately securing 3rd place overall. All pupils demonstrated fantastic athletics performances with 14 pupils qualifying for the finals day on Thursday 4th July.

We are so proud of the determination and effort shown by our athletes. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and perseverance throughout the term.

The recent sports events have been a testament to the talent, hard work, and dedication of St. Christopher's School's pupils. We are incredibly proud of all our teams for their outstanding performances and achievements in fixtures this term.



Their success not only highlights their individual talents but also the strong spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship that defines St. Christopher's. We look forward to more achievements and continued excellence in sports.

English Parent Partnership Evening

We hope to welcome lots of you to our English Parent Partnership Evening on Thursday 20th June from 5pm-6:15pm.

This event is for Parents/Guardians from Pre-School to Year 6. The evening will consist of an introduction in the Main Hall led by the English Leads detailing our vision for English and Phonics throughout the school, how they are taught, and

how you can support your children at home. You will then go to the phase relevant class of your child for an 'English Lesson' in order to experience the way our English teaching sequences are delivered.



There will be lots of useful information shared regarding our English and Phonics Curriculum for 2024-2025 and we are very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

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Pupil Successes

This week we have many pupil successes to share with you!



Thaddeus (Year 6) and Trinity (Year 5) participated in the Kent Junior Competitions last weekend. They both received medals in their age categories, Thaddeus silver medal in the U12 boys foil competition and Trinity also silver medal in the U10 Girls Kent foil competition, although she was just one point away from a gold medal! Huge congratulations to them both.

Additionally, Harry (Year 4) attended the Beckenham United Football Awards last week. Having worked hard over the season during training and having taken on extra futsal training to improve his skills, he won 'Most Improved Player of the Season'. We are very proud of him!



Max was awarded his Chief Scout bronze badge. This is the highest award you can earn as a Beaver Scout. He had to complete 6 challenge awards, each involving around 8 tasks as well as four activity badges. It's taken him just over a year to complete it. The award shows that a Beaver is adventurous,

has helped the community, learnt about the world, gained new skills and worked as a team. Amazing Max!

Finally, Anaiya (Year 3) completed the Tour de Penge at the weekend: a 13 mile cycle ride to Greenwich and back. She really enjoyed this family friendly event with Penge cycle club, exploring the cycle routes and river paths in the area. What a great thing to do!



SCA

The SCA are looking forward to welcoming you all to the Summer Fair due to take place on **Saturday 6th July, between 12pm-3pm**. This year we have a number of external stalls including a food and drink stalls, to compliment some of our favourite games and toys.



In preparation, we will be collecting donations: toys, teddies, bottles and raffle prizes the **morning of 28th June at drop off**. On this day children can wear their own clothes or dress up in "What I want to be when I grow up" fancy dress for a £1 donation. Members of the SCA will be available at the gate from 8.15am to accept donations. Please note that this is the PreSchool sports day, so PreSchool children must come in wearing their PE kit.

As always the SCA relies on the kindness of parents to help on the stalls the day of fair, so we ask for as many volunteers to sign up through their class representative. All money raised will go towards the playgrounds.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer as a member of the SCA please contact Emma Hill (mum to Kitty 1HD) or Bobby McHugh (mum to Sofia 30), they can also be contacted at:

stchristophersassociation@gmail.com

What's Happening Next Week

Tuesday 18th June

- Class Photos (School uniform to be worn by all, and Year 6 to be in by 8:00)
- Year 4 Cricket v Colfes (all Year 4 to play) (14:40-16:15)

Thursday 20th June

- Year 3 Residential (all day)
- English Curriculum: Parent Partnership Meeting (17:00-18:30 - all parents)

Friday 21st June

- Year 3 Residential (all day)
- Year 2 Victorian Workshop (09:00-12:00)
- Year 5 Car Wash charity Event