

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break! It was a joy to see the children bursting through the school gates on Monday morning, full of stories and excitement. Their smiles and energy always energise me at the gate, so it was a delightful

way to kick off this new half-term!

This week has been especially lovely as we hosted our Grandparents' Tea, which was spread over three different gatherings throughout the day, catering to each year group. It was heartwarming to see grandparents or other relatives join us in such great numbers and enjoy a special time with their grandchildren. The children delighted us all with performances that showcased their talents and enthusiasm. The grandparents were treated to tea, cakes, and sandwiches, which made the day feel even more like a grand celebration. The shared laughter, conversations, and affectionate glances across the room spoke volumes about the deep connections that enrich our children's lives.

The bond between grandparents and grandchildren is a special one, full of warmth, wisdom, and unconditional love. Grandparents often bring stories of the past, gentle encouragement, and a unique kind of support that only they can provide. Seeing the children's faces light up as they shared songs, stories, and classroom moments with their grandparents was truly moving. For those children whose grandparents couldn't attend, Mrs. Mantle, Mrs. Jeffery, Mrs. West, Miss Rule, Mrs. Stamate, and I were honoured to step in as their surrogate grandparents, soaking up their excitement as they eagerly showed us their work and shared their stories. We couldn't help but feel like we'd been given VIP access to their world, complete with little chats that kept us smiling the entire day. What a treat for us! I was also touched to receive several thank-you cards from grandparents following the event. In a world where messages are often typed and sent in an instant, receiving these handwritten



notes was like a little gift. It reminded me of how special and personal these touches are – and reading such kind words about their enjoyment made it all the more rewarding. It's moments like these that remind us all of the magic in our school community.

We also hosted our Open Mornings this week for our current parents. On Wednesday, Prep parents were welcomed in, followed by Pre-Prep parents on Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many of you sharing the early morning with your children, exploring their work, and celebrating their progress. These moments are important – they strengthen the bond between home and school and give children a chance to beam with pride as they show off their hard work.

This week, we have also been selling poppies at school in the lead-up to our Remembrance Assembly. Today, we gathered as a school community to reflect and honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. I was ably assisted by our Head Pupil, Jack, and Deputy, Zoe, who both spoke beautifully and helped lead the assembly with great respect and

sincerity. It is important for children to understand why we remember – not just as a history lesson, but as a tribute to courage, sacrifice, and the hope for peace. Through these moments, we teach the values of gratitude and remembrance, ensuring that the legacy of those who came before us is honoured and never forgotten.

Finally, you will have seen the letter earlier in the week regarding VAT on school fees from our Chair of Governors. I want to express my sincere regret that we are having to implement this tax, which has been imposed on us, and I know it may cause concern for some families. If you have any questions or if you're facing challenges due to this adjustment, I encourage you to reach out to me or Mrs. Stamate. We are here to listen and discuss your individual circumstances.

I hope you enjoy your weekend,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Languages in our school curriculum so far this term

French:

Since the start of the year, Year 1 & 2 students have revised topics such as greetings, colours and numbers. They have enjoyed taking their work home to show you what they have been doing in lessons.

It has been a delight to see how enthusiastically Reception pupils have been towards their language learning. They have enjoyed learning some basic vocabulary such as greetings and the names of pets.

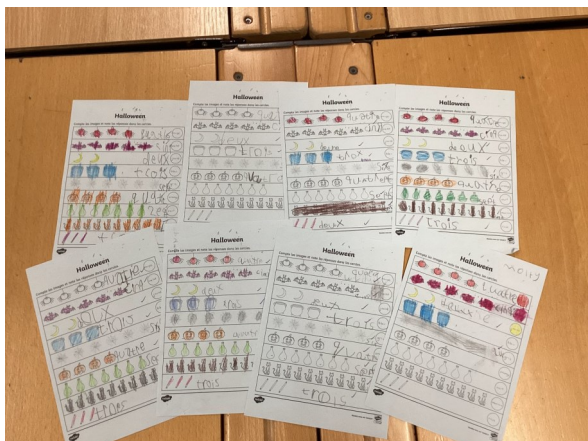
Year 3 and 4 have been using their ipads to take notes, do research and consolidate their learning using Kahoot.

Spanish:

Year 5 has been very enthusiastic about learning Spanish for the first time. They have been busy building up their vocabulary in the following topics: greetings, dates and descriptions.

Year 6 have been developing their understanding of key grammatical concepts such as adjective agreements and using verbs in the third person.

All Prep students took part in a research lesson, finding out about the European Day of Languages in September, whilst Pre-prep pupils learnt about how animals make different sounds in different languages. Reception and Year 1 looked at Halloween vocabulary before completing a counting and colouring activity and in honour of Black History Month, pupils were introduced to some prominent French and Spanish speaking black celebrities.



SCA

The SCA have been very busy over the past few weeks and you will be hearing lots from us over the next couple of weeks.



As a reminder ticket sales are still open for the Parents' and Teachers' curry and quiz night to be held on Friday 15th November between 7-10pm. We have a few tickets left, so you fancy joining us for a fun night out, tickets can be purchased from www.scasales.co.uk Teams of up to 10 people and single players are all welcome to join.

The Silent Auction has also been attracting lots of interest, so don't be shy and place your bids now to avoid losing your lot! You can join the bidding by signing up to the below:

https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/auction/detail/auction_id/sca-auction-2024/

The Auction will close on the night of the 15th November at 9.30pm.

Finally, we are excited to be hosting our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November between 12-3pm. As always we are looking for volunteers to help on the Friday and the morning of the Fair, so if you have some time to spare please do speak to Bobby or Emma or contact your class reps. We are looking for donations for the Fair, the SCA will be at the school gates on the morning of the 15th November from 8.15am to collect donations.

This year we are asking for: toys, games, books for the children's tombola, bottles for the adult's tombola, any monetary donations, raffle prizes

Many thanks

Allergy reminder:

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



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Reception

In Reception, we have been learning about our senses. We listened with our ears, looked with our eyes, touched with our hands, tasted with our tongue and to complete it all, used our senses to do different sensory autumnal activities. We sorted the autumn leaves by colour using our eyes, felt different autumnal objects in our sensory box and walked around the playground listening to autumnal sounds.



Story Movement Club:

This half term, in Story Movement Club, we have been having an amazing time exploring stories through drama and dance! The children have gone on exciting bear hunts, searched for Gruffalos, and discussed the adventures of a very bad-tempered ladybird. It has been a joy to see them engage with these stories in creative new ways, using acting and movement to bring the characters and narratives to life. This approach has given them plenty of opportunities to express themselves, build confidence, and develop their imagination. We look forward to continuing our storytelling adventures with a new group of readers after half term!



Anti-bullying week

Next week, we are proud to be celebrating Anti-bullying week. In addition to assemblies surrounding this topic, on Tuesday 12th November, in exchange for a £1 donation, children are invited to wear odd socks to school. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness. Proceeds will go to the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) charity. Thank you for your support.

Classics ECHO Club

During the Classics ECHO Club sessions, Prep pupils have enjoyed learning about Caecilius, a banker who lived in Pompeii in 79 AD, by translating short passages from Latin into English which describe what life was like at the time. This work allowed pupils to make links between English and Latin words. We also looked at historical aspects such as how homes were built, what Romans ate, what entertainment Romans enjoyed, how they counted and finally, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Linked to these topics, the pupils created some lovely craft projects, such as mini gladiators, mosaics of Mount Vesuvius and games of dominoes.



Social Media

You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on Insta and X, as well as at [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! On Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group

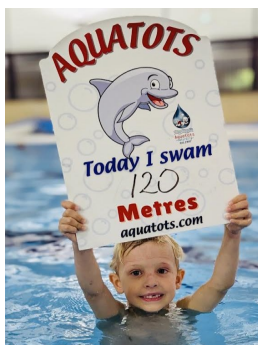
Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pupil Success

We're thrilled to highlight the accomplishments of siblings Nesta (Year 3) and Guy (Year 1) in their recent distance swimming challenge. Guy, at such a young age, swam an impressive 120 metres - completing 13 widths of the pool. Nesta, showing



incredible perseverance, swam a stunning 1300 metres, or 52 lengths! Their hard work and commitment to reaching these milestones are truly inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of them both.

In other exciting news, Ilani has been



awarded Player of the Match in her latest football game! Her dedication, teamwork, and skill on the field truly shone through during the match, earning her this well-deserved recognition. A huge congratulations to Ilani - what an achievement!



Additionally, we want to celebrate Max (4M), who took part in his first swimming gala with Beckenham Swimming Club over the half term. Competing against teams from Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, Max achieved fantastic results, earning silver medals in butterfly, backstroke, and

breaststroke, along with a bronze in freestyle. What a remarkable accomplishment!

If your child achieves something special outside of school, Mr. Carter would love to hear about it

Music

Before half-term, Year 3 enjoyed a visit from one of our woodwind teachers, Mr. Christou, who played them some pieces on both clarinet and saxophone and told them a bit about both instruments. The Year 3 pupils listened brilliantly and asked some very intelligent questions at the end. If there are any potential orchestral instrument players out there, do email Mrs. Gay on

musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

for further information about lessons and our instrument hire scheme!



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 11th November

- Anti-Bullying week begins
- Year 4 Rugby v Merton Court

Tuesday 12th November

- Year 5 trip to London Transport Museum
- Year 4 Netball tournament at Eltham College (selected pupils)

Wednesday 13th November

- Reception Trip to Hall Place
- Year 5 & 6 Merton Court Cross Country Relays (selected pupils)

Friday 15th November

- **Children in Need**
Bring £1 to wear your own clothes
- Preschool Early Learning Journey Open Morning (08:30-09:00)
- Year 1 trip to Godstone Farm
- Year 6 Netball Tournament at Eltham College (selected pupils)