

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

What a week it has been! The School has been buzzing with activity as we head, full speed, into the term's busier weeks. As shocking as it may be, we are now on the countdown to Christmas(!), and that seems to make each day feel a bit shorter,

yet somehow even busier.

This week, we've been marking Anti-Bullying Week—an important time to reinforce our commitment to a supportive and inclusive school environment. This year's theme, "Choose Respect," encourages us all—children, teachers, and parents alike—to take a stand against bullying, not just this week, but all year round. The week has been filled with assemblies and classroom discussions that

remind us of the impact we can make when we choose kindness and respect over bullying. One of the highlights was Odd Socks Day, which took place on Tuesday. Odd Socks Day is a way for

everyone to celebrate diversity and inclusion by wearing mismatched socks. It was wonderful to see our school join this celebration of acceptance and inclusion, which also included some wonderful conversations about the colours and patterns in people's socks! We're proud to be part of this nationwide effort to make a difference and help all our pupils feel safe and valued. Special thanks to Mrs. Shivers and Miss Leaf, who have led this week in their roles as Heads of PSHE. They've helped our pupils understand that even small acts of respect and kindness can make a big impact on our school and community.

Interestingly, I thought I'd also mention that anti-bullying and wellbeing ties in with some news from Australia, where they're exploring the possibility of banning social media use for under-16s. This is a move aimed at protecting young people's mental health, as social media can, in some cases, have a negative impact on self-esteem and well-being. While a full ban may be debatable, it's a thought-provoking development, reminding us all of the importance of guiding our children thoughtfully in

their online lives. For our pupils, still so young, social media can be both intriguing and challenging, so it's essential we strike a balance—keeping them safe and teaching them healthy online habits without making these platforms feel like forbidden fruit.

On Tuesday, we hosted our Open Morning for prospective parents, and it was another fantastic turnout. It's always a pleasure to welcome visitors to see the school in action, and our pupils were, as ever, the best ambassadors we could ask for. Several visitors commented on how they left wishing their children would grow up just like the pupils they met that morning—a testament to our pupils' kindness, confidence, and positivity!

And now, the moment many of us have been waiting for... Christmas really is coming! Next week, the festive spirit will be in full swing as our school Christmas tree arrives. Following a tradition we began a couple of years ago, each pupil has their own labelled Christmas tree decoration, which they proudly place on the tree year after year until they leave us in Year 6. We have

sorted the decorations and handed them out to class teachers, ready decorating! For those new to the school this year, or any pupil who doesn't yet have a decoration, I ask that you help them choose one that is labelled with their first and last name (but no need for class names) and send it in to the class teacher. There's no need for anything elaborate—a simple, festive ornament will do the trick. If finding one is difficult, don't worry; we have a few spare decorations in the office for the children to choose from. This tradition of tree-decorating is always such a joy, with each child's contribution adding to the shared festive spirit and unity of our school family.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you tonight for the school quiz! Don't forget that our silent auction also ends today, so be sure to place your bids on the fantastic lots generously offered by the teachers—these should bring a lot of fun for the pupils!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Art

We're thrilled to announce the opening of our new hallway Art Gallery, a vibrant showcase of our young artists' incredible talents! Thanks to Mr. Davies' hard work painting the corridor, installing new lights, and mounting frames (with plenty of patience as Mrs Nilsson and Ms Williams measured and rearranged multiple times), the gallery beautifully highlights our students' creativity and dedication. With regular updates planned, there will always be something fresh and inspiring to see. We hope you'll take a moment to stop by, enjoy the artwork, and celebrate the artistic spirit that shines within our school community.

We are also excited to share an upcoming project: a large mural will soon brighten the entrance of our school, extending from outside Mr. Carter's office and up the stairway! Titled the "Garden of Knowledge," this mural will bring to life a sprawling, colourful garden where vibrant plants and animals represent different aspects of learning and personal growth. Designed and painted by Ms. Williams, we are inviting students to add their own creative touches, reflecting our school's core character traits.

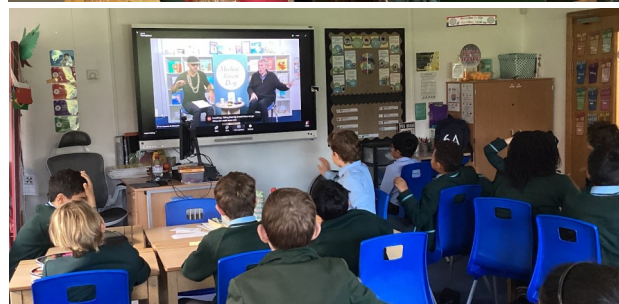
We will be asking pupils to think about how our Character Values like teamwork, resilience, and adaptability can be expressed visually. Ms Williams will be asking each class to create artwork inspired by these ideas and submit it to the Art Room collection box by the end of the term. We look forward to bringing this shared vision to life and sharing updates throughout the year!



Michael Rosen Day 2024

The very first Michael Rosen Day was on Tuesday 12th November 2024, and both Years 2 and 6 joined a live webinar with Michael Rosen himself, hosted by the renowned MC Grammar, to mark the occasion!

Throughout the webinar, the children listened to various anecdotes from Michael Rosen's long career, including some of his famous stories. One particular story that the children loved was his piece called '[No Breathing In Class](#)', and by the end, they were joining in with the words and actions (helped by the lift-up desks in Year 6!) Of course, Michael couldn't end the webinar without revisiting his famous '[Hot Food](#)' poem, sharing details about how his son helped him upload it to YouTube ahead of it going viral on social media. The children are all now well-versed in Michael Rosen's three-stage process to achieve the perfect 'Noice!' - *don't be surprised if you hear this one at home!*



Michael Rosen Day

12TH NOVEMBER 2024

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk. It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.



Parent Partnership Event Reminders

We have two events next week which we would love you to join.

Being a Positive Influence in Your Child's Life

As part of our ongoing Parent Partnership series, we'd like to remind all parents and guardians about our upcoming event on **Monday, 18th November, from 08:30 to 09:00**.

We are delighted to welcome our in-school counsellor, David Brooks, who will be leading a session titled "Being a Positive Influence in Your Child's Life." In this session, David will share practical strategies and insights to help you positively influence your child's growth, self-esteem, and overall well-being.

With his extensive experience in supporting children's emotional well-being, this is a fantastic opportunity to engage with David and discover how you can have a lasting, positive impact on your child's journey.

We look forward to seeing you there for what promises to be an engaging and valuable discussion!

Don't Miss Our Live Parent Education Session on Maths & English!

Get an inside look into your child's learning journey at our live Parent Education session on Maths and English! Join us on **Thursday, 21st November, at 5pm**, at St. Christopher's The Hall for an event packed with hands-on insights into how we make learning dynamic and engaging.

This is a unique opportunity to step into the classroom experience, see our vibrant teaching methods, and discover how we bring Maths and English to life. Since this is a live-only session, mark your calendars—don't miss the chance to connect with us and see your child's education in action! We look forward to seeing you there!

Eco Awareness and our Award!

We are thrilled to announce that our school has proudly earned the Green Flag award! This prestigious recognition celebrates our commitment to creating a truly Eco-friendly school environment. Through our dedicated projects, we've championed sustainability, reduced waste, minimised our carbon footprint, encouraged biodiversity, and so much more. Our pupils have been at the heart of these Eco-initiatives, gaining a deep sense of responsibility for the environment while learning the power of collaboration and community action. Our efforts not only benefit our school but also contribute to a positive global impact. We couldn't be prouder to display this award as a testament to our unwavering dedication to protecting our planet.



Year 2

Year 2 had the most wonderful time at the Tower of London on Friday, which was organised to deepen our knowledge on the Great Fire of London. In the coach on the way there, we really enjoyed spotting many of the landmarks we have been learning about, such as The Shard and Tower Bridge.



When we arrived, we began our workshop which took us back to 1666 and brought all of our learning to life. The workshop leader was impressed with all of our knowledge. After lunch, we went to see the Crown Jewels, we were mesmerised by all the shiny diamonds. Finally, we got to explore the grounds which were made extra special by the display of poppies for Remembrance Day.

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Y6 STEM Workshop at The Cedars

Last week, Year 6 were invited to The Cedars, over in Crystal Palace, for a morning of STEM workshops hosted by some of their teachers.

To start the morning, the children had a Chemistry lesson, and they were introduced to the periodic table. Listening to a song, the children noted down some of the elements that they recognised, along with their chemical symbols. For example: Gold = Au, Calcium = Ca, Iron = Fe. After this, the children worked in pairs to investigate different liquids, checking for the presence of any elements



by observing how they reacted to a flame. In doing so, the children noticed that some liquids contained different elements, for example, Copper Sulphate and Lithium Iodide, and these caused the flame to change colour. All of a sudden, the invention of fireworks and how we get such bright colours started to make sense!



Sport

It's been an extremely busy week for our sports teams. On Monday, our Year 4s travelled to Merton Court for a tag rugby match and it was great to see all their hard work in lessons being transferred to the matches. We were particularly impressed with both their organisation in defence and their support play in attack and they should be extremely pleased with the progress they are making. On Tuesday, our Year 4 girls travelled over to Eltham College to take part in the U9 Netball Tournament. Ms Steeden was extremely impressed with the level of play from our girls and they should be proud of their third place finish. Wednesday saw our Cross Country team take

part in the Merton Court relays. A fantastic event, which involved running 1km through both parkland and woodland. All runners performed superbly and the team spirit amongst the group was outstanding. All runners should be proud of their efforts and a special mention to our Year 6 girls, who narrowly missed out on a third place finish. Today, our Year 6 girls head over to Eltham College to play netball and next week sees our Year 3s travel to Royal Russell for Netball matches and our Year 5 & 6 rugby teams heading over to Breaside for an afternoon of fixtures. Well done to all involved and we look forward to seeing the sporting progress of all pupils throughout the rest of the term.

Allergy reminder:

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



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pupil Achievement

This week, Harnoop and Gurshaan proudly represented St. Christopher's at Croydon Minster's multi-faith Peace Vigil on Remembrance Day, where they performed as part of Croydon's Sikh School. Harnoop played the Dilruba, a classical instrument she's mastering for her Grade 4 exam, while Gurshaan showcased his skills on the Tabla. Their impressive performance, despite limited rehearsal time, captivated an audience of all faiths.

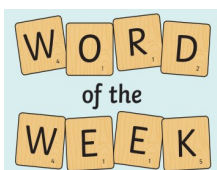
Following this event, they've been invited to play at Fairfield Halls and with the London Mozart Players—an incredible achievement!

If your child has achievements outside school, please let Mr. Carter know, as he loves hearing about pupils' successes!



Word of the Week

We missed including our "Word of the Week" in last week's newsletter, but do ask your child what the word was and see if they can remember the definition! In Prep School, it was a particularly challenging one—so much so that Mr. Carter had to look it up himself before discussing it in assembly!



This week's words are:

Pre-Prep: **Meagre** (*meaning small in quantity or lacking in fullness*)

Prep: **Peruse** (*meaning to read or examine carefully*)

To help reinforce these words at home, here are a few fun ideas:

Definition Guessing Game: Ask your child to use the word in a sentence or describe what it means in their own words. Can they think of something in their day that was meagre? Or maybe they could peruse a book and tell you something new they noticed!

Sentence Swap: Take turns coming up with a sentence using each word. For example, "The Pre-Prep lunch was anything but meagre!" or "I plan to peruse the family recipe book this weekend."

We hope these words spark some great conversations at home and help build their vocabulary in a fun way!

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 at [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! You can also now follow us on Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 18th November

- The School Christmas Tree arrives!!
- Being a positive influence on your child's life Parent Workshop (08:30-09:00)
- Year 3 Netball v Royal Russell (Away)

Tuesday 19th November

- Year 4 Robotics Trip - Natural History Museum

Thursday 21st November

- Parent Education - English and Maths (17:00-18:45)
- Year 3 Horniman Museum

Friday 22nd November

- Year 3 Egyptian Day
- Year 5 & 6 Rugby v Breaside (Away) (14:45-16:30)