

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The weeks are flying by - quite literally, in fact! I can hardly believe we've already completed week four of this half-term, with just two more to go before the break.

Speaking of flying (not flapping!), last week the whole school took

part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch, and what a fantastic time we had spotting our feathered friends. The children eagerly counted the birds they saw in the field and on the playground, with Preschool keeping a close eye on the crows enthusiastically digging up the grass in search of worms - though they did leave quite a mess behind! Reception got creative making bird feeders, while Year 2 generously scattered seeds to attract more visitors. The whole school embraced the challenge, using their maths skills to tally up all the different birds they spotted. Our keen-eyed observations and careful counting even earned us certificates from the RSPB - a wonderful reward for our budding birdwatchers!

I was also delighted to pop into the Reception classes last week to hand out some certificates of creativity! The reason? Our fabulous young artists recently took part in the national Young Artists competition, with the theme "Me & My Family", and I can tell you, their drawings were nothing short of spectacular! The way they captured the warmth, love, and unique perspective of family life

in their artwork was truly heartwarming. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that EVERY single one of their entries has been selected to be included in a special book that will be published soon! What an amazing achievement! We are bursting with pride over their hard work, imagination, and enthusiasm. We can't wait for you to see



their masterpieces in print! Stay tuned for more exciting details about the book's release—more to come soon!

On Wednesday, Mrs. Titchener and Mrs. Shivers led a fantastic assembly to introduce Children's Mental Health Week, which kicks off next week. This special week is all about helping children understand the importance of looking after their mental well-being, just as they do their physical health. Through discussions and activities, we'll be encouraging them to explore ways to express their feelings, build resilience, and support one another. We're looking forward to a week full of positivity, reflection, and creativity—and we can't wait to share some of their wonderful work with you in next week's newsletter!

Have a super weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



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Allergy reminder:

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



Strategy Game ECHO Club

Pre-Prep students have enjoyed employing a variety of strategies to solve problems. Students have played thinking games involving fruits and movement, developing their listening skills at the same time. Recently, the children enjoyed having to think about strategies to use when solving mazes and word puzzles. They will also be using logic and thinking skills to solve a variety of challenging puzzles over the upcoming weeks.



History ECHO club

This term, History Club has been buzzing with excitement as students dive into a wide range of fascinating topics, including the *Titanic*, the *Tudors*, and the *Cold War*. Each student has chosen a subject that sparks their curiosity, uncovering key events, influential figures, and the stories behind them.

From the tragic voyage of the *Titanic* to the dramatic reign of Henry VIII and the global tensions of the *Cold War*, the club has become a hub of discovery and creativity. Students are honing their research, critical thinking, and presentation skills, using iPads, laptops, and a vast array of library books to bring history to life.

Currently, members are busy compiling notes to create online presentations using Google Slides or Freeform. The club is a space for lively discussions and fresh inspiration, and our students are eager to share their findings with one another. Together, we are making history not just a subject to study but an adventure to explore!



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Preschool

This half term the Preschool children have been using their imaginations to talk about 'the land of the dinosaurs' and 'living in Outer space'. We have done lots of investigating and we have found out so many things about dinosaurs and our universe. This week we have been having a lot of fun learning about Lunar New Year. We have made lanterns, dragon puppets and fans. It is the Year of the Snake, so we have been practising our cutting skills by making our own snakes. Our sound this week has been 'u' for umbrella, which has been rather appropriate considering the weather!



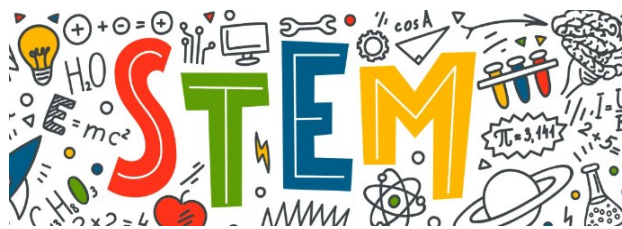
Social Media

There have been some great new posts this week about our European Day of Languages and our parent assemblies on our social media channels so follow us at @stchristhehall on insta and Twitter, as well as @stchristhehallsport to get all the inside info from school life!



Year 2 Science

Year 2 absolutely love Science, and this term our topic is 'Uses of Everyday Materials'. We have been learning how to make sensible predictions using scientific reasons, and then carrying out investigations to find out the results. So far, we have investigated the best material for trainer soles and the most suitable paper for different scenarios, such as mopping spilt liquid and wrapping a present. This week, we worked in teams to build the most well-balanced and tallest building using 20 paper cups. The most valuable lesson we learnt was the importance of building a strong and wide enough foundation to allow the rest of the building to balance.



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Alternative Sports

This ECHO Club aims to provide an opportunity for children in Prep School to try sports that they would not normally get as part of their PE and Games lessons.

Over the half term, the children will have the chance to play a range of sports, including: lacrosse, table tennis, badminton and in-door hockey. They will learn the basic rules and skills involved with each activity and then have the chance to play against other pupils in the club.

The key skills focussed on are: Physical Fitness, Hand-eye Coordination, Social Skills and Resilience.

The first two weeks saw the children take part in lacrosse, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Being a multi-skilled sport, the children wowed Mr Murphy and Mr Chowdhury with how adept they were with their stick skills, understanding of space, how to make and receive a pass, and accurate scoring.

This week, the children got the chance to play table-tennis and understand the difference between a Let, Smash and Drop Shot. The children have enjoyed each session and look forward to what the following week will bring.



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.



Auction news

A group of children joined Mrs Titchener and Mrs Shivers, in the ultimate Pizza and Pamper Party! This exciting event was won by Inez in Year 5, after the silent auction. The girls took part in hand massages, hair braiding, manicures, relaxation and pizza! It was an afternoon full of giggles and a real pamper.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 3rd February

- Mental Health Awareness Week Starts

Friday 7th February

- NSPPC Number Day
- Year 5 Football v Breaside (Away)
All Year 5 to play (14:30-16:15)
- Pre-Prep Disco (15:15-16:30)

Preschool and Pre-Prep pupils can come in wearing their own clothes on Friday