

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week, we have been focusing on Mental Health Week, brilliantly organised by Mrs. Titchener and Mrs. Shivers. Pupils were encouraged to explore the importance of mental well-being, self-expression, and supporting one another. Our pupils

have engaged with the topic in thoughtful and creative ways, from discussions and activities to practical strategies for looking after their mental health. See how our pupils have embraced the theme, in this week's newsletter!

Our Year 6 pupils have officially completed their 11+ journey, and now we eagerly await the final results, all of which will be received by the Friday before half-term. No matter the outcome, we couldn't be prouder of them. Their hard work, resilience, and determination have been very noticeable. In fact, some of the Heads of secondary schools have already shared fantastic feedback, not simply about their academics, but also about their confidence, character, and all-around brilliance. It's wonderful to hear that they are shining just as brightly beyond our school walls! But as one journey comes to a close, another begins! Our focus now shifts to our Year 5 parents, guiding them through the 11+ process and ensuring they feel supported every step of the way, and we have our first meeting booked on March 18th - more details nearer the time. We have already kicked off targeted group interventions with the Year 5 pupils, carefully designed to build skills and confidence early on. On a personal note, I'm absolutely loving teaching my Year 5 English group - it's one of the highlights of my week! Seeing their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing abilities is incredibly rewarding, and I can't wait to continue this exciting journey with them.

I wanted to share some of the fantastic benefits we've already seen from our merger with St Dunstan's—one of which has been the incredible boost in marketing. And before you ask, no, this doesn't mean Mrs. Jeffery and I have been moonlighting as leaflet distributors in our spare time! A staggering 30,000 leaflets have been delivered spreading the word about our Open Mornings. You may have spotted one coming through your

own letterbox (if it didn't get immediately claimed by the dog or mistaken for yet another takeaway menu). But that's not all - we've even been promoted at local train stations on the digital visual displays, rubbing shoulders with daily commuters. We have also featured in several magazines, with interviews from me and eye-catching adverts show-casing all that makes our school so special. It's safe to say this kind of large-scale promotion is something we could never have achieved alone. Being part of something bigger brings huge advantages, and this is just one of the many ways we are already reaping the rewards. More visibility means more opportunities, more brilliant pupils joining us, and an even stronger school community.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Lowe into our school this week. As a Governor of the St Dunstan's Educational Group and an experienced educational consultant, she has been working closely with us to review teaching and learning across the School. She has spent time observing lessons, assessing how our pupils progress, and offering valuable guidance to help us continue striving for excellence. Reflecting on our teaching practices is essential for continuous improvement. By regularly evaluating our methods, we can identify areas for growth and implement strategies to enhance student learning outcomes. This process not only benefits our students but also contributes to our professional development as educators. Educational consultants play a crucial role in this reflective process, bringing an external perspective, offering insights and recommendations that might not be apparent from within the School. Their expertise helps us align our practices with current educational standards and best practices, ensuring that we provide the best possible learning environment for our students. I know the staff found her feedback useful, and by embracing reflective practices and collaborating with experts, we can continue to refine our teaching methods, adapt to the evolving educational landscape, and maintain a commitment to excellence in education.

I am now off to put my dancing shoes on, ready for the Pre-Prep disco.

Mr Carter
Head Teacher

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Mental Health Week

This week we celebrated Children's Mental Health Awareness Week at St Christopher's. Each class enjoyed two dedicated form times, in which they completed well being centered activities.

In Reception, the children crafted a mobile, which they used to 'shower each other' in kindness.

Year 1 wrote compliment cards to their peers, to show their appreciation for their classmates. This helped foster a sense of belonging and was an opportunity to celebrate each other's individuality.

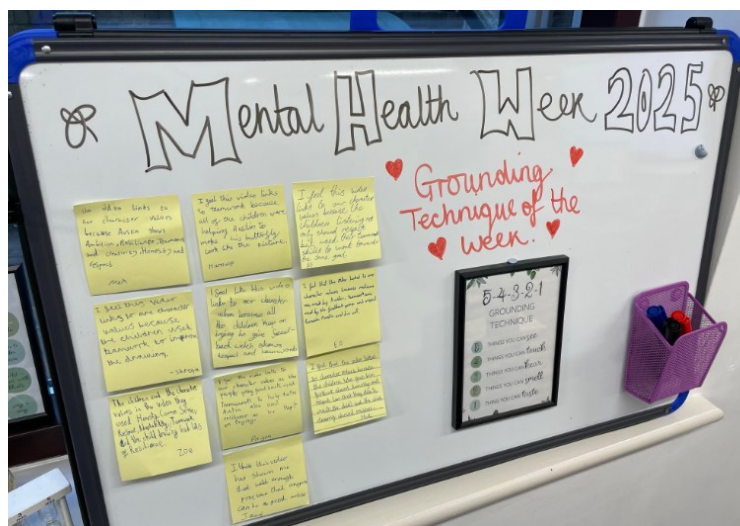
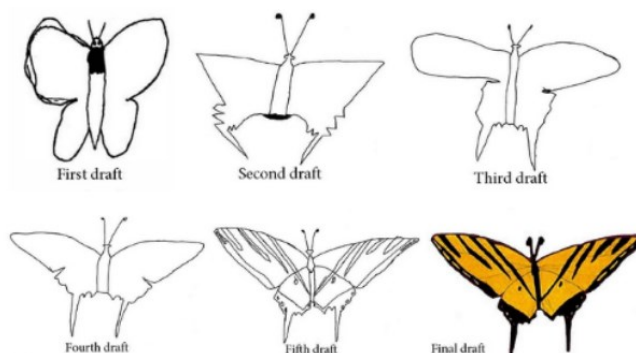
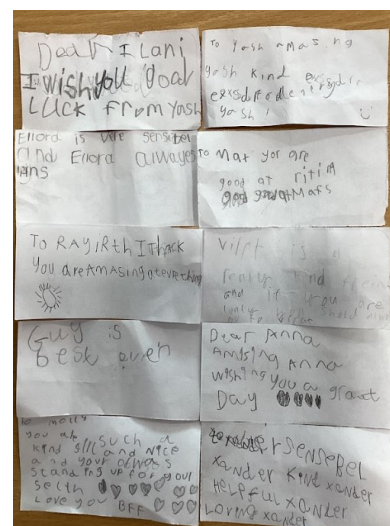


Year 4 watched 'Austin's Butterfly', a powerful and extraordinary video about the power of resilience, they then discussed how this could be applied to their own lives.

Positive affirmation lanyards were made in Year

5. In addition, the children designed and drew their happy, safe place. We discussed how they can envisage this space and mentally transport themselves there when they experience feelings in blue, yellow or red zone (Zones of Regulation).

Year 6 learnt about their 'grounding technique of the week', another practical example of tools that the children can utilise from their wellbeing toolkit to support the children when they are seeking calmness.



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Local news: Beckenham Library reopens after a revamp

We're always encouraging a love of reading at school, so why not take your children to visit the newly revamped Beckenham Library and pick out some fantastic books?

Author and actress Baroness Floella Benjamin joined Bromley Mayor Cllr David Jefferys and local celebrity Stella the cat for the grand reopening of the library on Wednesday, 5th February.

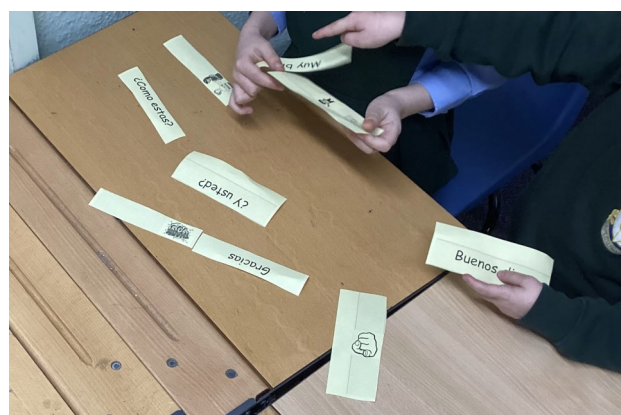
Originally opened in 1939, the library has had an exciting makeover, including a wonderful children's section with a giant wall frieze featuring artwork by local kids! Floella Benjamin, who visited the library as a child, described libraries as "a place where children should come to explore places far, far away."

Why not drop by, discover the magic of books, and let your child's imagination take flight? Beckenham Library, 22 Beckenham Road, BR3 4PE



Hispanic ECHO Club

So far this term in Hispanic ECHO Club sessions, Pre-Prep pupils have learnt about which countries outside of Spain speak Spanish, the customs around greeting people in Latin America and also about the Quinceañera celebrations in Mexico, Cuba and Puerto Rico. The children have learnt some colour words in Spanish, basic greetings and vocabulary relating to birthdays and parties. The pupils have also performed short dialogues in Spanish to the rest of the club. In future sessions, the children will explore some famous Hispanic people through time and will learn more about the food found in Latin American countries.



Basic Sign Language ECHO

This half term, a small group of Prep children enjoyed learning basic British Sign Language (BSL). The children have all become confident in finger spelling the alphabet as well as learning basic words, sentences and phrases. At the end of each session, we have been learning to sign a song that the children will perform in an assembly at the end of term, which we are all excited about!



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!



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Reception Dance

During the Celebration Assembly this week, RO performed their dance they have created during PE this half term. Each week they have focused on a different nursery rhyme and as a class, created actions to represent each rhyme. The full video of the dance will be uploaded to our sport instagram page soon [@stchristhehallsport](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehallsport)



Book Lovers ECHO Club

During our ECHO Club for Book Lovers, pupils have been exploring the facilities of our school library in more depth. For example, pupils have been shown the inner-workings of our library cataloguing system, how to identify which child has which book out on loan and... which books are overdue. Uh-oh!

Each session has started with one of Mr Pretara's book challenges, which has prompted some wonderful book-talk, for example:

- Find three books with a fantastical setting
- Find three books containing a character from a different religion or cultural background to you
- Find three books set in a school
- Find three books that you have read and would recommend

Thereafter, the pupils are set a mission to complete for the afternoon. In recent weeks, pupils have been set the challenge to research, design and create their own library competition which we hope to launch after half term. It has been lovely to see the children work in pairs from across our Prep School to achieve success!



SCA AGM



The SCA will be holding its annual AGM on Tuesday 11th February at 8pm via Zoom. We encourage you all to join the meeting and hear from the Trustees / Committee in the past year. Reports will be circulated on Monday for review. To join the meeting, please use the following details.

Topic: SCA AGM 2025
Time: Feb 11, 2025 08:00 PM London
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/5x9b5vu4>

Meeting ID: 834 524 7382; **Passcode:** sReSv7

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

What's Happening Next Week

Monday 10th February

- Year 3 Viking workshop (am)
- Women in Mechanical Engineering Society Assembly (13:30)
- Year 3 and 4 Girls' Netball v Merton Court (Home) (14:00-15:30)

Tuesday 11th February

- Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th February

- Year 6 Science Museum Trip

Thursday 13th February

- Mrs Paulidas Singing and Piano Music Tea (16:00-17:00)

Friday 14th February

- End of the Half-Term
school restarts on Monday 24th February