

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe, but here we are - already at the halfway point of the Spring Term! The speed at which this term has flown by is nothing short of astonishing, and even more so when we realise that we are now halfway through the academic year. With

so much happening, it's no wonder time has run away with us!

One of the biggest milestones of this term has, of course, been the announcement of our merger with St Dunstan's Educational Group. This exciting development has certainly kept us busy, and I had the opportunity to visit the grounds near Park Langley on a particularly brisk Monday morning with Mrs Stamate, Mr. Murphy and the Director of Estates at SDEG. In the future, these grounds will be available to us, opening up new opportunities for our sports provision, including the potential to host larger tournaments for local schools. While some work is needed to bring the facilities up to standard, this is an exciting project that we look forward to seeing take shape.

Another highlight of the term was our first Open Morning, which was exceptionally well attended. Typically, this time of year is quieter in terms of admissions, as children are settled in their schools. However, the power of marketing has been evident, with several pupils expressing interest in joining us imminently. Our school's reputation is certainly on the rise!

We have packed in plenty of action to round off this half-term. On Monday, we were delighted to welcome the Mechanical Engineering Society from Imperial College for a special STEM assembly. Tuesday saw us mark Safer Internet Day, an annual event that becomes more relevant each year as technology plays an increasingly prominent role in our lives. Ensuring that children use the internet safely is an ongoing conversation, and studies highlight the importance of open discus-

sions at home about online safety, screen time, and digital well-being.

As we wrap up the half-term, your child's mid-year report will be arriving in your inbox today at 16:15. If you don't see it, please check your junk folder, and if it's still missing, let the School Office know so we can resend it. A huge thank you to Mrs Ibini for sorting the electronic delivery of all of these reports for Years R-Year 6: a mammoth task, as I am sure you can imagine! These reports provide a snapshot of your child's progress and follow on from the conversations during Parents' Evening in the Autumn Term. Our aim is always to support every child in reaching their full potential, and we encourage you to celebrate their achievements, no matter how big or small. Speaking of progress, I recently came across a pictorial representation that beautifully illustrates how we all grow at different rates and in different ways.



Learning is not a linear pathway, and just like nature, pupils develop and grow at different times and at their own pace. I've included it here as a little reminder - not just for the children, but for all of us!

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful and restful half-term. For our Year 6 families, I imagine there will be plenty of celebrations following the excellent 11+ re-

sults - well done to all! For everyone else, I hope this is a time to relax, recharge, and enjoy some precious family moments. If you do nothing else over the break, please continue reading with your child every day. Reading is one of the most beneficial things you can do to support their learning, building vocabulary, comprehension, and imagination in ways that are invaluable. For those looking for additional activities, why not continue working on our Life Skills Challenge? This initiative is designed to help children build confidence and independence through practical tasks, from tying shoelaces and setting the table to cooking and tidying up. Next term's House Meeting will review how pupils have progressed with these challenges. You can find the full list on our website [here](#).

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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URGENT REMINDER

A quick reminder that we have an **all-staff Safe-guarding training session** on **Tuesday, 25th February 2025**, from **4-6 pm**. As this session is mandatory for all school staff and no other dates were available, we had to schedule it on this day.

This means **SCAMPS will not be available after 4pm**. Please arrange for **Prep School children to be picked up at the normal time of 3:45pm**. Preschool and Pre-Prep children should also be picked up at their usual times, or from **SCAMPS before 4pm**, so that the training can begin promptly.

Additionally, **there will be no after-school clubs** on this day, as many club leaders will be attending the training.

We understand this may cause inconvenience, and we apologise for any disruption. Thank you for your understanding and for making alternative arrangements.

Allergy reminder:

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



STEM Workshop

On Monday 10th February, St Christopher's welcomed two students from the Women in Mechanical Engineering Society at Imperial College, London, to talk to our pupils about what Mechanical Engineering is. Lucy and Tatiana spoke passionately about the projects they had worked on such as hydrogen powered cars and an interesting looking pedal powered bike that floats on water. Our visitors talked about the importance of

needing to spend as much time planning their projects as well as making them, and how important problem solving skills are. It was also clear how essential team-work is when planning and carrying out a project. Our pupils had lots of



brilliant questions such as whether they had had any projects that did not work and what they enjoyed most about their degree subject. It was a really inspiring assembly and the curiosity from our pupils towards quite a complex subject made us really proud to take part in such an informative and inspirational presentation.

Art and Colour ECHO

In Art and Colour this term, we have been looking at the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky.

The children worked collaboratively, using iPads and books to research this famous artist. It was truly wonderful to witness the harmony in which the children worked as they created and presented their fact files to the rest of the group. One fact we discovered was, Kandinsky was considered a pioneer of abstract art. Also, we also found out, Kandinsky had a rare neurological condition called Synesthesia which meant that one of his five senses cross-wired with another. In Kandinsky's case, he saw colour when he heard music.

Over the weeks, the children tried to visualise this to different genres of music as they created a vis-

ual symphony. They listened and danced to background music ranging from well known pieces by the composer Hans Zimmer, Gene Kelly's 'Singing In The Rain' or the well known, 'We Love to Boogie' (a true favourite !). As we reflected on various Kandinsky's paintings, the children were inspired by his famous painting 'Colour study: Squares with Concentric Circles'. They embraced the idea of concentric shapes to create their own piece of artwork. Just in time for spring and Valentine's Day, they crafted 3D heart decorations and a Tree of Life Blossom Tree.

For more interesting facts about Wassily Kandinsky please click here:

[Mati and Dada Video](#)



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Number Day

Last Friday was 'NSPCC Number Day' at St Christopher's where the whole school took part in class activities to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this fun and important event.

The day began with a recap of the valuable work of the NSPCC, Child-line and how important it is to safeguard children during an assembly led by Mrs Morris and Mr Chowdhury. Teachers were encouraged to take part in an estimation quiz relating to SCTH. Do you know how many members of staff work at our school?



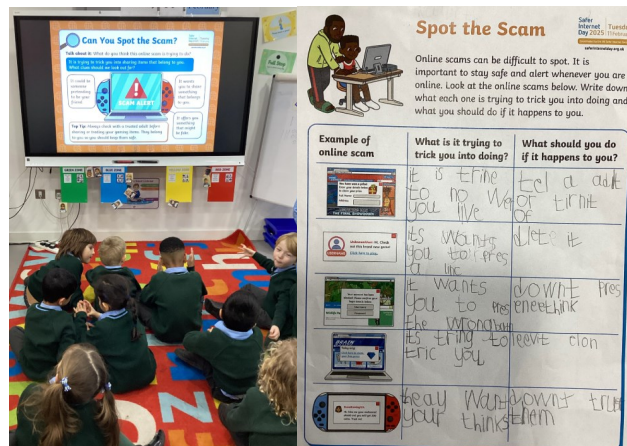
Every class participated in Maths lessons that were planned around the theme of '10'. Activities included making posters centered around the answer of 10, so what would the question be? Interactive number bonds to 10, to name just a few. All in all, the children and adults had a fun time and the pupils from Year 2 to 6 also got to take part in the TTRS themed 'NSPCC Rocks' competition which ran for the day against each other and other schools, with some brilliant results. The outcome of this competition will be announced soon.

Thank you to all the children and staff for entering into the spirit of being a rock star in order to make the day a success.



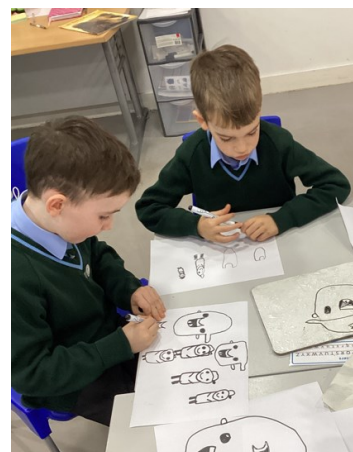
Safer Internet Day

We marked Safer Internet Day this week along with schools, sports clubs and charities across the country and in over 170 other countries. On the day itself an assembly was held, and the children have been following up on this in their classes during the week with activities based around the theme of keeping ourselves safe from scams online. Reception have been talking about who their safe adults are that they can talk to and Pre-Prep have been scam spotting with Eagle-Eyed Eddie. In the Prep school, they have been scam detectives and game show contestants in Spot the Scam.



Cartoon Art Club - ECHO

Cartoon Art Club has been very busy this half term. We have started off with basic face shapes and then learned how to change the expression by giving the character different eyes and mouth shapes. In other weeks, we have learned to draw a famous character from the Lilo and Stitch films and also found out how to create the illusion of movement in our drawings. Finally we have created a simple cartoon animation with a flick book which was great fun!



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SCA News

SCA Annual AGM Update

The SCA recently held its annual AGM, and we would like to extend our thanks to all the parents and teachers who attended. Meeting papers were circulated in advance, and the minutes will be shared in due course.



It is with sadness that we announce Bobby and Emma have stepped down as Co-Chairs. They will be succeeded by Dagmar Noe and Carly Cambage, and we wish them both the very best in their new roles - we know the SCA is in excellent hands. Additionally, after five incredible years as Treasurer, Fiona Beaton has also stepped down, with Rachel Persad taking over the role. We are deeply grateful to Fiona for her dedication and commitment over the years.

On a personal note, Bobby and Emma would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the staff, parents, and volunteers for their support throughout their time as Chairs. It has been an honour to lead the SCA, and they wish everyone all the very best for the future.

A Note from Your New Co-Chairs

We're delighted to be taking on the role of Co-Chairs and, alongside our fantastic committee, are excited to start planning fun events and raising funds for our exciting new Pre-Prep playground project.

Our next committee meeting will be held at Scamps on Friday, 7th March, at 8:30 am. This meeting is open to all parents - whether you'd like to contribute ideas, learn more about the SCA, or simply join us for a coffee and a pastry after the whirlwind of drop-off!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dagmar and Carly

SCA Co-Chairs (parents of pupils in Rec)

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.



Prep School SCA Disco

After the success of the Pre-Prep SCA Disco, we're thrilled to announce the upcoming Prep Disco! Mark your calendars for **Friday, 28th February**, from **3:45 PM to 5:30 PM**. It's going to be an afternoon of fun, music, and dancing, and we can't wait to see everyone there!

It's the first week back after half term, and Prep pupils can come into school wearing their disco outfits and show off their best dance moves! Prep clubs will not be running on this day.

Tickets are now available for purchase on www.scasales.co.uk, so be sure to grab yours before they sell out!

We hope to see you on the dance floor!



What's Happening After Half-Term

Tuesday 25th February

- **No Clubs or SCAMPs - all children to be picked up at the end of the school day**

Wednesday 26th February

- Year 4 trip to Dulwich Picture Gallery

Thursday 27th February

- IAPS Netball Tournament (all day)

Friday 28th February

- Prep Disco - Prep pupils to come in wearing their own clothes
- Year 4 Roman Workshop