

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful and refreshing February half-term. From the many pupil achievements shared this week, it's clear that several families enjoyed holidays in delightfully snowy destinations - perhaps perfecting their ski turns

or just making the most of the winter wonderland! In contrast, I opted for a much sunnier escape to the Canary Islands, which made Monday morning's rain quite the shock to the system! That being said, it was truly lovely to see the children back in school and to reconnect with the staff again. Our school has always felt like a real community, and returning after a break always reminds me just how much I miss seeing both pupils and staff. This is more than just a job - it's a vocation, and being part of such a warm, supportive environment makes coming back something to look forward to.

Speaking of exciting things happening around school, I'm thrilled to see some of our recent initiatives and changes beginning to take shape. Ms. Williams, our very talented art teacher, has shared with me the first illustration of what will

be a stunning mural at the entrance of the school. It beautifully incorporates our school values and character traits, alongside inspiration from the pupils themselves. The staircase mural is also set to be a fantastic addition, making the space feel even more welcoming and vibrant.

This week, we also launched a new initiative in form time called 'Secret Reader.' Parents from our community are recording themselves reading books aloud, each with an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion theme. It's been wonderful to introduce this to the children, and if any parents would like to get involved, we would love to have more participants! In the coming weeks, I intend to record a little video reading a text with an EDI spin for the pupils to enjoy. I know I'm looking forward to it, and it'll be a fun surprise for them when I pop up on their screen! If you'd like to take part, please do get in touch with Mrs. Shivers or Mrs. Titchener.



A huge thank you for your understanding and flexibility on Tuesday when we were unable to offer Scamps or after-school clubs. We truly appreciate that this may have posed a challenge, and we hope the advance notice helped you plan accordingly. I must admit, it felt very strange and empty indeed at 4pm on Tuesday with no children around at all! The school was eerily quiet without the usual buzz and laughter. This change was necessary due to our whole-school safeguarding training, something we take incredibly seriously. Safeguarding is not just a responsibility at our school - it is a fundamental priority that underpins everything we do. Our goal is to ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and able to thrive both in their learning and personal development.

This involves being proactive in identifying risks, ensuring children know they have trusted adults to turn to, and equipping our staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect and support pupils effectively.

Finally, as you will also be aware, as of today, 28th February 2025, St Christopher's is now officially part of the St Dunstan's Education Group (SDEG). Although we have been in the process of transitioning into the group over the past half

term, today marks the official integration. The last half term has been a very full and intense one, but also incredibly enjoyable as we begin to reap the benefits of being part of something larger. This is just the beginning, and we are excited about the opportunities this partnership will bring for our school and your children's education. This week, you will have received a letter from Mr Hewlett, the Head of the Group, which shares details of the subtle changes for you, including how this affects your payments and contracts. Please rest assured that your child's education will remain unaffected by these changes.

I'm looking forward to the rest of this half-term and everything we have in store.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Year 6 - Visit to the Science Museum

On Wednesday 12th February, Year 6 pupils embarked on an exciting journey to The Science Museum, taking the train and a tube from Beckenham Junction over to South Kensington. On arrival, pupils attended the 'Power Up' exhibition, a highlight of the day, where they had the chance to play on a variety of computer consoles from the past five decades. From early gaming systems to modern-day machines, the exhibition was a fun-filled experience - as well as nostalgic for the adults - that allowed the students to learn about the evolution of technology and gaming in a hands-on, engaging way.

After lunch, the pupils explored the Wonder Lab, where they were captivated by the plethora of interactive science experiments. The Wonder Lab featured exciting demonstrations, linking in with a range of topics they have learnt at school, including their current unit on Electricity. A particular favourite moment for the pupils was an experiment which included three giant slides, designed to support pupils in learning about friction. Pupils eagerly took turns sliding down and observing how different materials affected their speed, giving reasons to support their views. The immersive nature of the exhibit brought Science to life, enabling pupils to engage directly with key scientific concepts in a way that isn't always possible in the classroom. Overall, the trip was an unforgettable experience, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for all areas of STEM..



RE - Holi Assembly

On Wednesday, Mrs Titchener and Mrs Shivers organised for Nabhi, who has been practicing and teaching Hinduism for over 30 years, to deliver a Holi Festival assembly for the whole school. It included a presentation on Hinduism, many Hindu stories, songs and information about the many festivals that they celebrate. In March, Holi is celebrated worldwide. Nabhi explained what Holi is and why it is celebrated as well as a colour throwing demonstration by Mrs Titchener and Mrs Shivers! The children were full of enthusiasm and excitement to learn about the wonderful celebration of Spring, colours, new life and love. We look forward to welcoming Nabhi back to share more about his Hindu practices in the future.



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pupil Achievement

At St Christopher's, we love celebrating our pupils' achievements both in and out of school. This half term, several of our pupils took on exciting challenges and showed great determination in their pursuits.



Evie (Year 5) and Jonah (Year 2) embraced a brand-new experience during their holiday in Lech, Austria, where they took to the slopes for their very first ski trip. They successfully completed a week of ski school, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm as they mastered

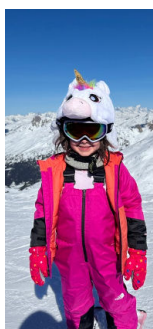
the basics of skiing. At the end of the week, they competed in races against their teammates, earning well-deserved medals. A special congratulations to Evie, who secured second place and was awarded a cup for her achievement!

Meanwhile, Leo (Preschool) had the incredible honor of leading the Lunar New Year parade in Southampton.

As the dragon head carrier, he proudly guided the procession along the High Street, walking with confidence alongside his



auntie and receiving cheers from the crowd. This was a fantastic opportunity to take part in a vibrant cultural celebration, and we are delighted to share his success.



Molly (Rec) returned from a week of skiing in Val Thorens. After dedicated lessons, Molly successfully earned her Flocon skiing badge! This is a fantastic accomplishment, and Molly's hard work paid off as she now confidently navigates blue runs with ease, showcasing both her skill and determination on the slopes.

Thank you to these families for sharing these wonderful moments with us. If anyone has anything else that they have achieved outside of school, do let Mr Carter know as he loves to hear about it.

Parent Partnership - Pastoral Event

After a very well-attended and successful Parent Partnership session led by our school counselor, David, last term, we are delighted to announce our next upcoming event.

We invite you to join us for an engaging and insightful session on **Parenting Skills and Fostering Resilience in Children**. In this session, David will provide practical strategies to help your child navigate challenges, build confidence, and develop emotional strength. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain valuable parenting insights, ask questions, and connect with other parents in our school community.

We hope many of you will take advantage of this useful session, as it will offer helpful guidance and actionable tips to support your child's well-being and emotional growth.

Event Details:

□ **Date:** 10 March 2025

□ **Time:** 8:30 - 9:00 AM

We encourage all parents to attend and look forward to seeing you there!

Disney ECHO club

In Disney Character Echo Club, the children were able to decide if their favourite Disney characters would make a good friend. Through watching clips and reading stories, the children were able to discover the character values of some of their favourite Disney stars and together they decided if these values would make them a good friend. The children learned all about Elsa from Frozen, Andy and Buzz from Toy Story and the alien Lilo from Lilo and Stitch. We had lots of fun talking about which characters displayed Common Sense, Honesty, Ambition, Respect, Adaptability, Creativity, Teamwork, Enthusiasm and Resilience.

After making our decisions we were able to draw each character, with all the children showing fantastic Ambition, Enthusiasm and Creativity.



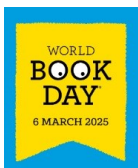
Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



World Book Day - Dress Up & Book Sale!

St Christopher's the Hall will be marking World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March** with a dress-up day. Pupils from **Preschool to Year 6** can come to school dressed-up as their favourite book character, author, or even wearing just an accessory (with school uniform) linked to a book of their choice.



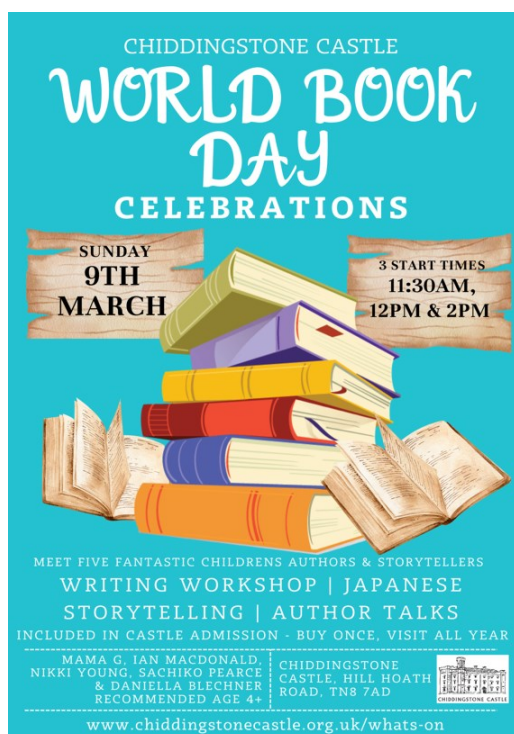
Y3 Swimming (AM - All) - Please arrive at school in games kit, and bring dress-up costume in a bag to change into after swimming

Y5 Fixture (PM - Boys Only) - Please arrive at school in dress-up costume, and bring games kit in a bag to change into after lunch

Y5/Y6 Games (PM - All) - Please arrive at school in dress-up costume, and bring trainers to change into for games lesson

There will also be a book sale, in collaboration with Beckenham Bookshop, in the library after school. Please do pop along to browse the wonderfully curated selection of books on offer, for pupils from **Preschool to Year 6**.

We look forward to seeing all of the fantastic costumes on Thursday!



Allergy reminder:

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



Music

Just before half term we were treated to a wonderful concert by Mrs. Paulides' piano and singing students, with tea and cake as an extra bonus! The standard of performance was extremely high and it was lovely to see the pupils' confidence and enjoyment shine through. Thank you to Mrs. Paulides for all her hard work in teaching them and putting the concert together.

Additionally, a reminder of the various performances coming up this half term!

- Friday 14th March 6pm - Chamber Choir performing at Bromley Festival
- Tuesday 18th March 9.15am - Year 4 Music and Drama showcase (includes all Senior Choir, Recorder Ensemble and Orchestra)
- Tuesday 25th March 9.15am - Year 1-3 music concert (includes Junior Choir)
- Thursday 27th March 6pm - Year 5 and 6 Music evening (includes all Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and Orchestra)



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Volunteers Needed for Lunchtime Library Support

Our school library is a treasured space where students love to explore books, discover new stories, and find moments of quiet during their day. Over the past few years, we've had great success with parent volunteers and pupil library monitors helping in the library during lunchtime. Their involvement has fostered a warm, inviting atmosphere for our students to make the most of this incredible resource. We're now looking for more parent volunteers to join us at lunchtimes, from 12:20 to 13:20.

With new titles regularly added to the shelves based on bestseller and students' wish lists, as well as a range of other library events being scheduled, it's an exciting time to be involved! If you're passionate about books and have a little time to spare, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're interested in volunteering, or have any further questions, please get in touch with Mr. Pretara at mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk. Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to connect with our school community and share the joy of reading with our students.

A Seat at the School Table

Thank you for completing the google form regarding this new event. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to experience a typical school lunch. Enjoy the same meals that your children do whilst connecting with fellow parents and school staff in a relaxed setting. Year 6 children will be on hand to help and welcome you into the dining room but other children will not be present due to space. It has proved very popular so we are looking at offering this on two Fridays; 21st and 28th March. Places will be booked on a first come first served basis. More details to follow next week and how to book your place. Initially, each family will be offered **two places** at our lunch table. This event is a wonderful way to foster a sense of community and collaboration within our school. We look forward to seeing you there!



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!



What's Happening Next week

Monday 3rd March

- [Start of Our World Book Week Celebration](#)
- Parent and Pupil Library Visits Reception (08:15-08:45)
- Year 4 Football v Farringtons (Home) All Year 4 to play (14:45-15:45)

Tuesday 4th March

- Parent and Pupil Library Visits Year 1 (08:15-08:45)
- IAPS Swimming Selected pupils (16:00-19:00)

Wednesday 5th March

- Parent and Pupil Library Visits Year 2 (08:15-08:45)
- Pre-Prep Parents' Open Morning (08:15-09:00)
- Year 6 Theatre Trip (13:00-17:30)

Thursday 6th March

- [World Book Day Dress Up Day](#)
- Parent and Pupil Library Visits Year 3 and 4 (08:15-08:45)
- Prep Parents' Open Morning (08:15-09:00)
- Year 5 Boys Football v St Dunstan's (Away) (14:00-15:45)
- Beckenham Bookshop in for book sale to mark World Book Day (14:45-16:15)

Friday 7th March

- Parent and Pupil Library Visits Year 5 and 6 (08:15-08:45)