

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Since we have returned from our week off, the weeks seem absolutely jam-packed - it always feels like a whirlwind when the half-term is on the shorter side! I hope you all enjoyed Pancake Day on Tuesday; I must say, pancakes rank as one of my ab-

solute favourite desserts. There's something about the combination of crispy edges, fluffy centres, and endless topping possibilities that makes them irresistible. I was lucky enough to have Mrs Ibini bring me in plenty to enjoy on Wednesday morning, and to give me the sugar kick to get me through the week!

Amid all the flipping and feasting, things have been just as busy here at school. From Tuesday through to Thursday, we had the deep joy of our ISI inspection, which we had been expecting. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is responsible for assessing the quality of education, pastoral care, and compliance within independent schools. We were delighted to welcome three inspectors, who thoroughly enjoyed meeting our pupils, observing lessons, and immersing themselves in our school culture. The final report will not be published for a few weeks, as the inspectors now take time to digest all the evidence they have gathered and carefully compile their findings, but the general feeling is that it went really well. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents who completed the questionnaire and provided such positive feedback to the inspectors - it is very much appreciated, and I am so glad that you are such a happy bunch! Your input plays a valuable role in the process, and we are grateful for your support.

Alongside this, we've had a bumper week celebrating World Book Day! Under the skilful guidance of Mr Pretara, what is usually a one-day affair has turned into a whole festival of book-related fun. From exciting author workshops and visits, and activities led by our specialists who took over the library, to special morning sessions where parents could come in and enjoy the library with their children, there has been something for everyone. The highlight, of course, was Thursday's fantastic dress-up day, where pupils arrived

transformed into their favourite book characters - it was a wonderful sight! As you all know, I will never stop going on about the importance of reading, as it truly is the cornerstone of learning. The single most impactful thing you can do to support your child's academic journey is to make reading a daily habit and engage with literature together. A huge thank you to Mr Pretara for orchestrating such a brilliant programme of events - it was beautifully organised, thoroughly enjoyed, and has helped to further embed a love of reading across the school!

On another note, I had the pleasure of meeting with the new chairs of our SCA today, Mrs Noe and Mrs Cambage. Huge thanks to them for stepping into this important role, which is done entirely on goodwill, and I am incredibly grateful for their time, energy, and commitment. Their plans to engage parents and strengthen our school community over the coming months are both exciting and innovative, and I am really looking forward to working with them to bring these ideas to life.

I am also delighted to share that the 11+ results have now been finalised, and we couldn't be more thrilled. So much has changed in how we prepare our pupils for the 11+ since I started here four years ago, and we are now truly seeing the fruits of that labour. This year, we have had a record number of academic scholarships, and every single pupil has had a choice when it comes to independent school offers for their secondary education, as well as a record number of grammar school offers. This is a testament to the pupils' hard work, the dedication of our teachers, and the support of our parents, and we are immensely proud of what they have all achieved. As a reward for all their hard work, we took Year 6 to see *Wicked* in the West End this week. This trip was fully funded by the school as a well-deserved treat for our oldest pupils. It also tied in nicely with the upcoming release of *Wicked* the film, which many of our pupils have been excited about, not to mention that the Year 6 show at the end of the year will be *The Wizard of Oz*! Hopefully, this trip provided some valuable background and inspiration. Year 6 had a fantastic day, and we were so pleased to see them enjoying the experience.

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Finally, I want to share some staffing news. At the end of this academic year, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Stamate, our Bursar, as she heads into a well-earned retirement. For me, this feels particularly poignant, as she has been my right hand since I started - helping to manage the business side of the school and, crucially, keeping my spending habits in check! She has been an invaluable support, and we will miss her enormously.

At the end of this term, we will also be bidding farewell to Mrs Reilly, who is leaving to spend more time with her family. In the summer term, Mrs Michaels will be stepping in to support 1H before we welcome back Miss James later in the term to take over.

After such a busy week, I'm ready for a little lie down in a darkened room now!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Year 4 Workshop

On Friday, a Roman soldier stopped by for the day to rest his weary legs! Whilst he was here, he was able to tell us all about what daily life was like for the Romans. The day was filled with a variety of activities that brought the Roman era to life. The morning started with Joshua volunteering to dress up as a Roman soldier in full battle dress! 'Skeppio' was able to wear the helmet, armour and hold a sword to show us all exactly how the armour was designed to be protective in battle. It was clear that it was far superior to that of the barbarians. Sorry, Boudicca!

We also had the unique opportunity to learn some Latin and write on wax tablets, play traditional Roman games, sample some Roman stew, provide a taste of the culinary delights enjoyed by soldiers during their travels and find out (and fire!) mini catapults. One messy activity involved smearing olive oil on ourselves to clean ourselves properly (apparently) and polish up some armour using olive oil as well so it didn't rust. We even flexed our muscles grinding some wheat for the flour he needed to make his extremely hard bread. Our

Roman visitor was certainly delighted in getting us to do some jobs for him!

In addition to these activities, our pupils handled a range of artefacts, allowing them to connect more deeply with the history we are studying. We learnt how



to identify the era it may be from and what it might have been used for. The highlight of the day for many, was marching in the formation of a tortoise, a defensive manoeuvre used by soldiers in battle. The teamwork and camaraderie displayed by the children during this activity were commendable! Our two opposing armies took this very seriously and we were glad that none of the children will ever be a Roman soldier! Our children really enjoyed this immersive experience and we learnt so much that we will be able to refer to, as we continue learning about the Romans this term.



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Reception

This week in Science, Reception has been learning all about reversible change. We explored frozen chunks of ice and discussed the changes we noticed as our hands handled the ice, we spoke about the ice melting and turning into water. The children debated whether the size of the ice would have an impact on the speed of the melting process, we all agreed that a bigger chunk of ice would take far longer than a small ice cube. Our giant class ice cube was placed in the Spring sunshine and we observed the process of solid to liquid throughout the day, it started the day as hard block ice but before we went home all that was left was a pool of liquid water! The children watched a similar process with solid chocolate buttons and how when under heat they began to melt. They were very relieved to remember that this process could be reversed, all we needed to do was place our chocolate splats into a cool fridge to solidify them once more!



Year 6 Trip

On Wednesday, we took all of our Year 6 pupils to see the production of Wicked at the Apollo Theatre. We felt that our Year 6 pupils truly deserved a well-earned treat from the school for all of their hard work and resilience throughout the 11+ process. The trip immersed the children in the wonderful world of Oz and helped get them into character for their Year 6 production of The Wizard of Oz. As a Year 6 team, we felt that each and every pupil deserved this experience, and truly had a wonderfully Wicked time!



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](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehall) on insta and Twitter, as well at [@stchristhehallsport](https://www.instagram.com/stchristhehallsport) to get all the inside info from school life!



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A Seat at the Table - invitation to join us for lunch

This event offers a unique opportunity to sample our school meals and connect with fellow parents in a relaxed setting. Whilst we cherish the moments shared with our children, it's also important to recognise the value of engaging in adult-only events. Such gatherings allow us to build a supportive community, exchange experiences, and strengthen our collective involvement in the school environment.

We acknowledge the interest in parent-child lunches and hope to organise such events in the future. However, due to logistical considerations, this particular occasion is designed exclusively for parents. After all, whilst home provides am-



ple opportunities for family meals, this event is dedicated to fostering our parent community.

If you are interested in joining us, please fill in the form [here](#). You are invited to arrive through the Front Door from 12:15 pm onwards. You can either choose one or two seats per family on one of the available days. A selection of Year 6 children will be on hand to welcome you as well as some staff. We will allocate places on a first come first served basis as we have a limited number of seats.

If you book seats but are then unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible.

We look forward to your participation and are confident that this will be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all.

Parent Partnership - Pastoral Event

Apologies for any confusion last week, but we want to confirm that the Parent Partnership - Pastoral Event is definitely taking place on Monday, 10th March.

Following the success of our last session with school counsellor David, we are excited to invite you to this insightful session on Parenting Skills and Fostering Resilience in Children. David will share practical strategies to help your child navigate challenges, build confidence, and develop emotional strength.

We hope many of you will join us for this valuable opportunity to gain parenting insights, ask questions, and connect with fellow parents.

Event Details:

- Date: Monday, 10 March 2025
- Time: 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk



What's Happening Next week

Monday 10th March

- Parent partnership - Parenting skills and Developing Resilience David Brooks (08:30-09:00)
- School Council Members in Year 4-6 to the House of Parliament
- Year 3 Football v Farringtons (All Year 3 to play) (14:00-15:30)

Wednesday 12th March

- Year 5 Royal Observatory Trip

Thursday 13th March

- Year 1 trip to Leeds Castle
- Year 3 trip to Beckenham Place Park
- Year 5 Football Tournament @ Eltham College (selected pupils) (12:00-16:15)

Friday 14th March

- Science Assembly/Workshops all day in Upper Hall Rec-Year 6 'As Creatives - Science of Change'
- Year 6 Football v Colfes (All Year 6 to play) - Away (13:20-16:20)