

Newsletter

World Book Week

Weekends at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

After the excitement of receiving the inspection call last Monday, I did wonder whether this week might feel a little anticlimactic... but I needn't have worried! It's been another jam-packed week, full of enriching experiences both in and out of school.

We started the week with another fantastic and informative talk by our school counsellor, David. This time, he shared valuable parenting tips on how to help children build resilience - an essential skill that will serve them well in all aspects of life. These sessions are always incredibly useful, and we are so fortunate to have David as part of our school community. If any parents would like to explore ways in which David's expertise could further support their child, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Cornish.

Additionally, on Monday, The School Council representatives from Years 4 to 6 had the incredible opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament with Mrs. West. This visit wasn't just about seeing the grand buildings (though that's always exciting!); it was a chance for our pupils to understand democracy in action and reflect on how they can make a difference through their own School Council. What better way to inspire the next generation of decision-makers? Meanwhile, Monday also saw great excitement as we hosted another home sporting fixture! Year 3 played a football match against Farrington's, in what was a brilliantly organised and competitive event. Later in the week, our Year 5 and Year 6 teams also took part in away matches, showcasing their skill and determination. I must say, the energy and enthusiasm in sport have really flourished under Mr. Murphy's leadership. His organisation and high standards have brought an extra level of rigour to our sporting provision, and we're excited to see how he develops his vision for the department over the coming years.

Midweek, we held our second House Meeting of the term, where pupils reflected on our Life Skills Initiative. Our House Leaders were thrilled to hear about all the activities pupils have been working on independently, and it's wonderful to see so many children embracing practical, hands-on

skills beyond the academic curriculum. These real world practical skills are invaluable for building confident, capable young people. This initiative also ties in closely with the ideas David, our counsellor, shared in his talk on Monday about the importance of giving children opportunities and responsibilities. Research shows that when children take on meaningful tasks, whether at school or home, they develop stronger resilience, independence, and problem-solving skills. Studies, such as those by the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, highlight that allowing young people to navigate real world challenges in a supportive environment builds their ability to adapt and thrive. If you'd like to see the full list of Life Skills challenges, you can find them on our website here.

The latter half of the week was all about trips, trips, and more trips! Year 3 explored the natural beauty of Beckenham Place Park, connecting with nature and deepening their understanding of local habitats. Year 5 journeyed to the Royal Observatory, where they got to stand on the Prime Meridian and expand their knowledge of space, time, and the stars above. Year 1 had an adventure at Leeds Castle, bringing history to life as they wandered through its magnificent rooms and gardens. These trips are such a valuable way to bring learning to life, offering firsthand experiences that simply can't be replicated in the classroom.

Finally, we ended the week with a brilliant celebration of National Science Week. The whole school enjoyed an exciting workshop that showcased the creativity and wonder of science. This theme had already been introduced by Mr. Chowdhury and Mrs. Morris in our Wednesday assembly, and it was fantastic to see pupils engaging so enthusiastically with the world of scientific discovery.

Phew! What a rich and varied week it has been - one that truly highlights the breadth of our curriculum and the dedication we have to ensuring every child finds something that excites and inspires them.

Wishing you all a restful weekend (I think we've earned it!).

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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World Book Week 2025 at St Christopher's The Hall

This year's World Book Day festivities were a little different to the usual one-day affair. Instead, a whole week of events were organised to make it a real period of celebration and excitement for pupils across the school.

On World Book Day itself, pupils and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, including Mr Carter who took inspiration from Maurice Sendak's *'Where The Wild Things Are'*. We were so impressed by how everybody embraced the occasion and took the opportunity to celebrate their favourite storybook characters and authors on the day.

As the week progressed, there were plenty of opportunities for pupils to listen to stories being read. For example, at lunchtimes, our specialist



'Isadora Moon' stories, by Harriet Muncaster, to the Prep pupils who attended her session.

Furthermore, Year 6 pupils took turns reading different picture books to classes in Pre-Prep at the end of the day, serving as a reminder that



teachers hosted 'Library Take-Over' sessions where they read their favourite books to pupils who wanted to pop along. As can be seen in the photo, Miss Davison chose to read one of the



reading is for all ages and that reading can bring so much joy. As can be seen in the photo, Polina (6R) read *'Meesha Makes Friends'* by Tom Percival to the pupils in Reception.

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Author Visit - Momoko Abe

Momoko Abe - Japanese author and illustrator - visited St Christopher's on Tuesday, starting with a read-along of one of her stories with the youngest pupils in our community - in Preschool.

Following this, Reception and Year 1 had their workshop around her story '*Pearl and Her Bunch*'. After reading the story together, pupils enjoyed discussions around the plot and the characters, and did some live draw-alongs with Momoko. To end the session, pupils got crafty and created their own vegetable families, inspired by the characters in Momoko's stories, which would look wonderful stuck to the fridge at home!

Ilani (10) - I liked that the grapes in the story let Pearl, who is a pea, join their family, and it didn't matter that she looked a bit different.

Next, Momoko delivered another workshop, but this time to Year 2 and Year 3. Throughout the session, pupils learnt more about Momoko's life and how it led her to become an author, before reading the story '*Avocado Asks: What Am I?*' together. Dovetailing with our English curriculum, Momoko shared her process for developing characters and the plot within the story, ahead of pupils sketching characters of their own - inspired by the story. All pupils received a signed copy of

the book used in their session, individually personalised by Momoko herself. Please check-out the rest of Momoko's work, including her upcoming release '*Dotty Doughnut*' - a book about embracing and celebrating what makes you, YOU.

Layla (2J) - The characters in the story were really fun and my favourite part was when we got to draw some of our own. I really like the avocado drawing we now have in our library too!



Author Visit - Jack Meggitt-Phillips

Author *Jack Meggitt-Phillips* visited our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils on Friday morning for a creative writing workshop, and to share his brilliant book series: '*The Beast and The Bethany*'. Jack started the session by invigorating the pupils - after what had been a long week - and invited them to think about their '*Happy Place*'... What did it look like? What could they smell in the air? Were there other people there? What did they wear? From here, pupils had the perfect setting for the start of a



story of their own, which they continued to build and tweak during the session, with inspi-

ration from Jack's bonkers characters and plot-lines, all brought to life with role-play and puppetry. All pupils left the session with a signed copy of the book, individually personalised by Jack himself. Please check out the rest of the '*Beast and the Bethany*' collection, including the recently published '*The Final Feast*'.

Anaiya (4M) - I loved today's workshop because Jack is a very inspiring author, he gave me loads of ideas for my story about Blobby! He was very funny when he was reading his story and the way he helped us was fascinating! Today was so fun!

Monty (5S) - What I really enjoyed about Jack was his enthusiasm and passion about making mysterious, monstrous books. I enjoyed making our own short story, using our senses and writing about problems in the story. What I also liked was when we got to go and meet the author, talking to him and signing our books.

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Read Your Way! Competition

During our World Book Day assembly, pupils had the opportunity to look at photos of their teachers reading in unusual ways or places, making guesses with their friends. A big shout-out to Mrs Dodd for her action-shot on the large gated cableway at her local park! After revelling in the teachers' photographs, pupils then got to take a look at each other's entries for the Read Your Way competition, with some examples including:

- **Evelyn (RC)** was spotted reading underneath the Angel of the North in Gateshead.
- **Xander (10)** was spotted reading on Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ - *expelliarmus!*
- **Eva (2J)** was spotted reading upside-down on the flying trapeze at her Aerial Arts Club.
- **Oscar (3C)** was spotted reading in his pyjamas in the shower.
- **Lydia (4M)** was spotted reading while balancing on a beam at the beach.
- **Evie (5S)** was spotted reading under her bed.
- **Alexander (6R)** was spotted reading... under the sea?!

A name-randomizer processed all entries, ultimately leading to **Scarlett (2C)** being selected as our winner in Pre-Prep and **Emily (5S)** being selected as our winner in Prep. Congratulations to all who entered - we hope that this little challenge sparked joy and your imagination.



Parent Library Visits & Beckenham Bookshop

Throughout the week, pupils had the opportunity to visit the library with their parents to browse our latest releases, get cosy and read together. This also prompted some excellent conversations between pupils and parents, about book preferences and optimum reading environments. We were overwhelmed with the response to this and would like to extend our thanks to those who were able to drop in.

Beckenham Bookshop also set up a book sale for us on World Book Day itself, selling some of the latest releases, titles that have recently won awards and also books that celebrate diverse themes. If you still have not spent your World Book Day token, you have until Sunday 23rd March to use it.



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conversations across the week: 'There is a book out there for everyone.'



<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Reception	Laura Baker	<i>The Full Stop That Got Away</i>
Year 1	Swapna Haddow Michelle Robinson	<i>The Night Before Holi</i> <i>When Fish Finger Froze</i>
Year 2	Michelle Robinson	<i>When Fish Finger Froze</i>
Year 3	Stephen Mangan	<i>The Fart That Broke The World</i>
Year 4	Lucy Edwards	<i>Ella Jones vs The Sun Stealer</i>
Year 5	Pamela Butchart	<i>Learn How To Be A Billionaire (sort of)</i>
Year 6	Lucy Edwards	<i>Ella Jones vs The Sun Stealer</i>

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Happy World Book Week, Everybody.Keep up the excellent reading!

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Houses of Parliament visit

On Monday, the school council, house captains and head and deputy pupil visited the Houses of Parliament. The first thing we did was to go into a 1000 year old room where we had an audio tour. We went into the House of Commons where they pass laws. When a division (a vote) begins, bells are rung and MPs only have 8 minutes to get to the House of Commons otherwise they can't vote. Next, we went to the House of Lords, which looked much more regal than we thought it would, because of the expensive red dye used. There was a throne that was covered in 23.5 carat gold! In the end, we had an amazing day. **Jack & Shreya (Year 6)**

On Monday, we went to the Houses of Parliament, which was a great opportunity to learn more about the politics that occurs there. Firstly, we were given headphones to listen to an amazing tour guide talk about the history of the building. After that, we went to the House of Commons, where we learnt about where the speaker sits, and certain things that MPs cannot say. For example, they cannot call someone a 'liar' or a 'traitor'. Next, we went into the House of Lords, which in our opinion, looked very royal! **Trinity & Heidi (Year 6)**



Emailing teachers

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



SCA: Celebrating Mother's and Those We Love!

The SCA is excited to host St Christopher's the Hall's very own Pop-Up Flower Shop on Friday 28th March 2025.

Each child will have the opportunity to visit the shop, choose their own flowers and wrap them beautifully – creating a heartfelt gift for a mother, carer, family member or someone special in their life.

As part of the gift of giving, each child will also receive a ticket for a chance to win a celebration hamper for someone they love. We look forward to celebrating love, gratitude and kindness together!

Please complete the Google form, [here](#), to confirm your child's involvement in the event by Monday the 17th March. The cost of the event is £9.00 and will be added to the end of term disbursements invoice.

The event will take place on school grounds, during the school day and includes all years and Pre-School.

Year 5 trip

On Wednesday, Year 5 enjoyed an educational and memorable trip to The Royal Observatory in Greenwich. During our 'Space Watch' workshop, the children learnt lots of new facts about different planets and took part in interactive activities - Eva even went flying! The children were in awe when we went to the planetarium to watch 'We Are Guardians'. We are inspired to be even better global citizens and take care of our incredible planet. Here are some quotes from children:

"My peak of the trip was seeing the first telescope ever made!" **(Seth)**.

"I was really inspired to make a difference by starting to recycle and do my part to stop climate change and pollution." **(Emily)**



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Reminder: Parent Lunch Event – Next Week & Friday

Join us for a special opportunity to sample our school meals and connect with fellow parents in a relaxed setting.

This event is exclusively for parents, allowing us to build a supportive community while enjoying a meal together.

- **Dates:**
21st & 28th March
- **Time:**
Arrive from 12:15 pm via the Front Door
- **Seats:**
One or two per family (limited availability, first come first served)

Year 6 students and staff will be there to welcome you. If you would like to book in,

please complete the short Google form [here](#). If you've booked but can't attend, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you!



St Christopher's
THE HALL SCHOOL

We warmly invite you to a parent lunch event.

A Seat at our Table.

21st & 28th March

12.15 PM onwards

Discover the quality ingredients we use.

Meet the chefs behind the meals.

Learn about our commitment to healthy eating.

Chat with other parents.

Enjoy a full roast with other options available.

Pupil Achievements

We love hearing about our pupils' achievements beyond the classroom, and this week, we're celebrating Lucia Vanderzee and Sofia Adams (both 2C) for their fantastic sporting success!

On Sunday morning, Lucia and Sofia completed their half marathons at Crystal Palace Park Run – an incredible milestone. Not only did they finish strong, but they BOTH achieved sub-12-minute personal bests! A huge well done to both of them for their dedication and determination.

If your child has accomplished something special outside of school – whether in sports, the arts, community service, or any other area – please let Mr. Carter know. He loves hearing about our pupils' successes and celebrating them with our school community!



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 17th March

- Reception Trip to The Discovery Centre
- Year 3 Football v Eltham College
All Year 3 to play (13:30-16:15)

Tuesday 18th March

- Year 4 Music and Drama Presentation (09:15-10:30)
- Year 4 Football v Colfes
All Year 4 to play (13:30-16:00)
- Parent Partnership: Secondary Transfer Meeting for Year 5 Parents (16:15-17:15)

Thursday 20th March

- Parents Evening Preschool - Year 5 (15:15-18:00)

Friday 21st March

- A Seat at our Table Event - parents invited in for lunch (12:15-13:00)