

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

At the start of the week, I was still searching for that lovely warm weather we had just a few weeks ago - it seemed to have vanished, leaving us with chilly mornings once again! But later in the week, my prayers were answered as the temperature soared, making the UK

hotter than Corfu and Ibiza! Standing on the gate that morning was suddenly a much more pleasant experience.

On Tuesday, we held our 11+ and Secondary Transfer Information Evening for our Year 5 parents. It always feels a little surreal to be discussing the process again just as we finalise places for our Year 6 pupils, but that is the rhythm of school life! We understand that sometimes this period can be an anxious time for families, but to remember that our focus is to support them every step of the way. From this point forward, we are dedicated to preparing our Year 5 pupils for the 11+ by offering additional support groups to develop and extend their skills. During this meeting, we were delighted to welcome Ms. McLellan, Head of St Dunstan's College Senior, to provide insights into the transition to secondary school. Rather than promoting her school specifically, she gave parents a valuable perspective on the entire 11+ journey. For those unfamiliar with the process, it can be overwhelming, and we hope that hearing from someone with hands-on experience helped to alleviate some concerns. On this note, you can now find the results for this year's Year 6 (2024-2025) on our website [here](#), as well as the updated trends data.

Speaking of Ms. McLellan, Miss Rule and I had a fantastic follow-up meeting with her on Thursday when she spent the afternoon with us. We began exploring exciting ventures and collaborations, particularly for Year 5, as well as broader initiatives across the school. These discussions are particularly relevant this year, as a key benefit of the merger means that our Year 5 pupils now have the opportunity to secure a Year 7 place at St Dunstan's without undergoing the formal 11+ process. Pupils who meet the required standards are guaranteed a place, with the offer remaining

open until the end of the 11+ cycle in Year 6. We recognise that for some families, the 11+ can feel daunting, so this option provides valuable peace of mind. That said, we remain a Prep school, and we acknowledge that every child's journey is unique. While the early offer at St Dunstan's is an attractive option, we fully support all pupils in applying to the senior schools that best suit them. This approach gives us the best of both worlds - St Dunstan's aligns closely with our educational ethos, but our primary goal is to work with families to find the right school for each child.

This week also hosted our first Parents' Evening of the term and it was lovely to see parents in school on Thursday. These meetings are invaluable opportunities to discuss your child's progress, and while emails are always an option, there is nothing quite like a face-to-face conversation to foster meaningful discussions. Please remember that, while Parents' Evenings are scheduled events, our doors are always open should you wish to chat with us about anything at any time. Today, we were thrilled to host our Seat at Our Table event, inviting parents to sample the same healthy and delicious lunches our pupils enjoy every day. Parents clearly enjoyed the wide selection of nutritious food, and engaging warmly with our Year 6 pupils, sharing good conversation and company. I hope everyone who attended left with a sense of how lucky we are to have such fantastic catering. We're already looking forward to welcoming more parents to the event next week!

Our Pre-Prep Playground Project is coming to life, and we're excited about the inspiring space we're creating - one that will spark creativity, adventure, and joyful play for all our children. To make this area truly spectacular from the outset, we'll be inviting parents to support the project in a way that feels right for them - whether through a donation or by sponsoring a piece of play equipment, a sensory item, or a play panel. We'll be sharing more details before half-term on how you can get involved, should you wish to. Your support will not only enhance the playground but also leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Together, we can create a vibrant and imaginative space for all!

Mr. Carter
Headteacher

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Sport Round up

What a busy few weeks it has been in the sports department at St Christopher's!

The half term started with our Year 5 & 6 Girls' Netball team travelling down to Kent College, to compete in the IAPS Netball Tournament, where they faced some of the top Independent schools in London and Kent. There were some fantastic performances and I have no doubt that continuing to work hard on developing their all round skills will see them make excellent progress over the coming years. Our Swim Squad also travelled to Colfes to compete in the IAPS Swimming Gala. Although for many of our pupils it was their first time competing over 50 metres, we secured a number of second and third place finishes and the whole squad should be proud of the progress they are making in the pool.

It has also been a busy half term for our football teams, with all pupils in Years 3 - 6 having competed in a number of home and away fixtures. Both the boys' and girls' teams are showing great signs of progress and I have no doubt that their performances will go from strength to strength over the coming years. Thank you to all those parents that have supported our pupils at both home and away fixtures and we look forward to welcoming you all back to St Christopher's for more fixtures over the coming months.



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SCA Events Upcoming

Pop-up Flower Shop

We are excited to announce that a *pop-up Flower Shop* will be appearing next week! Pupils will have the wonderful opportunity to create a beautiful bunch of flowers for someone they love next Friday. A huge thank you to the SCA for their inspi-



ration, support, and help in making this special activity possible. We can't wait to see the creative and heartfelt bouquets the children will design.

Save the Date – Easter HatWalk

We are also looking forward to our annual Easter HatWalk, which will take place on the last day of term. Please see the details below so you can plan ahead:

Join us on the last day of term when we host our

PRE-PREP Easter HAT-WALK! 2025!

Children who wish to participate can decorate a hat at home to bring to school on Weds 2nd April and parade down the Hat-walk in their creation!

Pre-Prep school hat themes:

Reception: Bunny Wonderland! Decorate your hat with cute bunnies, flowers, and pastel colours	Year 1: Easter Picnic Think of picnic treats like sandwiches, fruit, chocolate and lemonade
Year 2: Nature's Beauty Focus on trees, leaves, and animals like squirrels, birds and hedgehogs	

Weds 2nd April	10:50am Main Gate opens for Pre-Prep parents to enter the playground for a drink, hot cross bun, and a chance to view uniform 11:00am Pre-Prep parents head into the Main Hall to watch the parade 11:15 – 11:25am Pre-Prep Hat Parade 11:30am Pre-Prep children return to their playground with teachers/TAs for dismissal Parents not attending the parade should be at the Main Gate ready to collect their child.
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Join us on the last day of term when we host our

PREP SCHOOL Easter HAT-WALK! 2025!

Children who wish to participate can decorate a hat at home to bring to school on Weds 2nd April and parade down the Hat-walk in their creation!

Prep school hat themes:

Year 3: Animal Kingdom! Your favourite animal or a jungle theme, using vibrant colours or textures	Year 4: Magical Forest Design a hat with mythical creatures like fairies, elves or woodland animals
Year 5: Dinosaurs of Easter A prehistoric twist - dinosaurs celebrating Easter with eggs and spring flowers	Year 6: Time Travel! Different time periods or future worlds, like Victorian Easter or a futuristic celebration

Weds 2nd April	11:30am SCAMPS Gate opens for Prep parents to enter the Pre-Prep playground for a drink, hot cross bun, and a chance to view uniform 11:45am Prep parents head into the Main Hall to watch the parade 11:50 – 12:00pm Prep Hat Parade 12:00pm Prep children return to the Pre-Prep playground with teachers/TAs for dismissal Parents not attending the parade should be at the Main Gate ready to collect their child.
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Year 1 trip

Year One held Leeds Castle under siege recently on a freezing cold March morning. In fact it was so cold that they abandoned the siege and went for a tour of the castle instead. This was a lovely way to finish off our Humanities topic and the children loved seeing the features they had been learning so much about. They also had the chance to perform

in The Swan Princess story which formed part of our workshop learning about the castle's history.



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Year 3 trip

Last week, Year 3 braved the wet weather for an exciting trip to Beckenham Place Park as part of our Rocks and Soils workshop. Despite the drizzle, spirits remained high as we set off on our walk, eager for a day of hands-on learning and outdoor exploration.

Our adventure began indoors, where the children conducted fascinating experiments on different types of rocks. They tested for durability and water resistance, discovering which rocks could withstand pressure and which absorbed the most water. The enthusiasm was contagious as 3C eagerly made predictions and recorded their findings. Next, we ventured into the park, determined to spot different rocks being used for different purposes. The children explored the area, identifying stones that could be used for roof tiles, pathways, and even statues, applying their new-found knowledge to the world around them. The day ended with a thrilling detective challenge—solving the mystery of the missing cake! By testing soil samples and matching them to the mud found near the fridge, our young geologists cracked the case. Though the cake had already disappeared, we were gratefully thanked by its owner for our efforts. Overall, it was a fantastic day of discovery, and 3C showed remarkable resilience, smiling through the rain and making the most of their brilliant trip. Well done, Year 3!



Emailing teachers

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



Music

On Tuesday morning we were treated to a wealth of music and drama from Year 4, along with the Senior Choir and Orchestra. We enjoyed some wonderful musical performances and, for the first time, a cinematic experience as the Year 4 pupils presented their 'silent movies' which they have been writing and filming in drama lessons on their ipads.. It was a superb, varied programme enjoyed by all!

A reminder that next week we have two more concerts coming up:

Tuesday 25th March 9.15am : Year 1, 2 and 3 concert

Thursday 27th March 6pm (gate at 5.30 for drinks beforehand): **Year 5 and 6 concert** (plus Senior & Chamber choirs & Orchestra)

Our Chamber Choir performed at the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech last Friday evening and were thrilled to be awarded an honours grade and bring home the Moira Budds cup for School and Youth Choirs for the third year in a row! Thank you to Mrs. Paulides for all her work with the choir and we look forward to their performances in the Year 5 & 6 concert next week!



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The Boot Exchange

Community is at the heart of everything we do at St Christopher's and we are proud to announce a new initiative with an eco-friendly theme. We are also linking up with a charity called **Hope4Malawi** for a special end of year project (to be announced later!) connected to this. The boot exchange hopes to collect all the football and rugby boots that your children have outgrown, and set up a swap shop. Bring us your outgrown pair and pick up a pair in the right size. We hope that this will keep a lot of boots out of landfill and will help to ease the cost of buying expensive boots right at the end of term or for those few weeks in which they are needed. Help us to launch this initiative by searching the back of that cupboard, under the bed or in the shed for those discarded boots, **and bring them into school next week to Mr Organ who will be running the scheme.** Please ensure the boots are clean and complete, and tell us what size they are if it isn't already clear. The first swap shop opportunity will be announced as soon as we have built up our stock of boots to pick from.



Hope4Malawi
their future starts today

Purple day

As part of our ongoing fundraising efforts for our chosen school charity, the Epilepsy Society, we are pleased to announce that St Christopher's will be celebrating 'Purple Day' on Wednesday, 26th March. This special day aims to raise awareness and support for the Epilepsy Society and the crucial work they do.

We kindly invite all students to participate by wearing purple or incorporating a hint of purple into their attire alongside their own clothes. In return, we request a £1 donation to support the Epilepsy Society. Collection buckets will be available at the front gate on Wednesday morning. We greatly appreciate your continued support in helping us make a meaningful impact.

Silent Auction

It was with great excitement that 11 girls from year 2 had their silent auction, Portrait Party on Monday night, with Mrs Chamadia, Mrs Craig & Mrs Jones. They were shown portraits by the artist Romero Britto, a Brazilian artist. After a few snacks and a drink the girls set to work on their self portraits. The results speak for themselves, well done girls. It was a lovely party.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 24th March

- Year 3 Football v Colfes (Away)
- All Year 3 to play (14:30-16:00)

Tuesday 25th March

- Year 1-3 Concert (09:15-10:00)
- Parents' Meeting Preschool - Year 5 (15:15-18:00)

Wednesday 26th March

- Purple Day

Thursday 27th March

- Year 5 Football v Colfes (Away)
- All Year 5 to play (14:30-16:00)

Friday 28th March

- A Seat at our Table (lunch for parent guests) (12:15-13:00)
- Year 6 Boys Football Tournament Farringtons School - selected pupils (13:30-16:00)
- Year 5 & 6 Girls Football v Bromley High (Away) - Selected pupils (15:30-17:00)