

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The sunshine has come out, and so have the suitcases – the season of residential has officially begun!

This week marked the very first of our residential trips this year, as our Year 6 pupils set off to the Isle of Wight for what promised to be an

unforgettable adventure. This is a new destination for our pupils in school, and it appears that it has been full of excitement and discovery, having had regular updates from Miss Rule and Mr Pretara. From activities on the beach to group challenges, Year 6 seem to have made the most of the experience.

On the subject of residential, next week our adventurous Year 4 and Year 5s will be heading off on their trips – fingers firmly crossed for glorious sunshine, laughter, and not too many lost socks! I was meant to be joining the Year 5s, but a stack of important meetings has claimed me, so I'll be popping in and out of school instead. That means this will be my final newsletter of the half term. With Mrs West also away, accompanying our intrepid Year 4s, Mrs Chamadia will be taking the reins and sending out next week's newsletter update – she's promised not to be too mischievous in my absence!

Last week, the Senior Leadership Team and I had a thought-provoking and energising Strategy Day. We spent the day looking ahead to the future – dreaming big, planning boldly, and asking ourselves what we want our school to look like over the next five years. I'm delighted to say we've begun shaping a forward-thinking and

ambitious strategy which not only keeps academic rigour and exceptional outcomes at the heart, but also puts the spotlight on wider opportunities: enriching our extracurricular provision, celebrating our partnership with the St Dunstan's Education Group, and exploring exciting ways to better share the magic of our school with the wider world.

We're excited to share some of the ideas that came out of the day with you soon – some are new initiatives, while others are ways of strengthening what we already do well. All of them, we hope, will play a part in helping to shape the future of the school in a thoughtful and meaningful way, for the benefit of pupils, staff, and parents alike.

And speaking of magic – we had another instalment of our Secret Reader series this week! This time, it was yours truly who popped up on the pupils' screens, much to their surprise. Following on from our hugely successful EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Week, last week, I chose to read *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold – a warm, vibrant picture book that celebrates inclusion and community, and reminds us all that whoever you are, wherever you're from, you belong. If you'd like to listen to the book yourself (and I do recommend it – it's lovely!), you can find it [here](#).

If any parents would like to join in with our Secret Reader initiative, we would be absolutely thrilled to have you take part! Please contact either Mrs Titchener or Mrs

Shivers, who will be delighted to tell you more and help get you involved.

A reminder that next week is a four day week, as we finish the half term on Thursday 22nd, as Friday 23rd is our INSET Training day. Wishing you a restful weekend and a smooth run into the final week of this half term!

Mr Carter  
**Head Teacher**



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### Art

We're thrilled to share an exciting update on our new mural, which will soon brighten the entrance to our school and welcome everyone with a burst of creativity and colour!

Ms. Williams has been busy gathering ideas from all the children across the school. From tiny seedlings and garden creatures to imaginative scenes of teamwork and growth, the students' creativity has truly blossomed. Taking all of their brilliant suggestions, Ms. Williams has carefully blended them into one beautiful, unified design that captures the spirit of our school community.

The mural will show our school family as a group of cheerful mice living, learning, and playing together in a vibrant, growing garden. Each element of the scene has meaning—flowers blooming with possibility, tiny mice working together in harmony, and a garden that represents the nurturing environment we strive to create every day.



Ms. Williams shared a bit about her inspiration for the mural:

*"When I listened to and saw the children's ideas, I was struck by how much they value kindness, nature, and working together. The garden theme just works—*

*it's a place where all sorts of things grow side by side, just like we do here. And turning everyone into mice added a fun and whimsical twist!*

She is currently hard at work sketching and refining the final design, and we hope you enjoy this sneak peek. Thank you for your continued support, and stay tuned for more updates as our mural project grows and blossoms—just like our students!



### **Allergy reminder:**

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





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### SCA Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

We've got a busy and exciting term ahead! Here's a quick look at what's coming up:

#### **Tea Towels Are Back!**

Children will soon begin creating their self-portraits to be printed on our ever-popular tea towel keepsakes. Go to the SCA website to order yours!

<https://www.scasales.co.uk/product-page/tea-towels-2024-2025>

#### **Sound Bath with Mindful Sounds**

Thursday 22nd May at 7:30pm. A few spaces remain - don't miss this relaxing and restorative experience. Book your place via the link below!

<https://www.scasales.co.uk/product-page/sound-bath>

### **Summer Fair – Save the Date!**

Friday 27th June, 3:00pm - 5:30pm. Our annual Summer Fair promises to be another fantastic event. Booking and more information coming soon!



### **Open Air Cinema Night – Save the Date!**

Saturday 30th August. Bring your blankets and join us under the stars for an unforgettable evening. More details to follow!

### **Tombola Donations – Coming Soon**

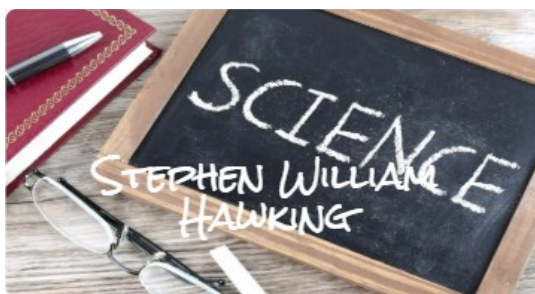
We'll soon be asking for bottle and toy donations for our ever-popular Summer Fair tombolas. Drop-off dates will be confirmed shortly.

Thank you, as always, for your amazing support!

### **Year 5**

It has been a busy, exciting and creative week in Year 5. Here is a taste of what we have been up to! During our PSHE lesson, the children learnt about ways to save and invest money as well as financial risks that people can be exposed to in the wider world. In Computing, the children have been learning about coding and giving commands to avatars. Mrs Shivers and Mrs Titchener were amazed by the children's narrative writing skills, when composing pieces based on volcanic

eruptions. The children have also been busy creating Google Slides presentations with a partner, for their Diverse Scientist Project in Science, which they will present towards the end of this half term. Finally, the buzz and excitement has begun for our Residential Trip - we know this will be an invaluable experience, where the children will have the opportunity to learn in a new environment, and utilise our school's Character Values.



#### **His Legacy**



Stephen Hawking, the world-famous theoretical physicist, died at the age of 76.

Hawking's children, Lucy, Robert and Tim said in a statement: "We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today.

"He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years. His courage and persistence with his brilliance and humor inspired people across the world.

#### **Awards**

Albert Einstein award 1978

Hughes medal 1976

Dirac medal 1987

Wolf prize in physics 1988

Eddington medal 1975

Albert Einstein award 1979

And more!

#### **Famous quotes**

- "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change".
- "However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up".
- "Life would be tragic if it weren't funny".

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### Pupil Success

A huge well done to Dustyn for an action-packed and impressive weekend! On Saturday, he played in the U9s Gold Chalice Cup final with his team, the Penge Panthers — a close and exciting match that ended in a narrow loss on penalties.



Not stopping there, on Sunday he took part in his first ever triathlon, representing the Crystal Palace Triathletes — a fantastic achievement and a great example of his determination and enthusiasm.

Additionally, we're thrilled to celebrate a fantastic achievement by Deniz in Year 2 as, last Sunday, Deniz and his team, Warren, played in the Cup Final of the Under-7s Tandridge Youth Football League – and they emerged as champions! We are so proud of Deniz, who now has a shiny trophy to show for his efforts.



We're all very proud of these pupils' efforts and we love celebrating the

achievements of our pupils beyond the classroom. If your child has had success outside of school, Mr Carter would be delighted to hear about it — please do drop him an email!

### Preschool

The Preschool children really enjoyed their Superhero drama workshop on Monday and joined in with all the activities with enthusiasm! Captain America and Thor helped us to find out all the different ways to be 'Super' and the children also came up with lots of ideas of their own. We practised using our superpowers and being brave, kind and healthy with lots of games and activities. It has prompted extensive discussion, with lots of Superhero games being played in the classrooms.



### Year 1

In Science this half term, we have been monitoring the weather, and looking for changes from spring to summer. Here we are with our homemade windsocks and compasses tracking the direction of the wind.



### What's Happening Next Week

#### Monday 19th May

- Year 4 to Leeson House (Residential)
- Year 5 to Bowles (Residential)
- Pre-Prep Circus Skills workshop (am)
- Year 3 Cricket v St Dunstan's (Away)
- All Year 3 to play (14:30-16:30)

#### Wednesday 21st May

- Y4 & 5 to return from their Residential visits

#### Thursday 22nd May

- Year 5 Cricket v St Dunstan's (14:15-16:15)

#### Friday 23rd May

- INSET DAY - no school