

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to write this newsletter as Mr Carter and Mrs West are away this week.

As we approach the end of another busy and rewarding week, it's hard to believe how quickly this half term has flown by! I would like to share a few

highlights from across the school.

This week, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have been away on their much-anticipated residential trips to Leeson House in Dorset and Bowles in Tunbridge Wells. We've heard wonderful updates from staff about the children's enthusiasm, resilience, and the fun they're having as they learn and grow outside the classroom. These experiences are such an important part of their development, and we can't wait to hear all about their adventures when they return.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils have returned to school this week after an amazing, sun soaked residential on the Isle of Wight last week. The memories made, the friendships strengthened, and the challenges embraced will no doubt stay with them for a long time. It's been lovely to see them back in school, sharing their stories and settling back into their routines with renewed energy. You can read all about the trip in more detail in this Newsletter.

Across the rest of the school, learning has continued at pace. Our Pre-Prep children thoroughly enjoyed their lively and imaginative Circus Workshops this week, where they explored balance, coordination, and performance through a range of fun and engaging activities - a real highlight that brought joy to pupils and staff alike. Their laughter and excitement were infectious!

Meanwhile, preparations are well underway for our much-anticipated Sports Days. Pupils have been practising their events with great determination

and team spirit, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence growing as they get ready to showcase their efforts. We are all looking forward to welcoming families to join us for these celebrations of teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit - where every child's effort and enthusiasm will be celebrated,

This week, our school was buzzing with excitement as the children were treated to a thrilling science assembly, led by the brilliant Professor Emma and Professor Victoria from our After School Science Club! With lab coats on and experiments at the ready, they wowed the children with a hands-on demonstration. They carried out a fascinating experiment that showed how to inflate a balloon using a simple chemical reaction that produces Carbon Dioxide - no blowing required! The room was filled with gasps, laughter, and plenty of wide-eyed wonder as the balloon began to grow right before their eyes. Judging by the excitement and curiosity sparked in the room, it's safe to say we've got a lot of future scientists at St Christopher's!

Our Secret Readers initiative has also continued this week. A mystery guest records a story for pupils to enjoy - and the big surprise is revealed the moment the story begins, as the reader's voice and face appear on screen! Pupils have loved the anticipation and the joy of discovering which

familiar face - be it a teacher, staff member, or special guest - is behind the story. It has been a creative and engaging way to nurture a love of reading and strengthen our school community through storytelling.

As we head into the half-term break, I want to thank you all for your continued support and involvement in school life. We wish you a restful and enjoyable holiday, and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final half term of the year on Monday 2nd June - an exciting few weeks ahead as we head toward the end-of-year celebrations, performances, and transition events.

Mrs Chamadia

**Assistant Head, Head of Pre-Prep**



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### Year 6

What a week! Our Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight was an unforgettable adventure packed with discovery, laughter, and lasting memories. Here's a look back at a week full of excitement and epic experiences!

The excitement was sky-high as we boarded the ferry and set sail for the Isle of Wight. For many, it was the first time on a ferry, and the views across the Solent made it extra special. Once we arrived, our coach took us through the island's scenic countryside down to our base in Sandown.

On arrival at Inglewood

Guesthouse, we met our wonderful hosts Jon and Justine who made us feel right at home. After settling in, we headed straight to Sandown Pier for a fun-filled evening of arcades, crazy golf and bowling. The sound of strikes and 2p coins dropping from the slot machines filled the air, with plenty of laughter to match.

We kicked off Tuesday with a trip back in time to Osborne House, Queen Victoria's beloved holiday home. Pupils were fascinated by the royal rooms, grand architecture, and the incredible gardens. In the afternoon, we travelled to Alum Bay where we watched a mesmerizing glass-blowing workshop -

the children were amazed as molten glass transformed into colourful creations before their eyes. Then came the thrilling chairlift ride down the cliffside to the beach, offering jaw-dropping views of the crystal-clear waters. But the real showstopper? A boat trip out to the iconic Needles! Sea spray and smiles all around as we cruised past the chalky cliffs, learning about their history from the Captain.

Wednesday was nothing short of epic at Blackgang Chine, the UK's oldest theme park. Pupils had a blast exploring different lands - from under-

water worlds to dinosaurs - and bravely took on rides like the adrenaline-pumping Water Force and gravity-defying Extinction. It was a day full of fun, shrieks of joy, and endless exploring. That evening, we slowed things down with a magical twilight trip to Shanklin Chine, wandering along lantern-lit path-ways through lush greenery and waterfalls - it felt like stepping into a fairytale.

Our final full day took us to Robin Hill, an outdoor adventure park where pupils challenged themselves with treetop trails, slides, mazes, and more. From obstacle courses to Peaceful wood-

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land walks, there was something for everyone. The week ended on a high with a beach party to celebrate Zach's birthday! There was karaoke, dancing, and cake, and the sound of waves mixing with our singing made it a truly special evening.

From historical houses to high-flying chairlifts, theme parks to party nights, the Isle of Wight gave us a week to remember. The students were brilliant ambassadors for the school - curious, kind, and full of energy. We couldn't be prouder of how they supported each other and made the most of every moment. Here's to more adventures ahead!



### Allergy reminder:

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





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### Year 2

Year 2 had an unforgettable experience on Wednesday during their exciting Circus Workshop. The event was filled with a variety of engaging stations, each designed to help children explore and develop different circus-related skills. From the moment they arrived, the room buzzed with energy and enthusiasm.

Pupils rotated through a range of fun and challenging activities, with some clear favourites emerging. The balance scooters tested their coordination and core strength, while the spinning plates encouraged patience and fine motor skills. The walkers (stilts) provided an opportunity to build balance and perseverance, and the beanbag socks proved to be a hit for their mix of creativity and movement.



This action-packed morning came at the perfect time, following several intense weeks of academic learning. Recently, the children have been diving deep into topics such as fractions, telling the time, poetry, the rainforest, plant life, and geographical features like seas and coasts. The workshop not only gave them a much-needed break but also supported the development of vital physical skills including balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination – all wrapped up in a joyful, circus-themed setting.

The smiles, laughter, and sense of achievement throughout the morning were a true testament to the power of learning through play.



### SCA

#### Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

We've got a busy and exciting term ahead!



**Tea Towels Are Back:** Children will soon begin creating their self-portraits to be printed on our ever-popular tea towel keep-sakes. Order yours here:

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

**Balloon's of Gratitude - Father's Day Event:** This Father's Day, we are celebrating all of the amazing father figures who lift us up! The children will take part in a heartwarming and playful celebration where messages of appreciation take flight... literally! Please complete the form below to confirm if you do or do not wish your child to participate.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSIKib1hAWFL448Y5eAj5Xq2Qn8f7cQM0jlgYq\\_ivGDAyn4g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSIKib1hAWFL448Y5eAj5Xq2Qn8f7cQM0jlgYq_ivGDAyn4g/viewform)

**Summer Fair:** Friday 27th June, 3.00 – 5.30pm. Our annual Summer Fair promises to be another fantastic event. Booking details and more information coming soon!

**Open Air Cinema Night:** Saturday 30th August. Bring your blankets and join us under the stars for an unforgettable evening. Details to follow!

**Tombola Donations – Tuesday 17th June** at drop off. We are asking for bottle and toy donations for our ever-popular Summer Fair tombolas. Good quality toys and bottle donations are appreciated!

Thank you for your amazing support!

### What's Happening After Half Term

#### **Tuesday 3rd June**

- Year 5 & 6 (selected pupils) Swimming Gala v St Dunstan's (14.45 – 17.15)

#### **Friday 23rd May**

- Year 6 Cricket v St Dunstan's (13.20 – 16.10)