

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week has felt like the calm before the storm as we perch on the edge of some of our biggest upcoming end-of-term events!

We were delighted to have Munchkins in on Monday to run taster workshops with the children, giving them a feel for

the kinds of activities they'll be offering in their holiday camps. As our official holiday club provider, Munchkins brings consistency and a sense of comfort for the children, and being in a familiar school environment should make a huge difference to our children. The sessions were full of fun and creativity, and it was such a joy to see the children respond with such enthusiasm. The team brought exactly the kind of energy and imagination we want from our wraparound care, and I'm thrilled we can now offer this level of provision all year round.

Tuesday's House Meeting was a reflective one, centred around the themes of kindness and change. With Sports Day, end-of-year celebrations, and transition events fast approaching, it felt like the perfect time to remind the children to support one another, celebrate effort, and approach the changes ahead with empathy and optimism. Speaking of Sports Day, Mr Murphy will be in touch soon with details of an exciting new initiative. This year, we're trialling professionally captured Sports Day action shots. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase high-quality images of their children in full competitive (or cheerleading!) from sprint finishes to relay races and everything in between. We hope this gives families a lasting memento of one of the most joyful days in our school calendar. Adding to the flurry of photographic activity this week, our school photographer visited to take formal class photos - always a lovely milestone as the school year draws to a close. And if that weren't enough camera action, a second photographer joined us on Thursday to capture vibrant and joyful snapshots of daily life at St Christopher's. As mentioned last week, these images will help us celebrate and showcase the unique spirit of our school.

We were delighted to host two Parent Partnership events this week. Our school counsellor David gave a really thoughtful session on helping chil-

dren feel secure during periods of change, and we also welcomed an expert speaker for a thought-provoking talk on artificial intelligence and the profound ways it may shape our children's futures. The AI talk, interestingly tied directly into our broader educational strategy which we are launching next year. At St Christopher's, we are committed to ensuring that while our pupils are future-ready and AI-literate, they are also equipped with essential human skills - focus, emotional resilience, and practical life competencies - that technology cannot replicate. This balance is central to our mission of developing well-rounded, grounded individuals who are prepared not only to thrive in a digital world but to lead it with integrity and humanity. If you missed the events, don't worry - there's a full write-up further down in the newsletter. And in next week's edition, I'll be sharing more about our new strategic direction and how it will continue to prioritise this dual focus: embracing innovation without losing sight of the timeless values that shape character and community.

And finally, a note of staff news, I'm sad to share that Miss James, who has been such a wonderful Teaching Assistant here at St Christopher's (and gives the most fabulous hugs every morning), will not be returning in September following her maternity leave. After welcoming a gorgeous baby daughter earlier this year, she has made the thoughtful and entirely understandable decision to dedicate more time to her family. While I know we will all miss her larger-than-life personality and her incredible ability to make me laugh on a daily basis, I am truly happy for her. I'm also delighted that she'll be coming in on the last day of term so we can give her a proper send-off and celebrate the brilliant work as a TA - and now the full-time mum - that she is.

To round things off, Friday saw another beautifully organised SCA event - the Father's Day (and Significant Others) Gift Stall. Children carefully selected and created thoughtful gifts for their loved ones, and as always, it ran as smoothly as ever. A big thank you to the SCA team for their brilliant organisation of another joyful and creative experience for the children. We hope these tokens bring smiles on Sunday!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Year 5

A highlight of the Summer term in Year 5 was our unforgettable residential trip to Bowles. The children embraced a wide range of outdoor learning opportunities, including skiing, rock climbing, high ropes, team ropes, kayaking, archery, bouldering, team building, orienteering, and swimming. Throughout our time at Bowles, the children showed excellent teamwork, supporting their peers, building resilience and self-belief, and overcoming personal challenges.

They thrived in the outdoor environment, applying problem-solving skills through practical, hands-on experiences. We were especially proud to hear several adults comment on the children's enthusiasm, kindness, and respectful nature. A particularly special moment was our evening around the campfire, where we practised mindfulness and reflection. Each child shared what they were most proud of and what they had learned - while toasting and enjoying delicious S'mores! This memorable and enriching trip showcased so many of our Character Values in action, and we couldn't be prouder of Year 5.



Year 1

Year 1 has spent some time looking at direction and turns in the last few weeks. We have been programming Bee-Bots, jumping turns in the playground and guiding each other through a maze with our direction based language. We have had to get to grips with terms such as quarter and three quarter turns as well as clockwise and anti-clockwise. Here we are tackling the maze:



Allergy reminder:

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



Emailing teachers

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



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Art and Parent Partnership: AI talk

This half term, as part of their Design and Technology project, Year 6 students are diving into the fascinating world of artificial intelligence (AI). They are learning what AI is, how it works, and exploring some of the important ethical questions surrounding its use, especially in relation to art creation.

To kick off the topic, students attended a talk by Dr Steven Hamblin, an expert in the field of AI. He introduced them to the basics of artificial intelligence and explained how these systems operate. Dr Hamblin also touched on some of the more controversial aspects of AI, such as its environmental impact and the ethics of generating artwork using AI tools.

As the project continues, and under guidance, Year 6 will try using AI image generation tools themselves. They'll experiment with prompt-ing AI to replicate artwork and then explore deeper ethical questions, including what it feels like when your own work is used, without permission, to train an AI model. We're excited to share more about this engaging and thought-provoking project in the coming weeks. The school was also fortunate to welcome Dr Hamblin for a special session with our parents. In this talk, he expanded on the ideas he presented to the students, going into greater depth about how these systems actually work. He then offered his thoughts on how AI might shape the educational landscape in the years ahead. A key takeaway from his talk

was the importance of training children's attention. Activities that build focus and concentration, he argued, will be crucial for helping young people thrive in a world increasingly shaped by digital tools.

He emphasised, *"The ability to think when it is noisy, to put down the screens and concentrate, to grapple with complex ideas without needing to immediately relieve the tension by looking up the answer will differentiate those who can master this environment and those who can't."*

At St Christopher's, we are proud to embrace the tools of the future while maintaining a strong focus on citizenship, critical thinking, and ethical responsibility. By exploring the possibilities and challenges of AI, our students are not only gaining technical insight, but also learning what it means to use emerging technologies thoughtfully and responsibly.



Parent Partnership - Positively Framing Change by David (school counsellor)

In a recent session with parents, our school counsellor spoke on the topic *"Positively Framing Change"*, offering practical guidance on how parents can help their children navigate change with confidence and optimism.

David began by acknowledging that change, whether it's starting a new school year, moving homes, adjusting to new routines, or facing social or academic challenges, can be difficult for children. However, how change is framed at home plays a crucial role in shaping how children respond to it. In his recent talk titled *"Positively Framing Change"*, David spoke to parents about

how they can support their children in approaching change with confidence, resilience, and a positive mindset. A key message of the session was the influence parents have on how their children perceive and respond to change. David encouraged parents to reflect on their own attitudes, emphasising that children often absorb and internalise the emotions and beliefs of the adults around them. The talk concluded with a reminder that while change is inevitable, it also offers a valuable chance to build resilience. With consistent support, reassurance, and open communication, parents can help their children view change not as something to fear, but as something they can face and grow from.

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PE Department – Summer Term Highlights

It's been a busy few weeks in the Sports Department, with pupils across the school participating in a wide range of events and competitions, showcasing their skills, dedication, and team spirit.

Year 6 Visit Chelsea FC Training Ground

Our Year 6 pupils had an unforgettable experience during their recent trip to Chelsea Football Club's world-class training ground. The group enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at the facilities, took part in a training session led by their coaches, and left feeling inspired and full of excitement for the beautiful game.



Swimming Gala at St Dunstan's

Our talented swimmers in Years 5 and 6 competed in a fantastic swimming gala hosted at St Dunstan's.



The event was filled with competitive spirit and brilliant performances from all involved. Well done to

everyone who took part and represented the school with pride!

IAPS Swimming Success

A special congratulations to Polina, who competed in the prestigious IAPS Swimming Finals and achieved an outstanding 11th place finish in the country for the 50m breaststroke. This is a remarkable achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her



determination and performance at such a high level.

Bromley Primary Schools' Athletics Meet

Athletes from Years 4 to 6 took part in the Bromley Primary Schools' Athletics Meet, facing strong competition from schools across the



borough. Our pupils displayed fantastic sportsmanship and impressive athletic ability in both track and field events. Well done to all competitors for their effort and enthusiasm! We are delighted to share that St Christopher's finished 3rd overall in the competition – a fantastic achievement! Even more impressively, 13 of our pupils have qualified for the finals, which will take place on 3rd July. We wish them the best of luck as they prepare to represent the school once again.

Tonbridge Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament

Our Year 6 boys took part in the Tonbridge Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament, putting in a strong team performance. They played with great teamwork, resilience, and energy throughout the day, gaining valuable experience against some tough opposition.

As the term continues, we look forward to more exciting opportunities and achievements in sport. A huge thank you to all the staff, parents, and pupils for their continued support and dedication to our PE and sports programme.



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Pupil Achievement

Huge congratulations to Zirphie (Year 5) and George (Reception), who took part in the Tour de Penge on Sunday 8th June - a fantastic local cycling event involving around 300 riders of all ages and abilities. The guided route follows the National Cycle Network's Route 21 and takes cyclists on a safe, mostly off-road journey from Penge to the River Thames at Greenwich and back - a round trip of 13 flat miles!



Even more impressively, George only learnt to ride a bike three weeks ago—what an incredible achievement!



If your child does something exciting outside of school, do let Mr Carter know. He loves hearing about all the wonderful things the children get up to!

SCA - Upcoming Events

Bottle and Toy Donations - Summer Fair Tombolas

On Tuesday 17th June at drop off, please bring along any bottle and toy donations for our Summer Fair tombolas. These are staples of the Summer Fair and your contributions make them possible!

Save the Date: Summer Fair

Our much loved Summer Fair will be held on Friday 27th June from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Tickets available next week, so keep an eye out to join in the festivities.

Looking ahead to the Summer, don't miss our **Open Air Cinema evening** on Saturday 30th August. Tickets for this magical night under the stars will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing families at these exciting events, celebrating community, fun and togetherness!



Year 3

This week, Year 3 has been delving into the fascinating world of plant science, exploring how water travels through stems, leaves, and



petals. To bring this process to life, they conducted an experiment using food colouring, allowing them to track the movement of water within the plants. With great enthusiasm, the children devised their own system to ensure a fair test—carefully counting each drop from the pipettes and making sure every cup received the same amount of water. The excitement in 3C was unmistakable as they observed the plants transform over time, recording their findings on iPads. A brilliant combination of technology, hands-on discovery, and scientific curiosity - it has been an inspiring week in the classroom!



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 16th June

- Year 4 and 6 trip to the Gurdwara
- Year 3 Cricket v Braeside
All pupils involved (13:20-16:00)

Tuesday 17th June

- Maths Competition at Walthamstow Hall
(11:30-16:00)

Wednesday 18th June

- Year 6 Cricket v Braeside
All pupils involved (13:20-16:00)

Friday 20th June

- Year 3 Sponsored Run at Kelsey Park
(09:30-10:30)
- Year 5 Cricket v Braeside
All pupils involved (13:20-16:00)