

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

If there's one thing we know for sure about life in schools, it's that the path is never linear. Just when you think you've got the timetable under control, the calendar mapped out, and the emails (mostly) answered, something unexpected arrives, like

a plot twist in a novel. And last week was certainly a chapter none of us saw coming.

The news of Bishop Challoner's sudden closure has been deeply saddening. The impact of a school community losing its heartbeat so quickly is, quite simply, devastating. It reminds us just how much schools are more than buildings: they are homes of memories, friendships, and milestones. With that in mind, we have tried to offer what support we can, welcoming affected families and providing an avenue for them to consider St Christopher's as a new beginning. We hope, in doing so, to offer a sense of peace and reassurance during what must be an incredibly difficult time for those families. To this end we hosted a Discovery Day, where we welcomed a number of children for a special morning of assessments, activities, and an opportunity to see whether they might flourish within our well-established classes. As ever, we were looking not only at academic fit, but also at character and kindness, those essential ingredients for a happy transition. I'm pleased to share that some of those children will be joining us in September, and we look forward to the fresh energy and stories they will bring. This does mean that we will have to change some of the plans we had for next year with classes. Who said the end of term isn't filled with thrills and pivots!

Then, as if that wasn't enough excitement in one week, the sporting culmination of the term kicked off with our Preschool Sports Day on Thursday, and I thoroughly enjoyed the bits I managed to sneak out to see. Ms Steeden did a fantastic job steering the event with confidence and enthusiasm, and the children had a brilliant time taking part in all the fun activities - from races to team games - their smiles and energy were absolutely infectious! I am looking forward to the Pre-Prep and Prep Sports Day on 7th July.

We rounded off Thursday with one of the true

highlights of the summer term: our New Parents' Barbecue. This annual event is a joyful moment in the calendar, where we welcome all families joining us in September to meet one another, hear more about what makes St Christopher's such a special, inclusive community, and begin forging connections that often grow into lifelong friendships. A huge thank you to all the staff who stayed on to support the event, and an especially big thank you to Mrs Jeffery, who once again orchestrated everything with her usual flair, warmth, and St Christopher's sparkle. Her work behind the scenes is invaluable and so appreciated. The class lists for Preschool and Reception classes were given out at this event, and further class lists will be sent round to all parents prior to our move up morning on Friday 8th July.

Now, all our attention turns to the much anticipated Summer Fair this afternoon, which already looks set to be one of our best ones yet. A huge thank you goes to the SCA for all their tireless hard work behind the scenes to make this special day possible. I look forward to seeing many of you at the gate, and we can't wait to see everyone come together for a fun-filled afternoon of games, treats, and community spirit!

Finally, I've been beaver away, reading through all of the pupils' end-of-year reports, from beginning to end. It's always one of the most meaningful tasks of the year, and also one of the most moving. Each child's journey, with all its triumphs, challenges, and growth, is captured in those pages, and I find myself beaming with pride as I reflect on how far they've come. This is especially true with our wonderful Year 6 pupils, who were in Year 3 when I first arrived. To read their reports now, knowing how confidently they are stepping into the next chapter of their lives, is nothing short of extraordinary. These reports are an important record of your child's development, academic, social, and personal, and a celebration of who they are becoming. I know they will bring a smile (and perhaps a happy tear or two!) when they are emailed to you on Monday 7th July at 16:00. I hope you'll take time to read them together, reflect on the year that's been, and be incredibly proud of all your children have achieved.

Mr Carter

Headteacher

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Year 4 and Year 1

The final Phase Fusion of the year saw our enthusiastic Year 1 children teaming up with their older Year 4 buddies for a creative challenge using the amazing Kapla blocks. Each



class was introduced to a range of inspiring example builds - of varying levels of difficulty - including palm trees, crocodiles, castles, squirrels, bridges, airplanes, and more. These served as starting points for the children to emulate and reimagine.

Working beautifully in groups of four or five, the children decided on their structures and thoughtfully assigned roles within their teams. There was noticeable resilience (especially when the occasional block fell), remarkable creativity (as they figured out how to bring the 2D ideas to life in 3D), and genuine enthusiasm as their final models took shape.

A huge well done to all the children for their kindness, friendship, and shared enjoyment throughout this final *Phase Fusion of the year*.

Less "chocks away" and more - "blocks out for building play!"

Reception

This week, Reception continued the theme of mini beasts. We had a fun and exciting trip to High Elms Country Park, where we engaged in a range of minibeast adventures such as pond dipping, a minibeast hunt, and meeting some gigantic bugs. We even met a giant African land snail! We stroked an enormous hard shell centipede, we couldn't believe how many legs it had! We learnt some interesting facts about insects and minibeasts such as the giant stick insect that we met that appeared to be covered in bird poo; this colouring is for its own protection, how interesting! We spotted butterflies in the fields and bright blue dragonflies hovering over the ponds and we even

found out that there is a small species of bat that like to roost high up in the leafy green trees at



High Elms. We have had a great last trip in Reception and this special day has really brought our minibeasts topic to life.

Charity events

Shoe Donation

St Christopher's is trying to support this charity in an unusual way, not by raising money, but by donating our shoes! Many of the children in Malawi walk a long way to school, wearing what they call a "Gummy" which is a little like a Croc. We would like to send them the school shoes you are about to outgrow over the summer. On the last day of term, please come to school in your regular school shoes and bring a pair of trainers to change into. Come to the 10 classroom and change into your trainers, leaving us your school shoes. These will then be shipped out to Malawi with one of the volunteers from Hope4Malawi during the summer break. We hope you can join us in supporting the charity in this way.

Year 6

Just a reminder that on the afternoon of **Wednesday 2nd July**, during ECHO time, Year 6 will be having their Charity event: Teachers vs Pupils Cricket! The rest of the pupils from across the school will be coming to watch, support and cheer. As it is a charity event, we are asking all pupils across the school to **bring £1 as a spectator fee**, which will include an ice lolly, with all proceeds going to our school charity: The Epilepsy Society.

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Open Air Cinema Night

Keep a lookout for our Open Air Cinema tickets, going live next week!

This event will take place on Saturday 30th August and will be a wonderful way for the children, and parents, to catch up before the new school year starts!

SCA Update

We are so looking forward to welcoming you to our Summer Fair after school today! Pre Orders have now closed, but you can still purchase entrance tickets and currency on the door.



School Award

We are proud to share some exciting news with you — our school has officially been awarded the **Asthma Friendly Schools Award!**



This recognition reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students, especially those living with asthma. As part of the process, our staff have received training, we've updated our asthma policies and procedures, and we've put measures in place to ensure children with asthma feel supported and understood throughout the school day.

Thank you to everyone — staff, students, and families — who helped us achieve this important milestone. Together, we're helping to ensure every child can learn and thrive in a healthy and safe school setting.

Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.



Celebrating Pupil Success – Arjun and Isla's Jiu Jitsu Achievement!

We are always thrilled to hear about the amazing things our pupils accomplish beyond the classroom, and this week we are especially proud to celebrate *Arjun and Isla*, who both received their grey and white belts at their recent Jiu Jitsu grading. This achievement reflects their dedication, resilience, and commitment to their training - well done, Arjun and Isla!

We love to hear about the wide range of interests and talents that our pupils pursue outside of school. If your child has achieved something exciting - whether in sport, music, the arts, or another area - please let Mr. Carter know. He really enjoys celebrating these successes with the school community!



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 30th June

- Year 3 Residential to Frylands
- Year 6 visit to Beckenham Fire Station
- Year 4 cricket match v Braeside (14:00-17:00) all children to play

Wednesday 2nd July

- Year 5 and 6 dress Rehearsal to the school (09:15-10:15)
- Year 2 to 3 Transition Morning in school
- Year 6 Cricket Charity Match (13:00-15:00)
- Year 5 and 6 Show to Parents - Wizard of Oz (18:00-19:30)

Thursday 3rd July

- Year 5 sSponsored car wash (09:00-11:00)
- Bromley Schools Athletics Finals (12:00-15:00)
- St Dunstan's Music Festival Year 5 (18:00-21:00)

Friday 4th July

- Year 2 seaside workshop (am)