

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

What a wonderful first full week back at school it has been! The children have settled beautifully, and we are already into the rhythm of a busy and exciting term. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting started with my Year 6 English groups, as well as

spending time with our Preschool pupils where I will be reading them a story each week (I can already see this might be a highlight of my week!), and meeting Year 5 parents to discuss our links with St Dunstan's. One of the reasons I love my job so much is the variety each day brings, from storytime and lively lessons to parent meetings and creative planning, no two days are ever the same.

This week saw the launch of our Horizon Project afternoons, which this term are all about sustainability. Pupils have been introduced to what sustainability means in a practical, hands-on way. These sessions are deliberately designed to step away from screens and technology for a while, encouraging focus, problem-solving, and teamwork in the real world. Of course, we know technology and digital skills are vital for the future, but we also believe it's important to balance this with skills that risk being lost if children only ever learn through screens. It's not an either/or, we want to marry the two, giving our pupils the best of both worlds.

We have been delighted to have Mrs Eastwood join us as our new Director of Music, which she has begun with great aplomb! She has already thrown herself into life here, and together we are beginning a review of both our music curriculum and the wider opportunities available to pupils. In recognition of the current financial climate, we are pleased to share that we will be reducing the cost of instrumental lessons, in the hope that many more pupils will be able to take up learning an instrument. To help you get to know her and hear her vision, Mrs Eastwood hosted a short online meeting today. This has also been recorded so that, if you couldn't make it live, you can watch it at your convenience.

It was also lovely to see so many of you at our coffee morning today. These informal gatherings are such a valuable part of our school life, a chance to

come together, chat, and share as a community. Thank you to all who joined us. Looking ahead, a reminder that we have our remote parents' meetings next week on Tuesday and Thursday (I have finally got the dates right!). Links will be sent out to you early next week. Please log on a few minutes before your slot, as timings are tight for teachers. If you encounter any problems with connecting, just let us know by email. However, don't worry, these meetings are not formal academic reviews but a chance to touch base, put a name to a face, and ensure your child has settled happily into the new school year.

Across the wider St Dunstan's Educational Group, I am delighted to share that we have launched a new initiative bringing together all staff who lead subjects into cross-school professional learning clusters. These groups allow our teachers to share ideas, swap strategies, and discuss best practice across subjects. The real winners, of course, are our pupils: they benefit from a richer, more creative curriculum, as well as the energy and fresh ideas that come from teachers learning collaboratively. This is a truly exciting step forward and will only strengthen the excellent teaching already taking place in classrooms every day.

On the building front, while we have only just completed our new Year 5 classrooms and playground, I simply couldn't keep quiet any longer about what's coming next. The one part of the school that still makes me wince is the so-called "Horridor", the rather gloomy link between the Georgian House and the newer building. I'm thrilled to say that plans are already underway to transform this space into a bright, modern link that will truly bring the whole site up to standard. Although the project isn't due to start until the summer of 2026, our architects are already busy creating plans, and I couldn't wait to tell you about it. I look forward to sharing designs and imagery with you as soon as they are ready.

Finally, next week I will be away for three days at the annual Heads' Conference in Brighton. I hope to return with new ideas and inspiration, but in my absence, you will be in the very safe hands of my trusted deputy, Mrs West, who will also be writing to you next week.

Mr Carter  
**Head Teacher**

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### EYFS

What a wonderful start we've had to the new school year in Early Years! Reception and Pre-school have settled in beautifully, and it's been such a joy to see our youngest learners making new friends and exploring together!

On Wednesday, we had our very first Launching Learners session in which we joined as a phase. It was lovely to watch the older children playing ball games with the younger ones, including them in all their penalty shoot out fun! Out on the road area, the children navigated, shared and took turns brilliantly, with the occasional "Early Years traffic jam" to solve!

We were especially impressed with the fantastic teamwork everyone showed during tidy-up time. We ended our first session with an outdoors story time of the classic Guess How Much I Love You. The children (and adults!) used their bodies to join in with Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare's actions.

This week, Reception children have also been introduced to our Character Values. They are already earning lots of counters by showing Respect, Ambition and Resilience: what a brilliant

start! Meanwhile, Preschool enjoyed their very first story session with Mr Carter, which was a big highlight of the week!

We are so proud of how quickly the children are settling in and embracing their new routines. We are really looking forward to the year ahead and all the exciting learning to come.

**Mrs Oliver**



## Hope4Malawi

their future starts today

On Thursday of this week we had a visit from Charis, who works with the charity Hope4Malawi. She came to tell the children all about the work the charity does with supporting children in education in Malawi. The children learned that it would cost only eighteen pounds to feed a child breakfast for the whole year and that their breakfast is like porridge. The children also heard about how



some of the Malawi children travel to school. One of them runs to school for over 40 minutes. Another family shares a pair of shoes, so one child wears the left, and the other the right shoe; incredibly they

swap around each day! Charis was also here to thank the children for their donations at the end of the school year. St Christopher's children donated over 120 pairs of school shoes to the charity, which they have taken out to Malawi and given to the children. A fantastic way to support the charity and one which we will be repeating at the end of this academic year.





# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Pre-Prep

It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome back all our Pre-Prep children after the summer break, and to greet our new Reception classes and starters. The school is buzzing with energy and positivity as everyone settles into new routines, classrooms and teachers.



Over the summer, the school underwent some truly exciting changes, most notably, the incredible transformation of the Pre-Prep playground! This vibrant new space has completely transformed playtimes, filling them with joy, creativity, adventure, and exploration. From the physical challenges of the Trim Trail to the imaginative role play in the amphitheatre and calming moments in the sensory area, not to mention the fun of musical instruments, there is something for everyone to enjoy and learn from.

Our Reception children have also moved into the Preschool building, bringing the EYFS together as a Phase, creating a warm and inspiring environment to support their learning and growth. Meanwhile, our new-look after school programme, Munchkins, is now in full swing, offering an amazing variety of engaging activities at the end of each day.

Looking ahead, we have an action-packed and enriching term lined up, filled with exciting class trips, workshops, and more. We're especially thrilled to be launching our brand-new Horizon Project. Replacing the former ECHO slot, this innovative initiative will focus on equipping our children with essential life skills, encouraging them to grow into confident, compassionate and capable global citizens.

We can't wait to see all the wonderful things this term has in store ; it's going to be a brilliant year ahead!

**Mrs Chamadia**



### Prep

We have had a fantastic start to the year in the Prep School. The children have settled confidently into their new classes and are already building strong relationships with their teachers.

This term is packed with exciting learning opportunities across the year groups. Year 3 will be visiting the Horniman Museum to enrich their Humanities studies, while Year 4 will take a step back in time with a hands-on Stone Age drama workshop during their trip to the Natural History Museum. Year 5 will be looking to the stars as they explore life in space and enhance their coding skills during their visit to the London Transport Museum. Meanwhile, Year 6 will be diving into their Science topic, Light, and taking part in a stimulating Maths and English workshop at St Dunstan's.

We are also thrilled to be launching our new Horizon Project initiative this term. Pupils will explore the theme of sustainability through engaging, practical projects, while also developing their understanding of focus and concentration within our

specialist subject sessions.

The children have already demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm, curiosity, and resilience in these first few weeks. We are confident they will continue to embody all of our Character Values as the term unfolds.

### Miss Rule



# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Welcome Back from the SCA!

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are ready for an exciting year ahead!

We have to start off by mentioning the completion of our brand new Pre-Prep playground. This incredible addition to our school would not have been possible without the generosity of our amazing parents. Thanks to your support, the SCA was able to contribute an incredible £55,000 toward this project. What a lasting legacy for our children and future generations to enjoy!

It was lovely to see so many of you at this morning's coffee gathering. These events are always a wonderful opportunity to connect with both new and familiar faces. A heartfelt thank you to those who have already expressed interest in joining the



SCA and helping us deliver memorable fundraising events throughout the year. As a volunteer-led team, our success depends on the incredible support of parents and partners like you.

We're also excited to announce that we have a full calendar of events planned for this school year, details will be shared with you very soon. Watch this space!

Lastly, a huge thank you to Julian Corner, dad to Ellie and Charlie, for generously volunteering his time and expertise to conduct the recent independent audit of the SCA accounts.

Alongside Fiona Beaton, Julian worked to ensure the financial legalities of being a registered charity were met and thanks to his efforts we can continue our fundraising efforts. We are incredibly grateful. Thank you once again Julian.

**SCA Team**

### St Christopher Hall Week 3 Autumn

## Weekly menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Italian Style Tomato & Herb Pasta	Chicken Tikka Masala and Naan Bread	Beef Burger build your own Burger Day	Cottage Pie	Chefs Catch of the Day
	Spinach and Potato Curry	Vegetable Gourmet Burger	Vegetable and Lentil Cottage Pie	Roast Vegetable Frittata
Golden Vegan Nuggets with Chilli Sauce	Mixed Vegetables	Mixed Green Salad	Fresh Mixed Vegetables	Peas
Green Beans	Naan Bread	Fresh Vegetable of The Day	Fresh Cabbage	Baked Beans
Baby Carrots	Spicy Rice	Golden BBQ Wedges	Onion Gravy	Chipped Potatoes
Pasta and Baby New Potatoes	Peach Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit Cocktail	Homemade Flap Jack or Fresh Fruit	Strawberry Jelly or Chinks of Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Sponge or Fresh Fruit
Shortbread Biscuits or Fresh Fruit				

#### Available daily

Homemade Fresh Soup, Fresh Homemade Breads, Seasonal Salad Bar, Homemade Sandwiches and a Pudding of the Day.



# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Munchkin Sports

We're absolutely thrilled to share the exciting news about the successful launch of our new Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care at St Christopher's The Hall School! The response from families has been positive, and it's been wonderful to see so many children starting their day with a smile, enjoying a healthy breakfast and engaging in fun, structured activities. It's clear the children are thriving with the extra time to settle in, play, and connect with friends before lessons begin.

Our Wraparound Care has also hit the ground running, providing a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment for children after school. From creative arts and crafts to outdoor play and quiet time, there's something for everyone. The feedback from both children and parents has been heartening. Munchkin Sports is proud to offer this extended support to children and their families, helping to make daily routines smoother while ensuring children continue to flourish beyond the classroom. Thank you for your enthusiasm and trust, we're excited to keep building on this success together!



### Social Media

There have been some great new posts this week about our European Day of Languages and our parent assemblies on our social media channels so follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on insta and Twitter, as well as [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life!



### Emailing teachers

**REMINDER:** ALL emails to teachers should use the [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)



### Individual School Photos – Next Tuesday

A reminder that next Tuesday is Individual Photo Day in school. All pupils should come in full Summer school uniform and looking smart and tidy for their photographs. Parents may also wish to send their child in with a small brush or comb for any last-minute touch-ups before their photo is taken. We look forward to seeing lots of happy smiles on the day!

### Pupil Achievement

We are delighted to celebrate Greta's fantastic achievement this weekend. Greta took part in her very first aquathon, where she swam 50 metres before completing a 600-metre run. She not only rose to the challenge with determination but also had a wonderful time making new friends along the way. Well done, Greta, on such a brilliant effort!



If your child has achieved something special outside of school, please let Mr Carter know – he loves to hear about and celebrate our pupils' successes.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

- Tuesday 16th September**
  - Individual School Photos
  - 5 min Virtual Meetings for Rec-Year 6 (15:30-17:55)
- Wednesday 17th September**
  - Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting (16:00-17:00)
- Thursday 18th September**
  - 5 min Virtual Meetings for Rec-Year 6 (15:30-17:55)
- Friday 19th September**
  - Year 6 Rugby v Breaside away match (14:15-16:00)
  - Year 6 Netball v Breaside away match (14:15-16:00)