

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It has been absolutely wonderful to be back in school this week for a full week after last week's conference. I know our fantastic team did an amazing job holding the fort while I was away, and it was a joy to return to business as usual. I've loved teaching my

Year 6 classes, reading to our adorable pre-schoolers, and sneaking in plenty of admin along the way.

One of the highlights has been fine-tuning the logistics for our very first Saturday Discovery Morning on 11th October. This isn't your usual open morning where prospective parents just peek in on the school "in action". Instead, it's a chance for them to dive a little deeper, attending mini-seminars and talks on the many aspects that make our school tick. I'm especially thrilled that some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils (plus a few keen helpers!) will be on hand to welcome visitors and share their own experiences because let's face it, our pupils are the best ambassadors for our school. And let's not forget you, our parents, are powerful ambassadors too! Your recommendations and encouragement mean the world, so if you know friends, relatives, or neighbours who might be interested, please do share the advert featured below in the newsletter (with an amazing photo of Monty and Fola in Year 6, which you may also have seen on billboards in the Beckenham area). We can't wait to greet new faces and show off all the things that make our school so wonderfully unique!

On Thursday, we hosted our next Parent Partnership event for Reception parents, giving them a real insight into how our phonics programmes work in school and how they can best support their children at home. These sessions are so valuable because they help parents understand the structure and progression of phonics, making reading and writing a shared adventure between school and home. A huge thank you to Mrs Oliver and her team for organising and hosting this event; we hope parents found it useful and came away feeling more confident and equipped to support their little ones on their reading and writing journey. Next week, we will be hosting a session for Pre-school which we hope will be equally as useful.

Looking ahead, Black History Month begins next week, and we have a fantastic fortnight of celebration planned! This is a special opportunity for our children to explore inspiring stories, understand the value of diversity, and see how Black individuals, past and present, have shaped our world. From whole-school assemblies and creative classroom projects, to music, storytelling, and theatre experiences, the children will be immersed in ways that are engaging, thought-provoking, and fun. We're excited for them to explore, create, and be inspired throughout this vibrant celebration.

A huge thank you to Mrs Titchener for all her hard work in setting this up. We're really looking forward to showcasing the exciting activities and projects throughout the month, and we'll be sharing a special edition of the newsletter later in the term to highlight everything that has been happening.

This week has been full of ideas, inspiration, and a little bit of assembly magic! On Tuesday, the whole school joined our **Recycling Assembly**, where pupils discovered that even tiny actions, like putting the right thing in the right bin, can make a huge difference to our planet. It turns out that saving the world can be as simple as remembering your reusable water bottle... who knew being eco-friendly could be so heroic?

On Wednesday, we celebrated **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year. Pupils learned about the traditions of reflection, fresh starts, and hope for the year ahead. More importantly, it was a chance to explore and understand the amazing diversity of our communities and why it's so important to respect people's different religions and cultures. The children thought carefully about how kindness, curiosity, and understanding make our school, and the world, a better place for everyone.

Both assemblies gave our pupils a chance to think bigger than themselves - whether that's caring for the environment or celebrating the differences that make our community so special. It was heartening to listen to their thoughtful questions and to see how curious and enthusiastic the children were about both topics.

Have a super weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pre-Prep

It's been just a few weeks since our brand-new Pre-Prep playground opened - and already, it's become a favourite space for our youngest learners. Watching the children explore, play, and thrive in this amazing environment has been a joy. Designed with both fun and development in mind, the playground is proving to be far more than just a place to let off steam. Every area is being used in meaningful ways, helping to nurture key skills and inspire imaginative play.

The trim trail has become a hub of activity, with children gaining confidence and physical strength as they challenge themselves on the various equipment. Balance, coordination, and resilience are all being put into practice — often with huge smiles and lots of laughter. The climbing hill and tunnel have sparked endless imaginative games, from mountaineering adventures to secret hideouts, while the musical area has given children the chance to explore rhythm, sound, and creative expression. It's been wonderful to see children working together to make music — whether planned or spontaneous. The new artificial grass has transformed the space into a safe, soft, and all-weather surface, perfect for running, games, and relaxed group play. Regardless of the weather, the children are making the most of their time outdoors every day.



Meanwhile, the amphitheatre has quickly become a gathering place for storytelling, performances, and group discussions. It's helping children build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of community as they take turns in the spotlight or sit together to enjoy shared moments. The pathway and road area have also been hugely popular, encouraging role play, cooperation, and learning about the world around them - all while developing spatial awareness and gross motor skills.

In just a few weeks, we've already seen:

- Increased collaboration and teamwork
- Enhanced physical development and coordination
- Richer imaginative play
- More confident communication and social interaction

It's clear that this new space is not only fun but also deeply beneficial for our children's growth and development. The playground has become a place where friendships flourish, imaginations run wild, and important learning happens naturally through play. We're delighted with how the children have embraced their new environment — and can't wait to see how they continue to make it their own.



Allergy reminder:

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



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Music

Music is flourishing at St Christopher's as our choirs and ensembles are all busy rehearsing under the new leadership of Mrs Eastwood.

Our four choirs have made a lively start to the term and have some exciting performances in the pipeline to prepare for. Our orchestra has also restarted to play together, and there have been many requests for new pupils starting orchestral instrumental lessons further down the school. Mrs Eastwood plans to expand the orchestra to include players of any standard that can confidently play a few notes: making music together is one of the most exciting forms of self-expressions, and Mrs Eastwood can write parts of differing standards accordingly.

We're also excited to have the opportunity to showcase some St Christopher's musicians on our Discovery Open Morning to prospective fami-

lies. We'll have performances from some Year 2s at the very beginning of their musical journeys through to our most able players and singers at the top of the school. We have much to be proud of!"

If you have any questions for Mrs Eastwood then do email

musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk.



Year 5

This week in English, Year 5 have continued studying 'Journey to Jo'berg' and written a character description for both of the two protagonists (Naledi and Tiro) and an informal letter to Nono. During Maths lessons, we learnt about using the inverse operation, practised our rounding & estimating skills, as well as tackling challenging multi step problems. Whilst studying the Ancient Greeks, the children completed research and presented their findings to their peers using Google slides. PSHE continued to teach the invaluable unit called TEAM (together we achieve more), this week's focus was communication and compro-

mise; a topic which everyone can apply to academic, sporting and social situations. It was a great week and we look forward to an engaging and stimulating rest of the term.



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Pupil Success

Congratulations to Lucia (3O), who completed her marathon distance at Beckenham Place Park's Junior Park Run this weekend.



It was a fantastic achievement, showcasing not only her determination but also her growing resilience (and that of her family, who braved the crisp Sunday morning to cheer her on!). We are so proud of her commitment and her ability to take on big challenges.

If your child has any achievements, big or small, outside of school, do let Mr Carter know — he loves hearing about them!

EYFS Fun Stories Friday Highlights!

This week in Fun Stories Friday, we celebrated starting school by reading the exciting tale of *Zog by Julia Donaldson*. All about a very keen but clumsy dragon and his journey through Dragon School.

Big congratulations to our Observation Question champions: Saisha in Pre-school and Miles in Reception! Next week - it's RO's turn to join and we're already looking forward to more Fun Stories Friday fun!



MfL

Mrs. Dubeck has had a fantastic few weeks back in the classroom following her return from maternity leave. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their new MFL classroom; a large, bright, immersive space where they have access



to a wealth of authentic resources, props, and visual stimuli to maximise their language learning.

Children in Reception to Year 3 have made an excellent start, reviewing core vocabulary through songs and games with superb focus and enthusiasm. Similarly, pupils in Years 5 and 6 have



been enjoying their Spanish lessons, researching interesting facts about Spanish-speaking countries across the world, as well as writing and performing their own role-plays.

All children have fully embraced the challenge of using as much age-appropriate target language as possible in lessons to aid fluency, communication, pronunciation, and understanding.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Dubeck is excited to enhance the children's learning through two new digital resources: Language Magnet and Language Angels. Both of these fun and dynamic platforms will enable the children to further develop their language skills and foster a love of language learning.



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



English - 500 word stories

At home, we are encouraging students to write their own fictional story (no longer than 500 words) and submit it to enter the [BBC's '500 words' competition](#). Children aged 5-11 can participate in a bid to win several amazing prizes. All submissions must be made via the [website](#) and lots of helpful [tips](#) are there too. Please note the deadline is Friday 7th November. Here is a link to [FAQs](#). We wish all the children the best of luck and hopefully they enjoy this amazing experience.



SCA Autumn Term - Dates for the Diary!

Please find below the exciting events that we have planned for this term:



- Friday 17th October - Spooky Dress Down Day
- Christmas Sweetie Jar Competition - More details to follow soon!
- Personalised Christmas Cards and Gifts (previously known as IQ cards) - more details to follow soon!
- Friday 28th November - Parents Wreath Making Evening (first come first served!)
- Friday 5th December (after school) - St Christopher's The Hall Christmas Fair
- Friday 12th December - Pantomime at the Churchill Theatre.

Further details and information on how to purchase tickets coming soon!

St Christopher Hall Week 2 Autumn

Weekly menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Quorn Mince Chilli Con Carne	BBQ Chicken Thighs	Roast Turkey with Stuffing	Chilli Beef in a Taco with Sour Cream	Chefs Catch of the Day
Macaroni Cheese with Focaccia Bread	Stuffed Jacket Potato Skins	Cheese Tomato and Courgette Flan	Cauliflower and Broccoli Cheese	Vegan Sausages with Fried Onions
Sweetcorn	Peas and Sweetcorn	Fresh Carrots	Peas	Mushy Peas
Green Beans	Green Salad	Broccoli	Roasted Vegetables	Baked Beans
Pasta and Rice	Smoky Jacket Wedges	Golden Roast Potatoes	Mexican Rice	Chipped Potato
Iced Sponge or Fresh Fruit	Orange Jelly or Fresh Fruit Cocktail	Mixed Fruit Crumble with Custard	Strawberry Yoghurt or Chunks of Fresh Fruit	Assorted Ice Creams

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Discovery Morning - Saturday 11 Oct 2025

We are excited to be hosting our next Discovery Morning on Saturday 11 October. This is a fantastic opportunity for prospective families to experience the unique spirit of St Christopher's The

Hall, meet our staff and pupils, and see what makes our community so special. If you know friends, relatives, or neighbours who may be interested, please do share the invitation attached - we would be delighted to welcome them.

DISCOVERY MORNING SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025

St Christopher's The Hall is a thriving independent preparatory school in Beckenham, welcoming children aged 3 to 11 into a warm, ambitious and nurturing community. In our most recent ISI inspection (March 2025), conducted under the new and more rigorous framework, the school was commended for its exceptional leadership, inspiring curriculum and outstanding pupil development. Most notably, St Christopher's was awarded the ISI's highest accolade - a 'significant strength' for leadership of teaching and learning and continuous improvement in the quality of education - a distinction rarely achieved in the prep school sector. Affectionately described as 'the best kept secret in Beckenham', St Christopher's combines academic rigour with creativity, opportunity and exceptional pastoral care. Pupils here develop confidence, curiosity and independence, preparing them to thrive at leading senior schools and beyond.

We invite prospective families to join us for our special Saturday Discovery Morning. This event offers the chance to experience what makes our school unique through a choice of interactive sessions led by our staff and pupils. From curriculum and pastoral care to co-curricular opportunities, you can tailor your visit to explore the areas that matter most to you.

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
www.stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Beckenham, BR3 5PA

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW OR SEPTEMBER 2026



EXCELLENCE. DIFFERENTLY.



**WHERE EACH CHILD FINDS
THEIR OWN VOICE: VISIT
BECKENHAM'S BEST
KEPT SECRET**

Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story!

You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on Insta and X, as well as at [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! You can also now follow us on Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group.

Emailing teachers

REMINDER: ALL emails to teachers should use this email address:
mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk



What's Happening Next Week

-  **Tuesday 30th September**
 - Year 4 Rugby v St Dunstan's (home) all pupils involved.
-  **Thursday 2nd October**
 - Year 5 Rugby and Netball v St Dunstan's (away). All pupils involved.
-  **Friday 3rd October**
 - Year 6 Rugby and netball v St Dunstons (away). All Pupils involved.