

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



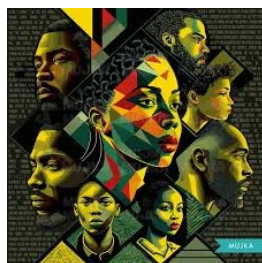
Dear Parents,

Suddenly, October is upon us! The mornings are cooler, the air crisper, and the darkening dawns remind us that autumn is truly here, at least I thought so this week. It feels like only yesterday we were waving goodbye to summer, and now

I've been putting on cosy jumpers as we begin to enjoy the first hints of autumnal magic around the school.

With the coming of October, so comes Black History Month! At St Christopher's, we're diving into a fortnight of celebrations that honour the past, shine a spotlight on the present, and inspire the future. We kicked things off on Wednesday with a whole-school assembly, where Ms Wooderson and Ms Williams shared the stories of inspirational figures from the Arts. It was the perfect launch to get us thinking about creativity, courage, and the power of expression.

Over the next two weeks, lunchtimes will be a treat for the senses: a menu packed with diverse and culturally rich dishes, accompanied by music to set the mood. Because sometimes, the best way to learn about culture is to taste it! There are special visitors too. The Freshwater Theatre Company will be joining us on Thursday 16th October for a day of interactive workshops. From the journey of the Windrush generation to a colourful Carnival of Stories, children across the school will step into history and discover the people who helped shape it. We'll also hear from someone very close to home, Laura Henry-Allain, the Beckenham-based author of *JoJo & Gran Gran*. Laura has recorded a special message for our pupils, sharing how her heritage and experiences inspired her writing. Music will fill the air daily as we explore the influence of Black musicians across time, from jazz and reggae to hip hop and Afrobeat. Each year group will also be celebrating both a historic figure and a modern role model, discovering how individuals, past and present, change the world in different ways. And to bring it all together, we're creating a whole-school 'Walk Through Time' in our corridors: a timeline of influential Black figures from the past, present, and



future. After half term, the children will tour the display to see how all their learning has come to life. Black History Month isn't just about looking back; it's about celebrating voices, stories, and achievements that continue to inspire the future. We can't wait to share this journey with the children, and with you!

This week, our Year 6 parents had the chance to meet with their class teachers in the very first parents' meetings of the term. As you know, the secondary transfer process is a big focus in the first term of Year 6, and we want to make sure you have the most up-to-date information on how your child is progressing. We hope parents found these meetings useful!

We were delighted to welcome in Preschool parents on Thursday for our Preschool Phonics Parent Partnership. These sessions give you a window into what happens in the classroom and this session looked to show parents the strategies we use to teach early reading skills. By sharing this with you, we hope to guide and support you in helping your child at home, making learning a fun and confident experience for both of you. It's all about working together so that our youngest learners get the best start on their reading journey!

Finally, we are delighted to announce that on Wednesday 10th December 2025, all pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 will join the wider St Dunstan's Education Group for a spectacular Christmas Extravaganza at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London. Performing in such an iconic and awe-inspiring venue is a truly special opportunity for our pupils, and we are certain it will be an amazing experience, showcasing their talent and festive spirit on one of the country's most celebrated stages. Please hold the date in your diaries! Further details will follow regarding pupil logistics, arrival timings, and how you can purchase tickets to join this unforgettable evening. We cannot wait to celebrate the festive season with our whole St Dunstan's community in what promises to be a memorable and inspiring event for our children.

Have a super weekend,

Mr Carter

Headteacher

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Year 2: Exploring Minibeasts in Science!

In Science this term, we have been learning all about minibeasts and their habitats. The children had a fantastic time exploring the school grounds, searching for all sorts of tiny creatures. With great excitement, we discovered a variety of minibeasts and learned more about where they like to live.

As part of our learning, we collected dried leaves, pine cones, sticks, and other natural materials to build our very own bug hotel! Before we built it, we made predictions about which minibeasts might move in.

This week, we have spent time carefully observing our bug hotel and were thrilled to see that some visitors have already started to arrive. The children have really enjoyed seeing their predictions come to life and have shown wonderful curiosity and care while exploring the world of minibeasts.



Emailing teachers

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



Year 6

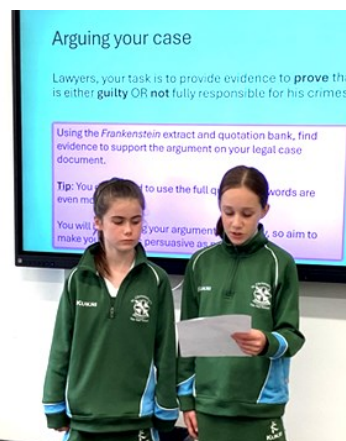
This week, Year 6 had the exciting opportunity to visit St Dunstan's for a stimulating Maths and English workshop. The day began with a Maths challenge, where pupils worked in small teams to solve a complex puzzle. The activity encouraged logical thinking, perseverance, and teamwork, with every group fully engaged and determined to find a solution.



In the English session, pupils explored the classic novel *Frankenstein* through debate. Working in pairs, they were tasked with arguing whether Frankenstein should be held responsible and prosecuted for the actions of his creation. This sparked lively and thoughtful discussions, helping pupils to develop their speaking, listening, and reasoning skills.

Throughout the day, children benefited from working with specialist teachers who encouraged collaboration and deeper thinking in both subjects. The workshop ended with a guided tour of the school, led by one of our former pupils, giving Year 6 a glimpse of life at St Dunstan's and a chance to ask questions about the transition to secondary school.

It was a fantastic day full of learning, discussion, and inspiration!



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Supporting Your Child with Stress and Anxiety – Parent Talk

We warmly invite parents and carers to a short talk with our school counsellor, David, on Monday 13th October 8:30–9:00am.

David will share practical strategies to help children manage stress and anxiety, drawing on his extensive experience supporting young people and families. Refreshments will be provided, and we hope you can join us for this informative and supportive session.

Social Media

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



EYFS - Fun Stories Friday Highlights!

This week in Fun Stories Friday...We have been learning about our feelings, friendships and how to solve disagreements. For today's session we read the Squirrels who Squabbled by Jim Field and Rachel Bright. In this exciting tale, we followed the adventure of 'Spontaneous Cyril' and 'Plan-Ahead Bruce' as they quarrelled over the very last nuts of the season.

Big congratulations to our Observation Question champions: Max in Preschool and Annabel in Reception. Next week - it's RS's turn to join and we're already looking forward to more Fun Stories Friday fun!



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 Biscuit's or Fresh Fruit | | | | |

Available daily

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

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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. £1 donation at the gate and receive a spooky treat!

Personalised Christmas Cards and Gifts - Your child will have received a form, along with an instruction flyer, in their book bag this week. Please return the completed forms to class teachers by Friday.

Christmas Sweetie Jar Competition - 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 - tickets being released next week!

Keep an eye on the school instagram page for upcoming events and booking information!



Allergy reminder:

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



Pupil Success

Over the summer, Ilani achieved amazing success in her equestrian events. She came first in her Gymkhana race, pictured in her orange T-shirt with her red rosette, and won 4 out of 5 rosettes in her Jump Rally event, shown in a blue top. Gymkhana involves timed races and challenges on horseback, while Jump Rally tests guiding the horse over poles without knocking any down. One Gymkhana race even saw Ilani jump off mid-course, tend to her horse, remount, and race to the finish, all with precision and speed!

We are so proud of her determination and skill. If your child has achievements outside school, do let Mr. Carter know; he loves hearing about them!



2026-2027 Term Dates

Please find the term dates for the 2026-2027 academic year on our website via [this link](#). As we have reminded parents previously, we ask that you **please take careful note of these dates**. Holidays should **not be taken during term time** and cannot be authorised except in **exceptional circumstances**. Any requests for such exceptional leave must be submitted **well in advance to Mr Carter** for consideration.

Thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring a consistent learning experience for all our pupils.

What's Happening Next Week

- 🕒 **Monday 6th October**
 - Year 3 Netball v Colfes (Away) all pupils involved.
- 🕒 **Tuesday 7th October**
 - Year 5 trip to Transport Museum.
- 🕒 **Wednesday 8th October**
 - Year 1 trip to Godstone Farm.
- 🕒 **Thursday 9th October**
 - Year 5 Netball v Colfes (Away) all pupils involved.
- 🕒 **Friday 10th October**
 - Year 6 Netball and Rugby v Colfes (Away) all pupils involved.