

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

We have finished another week of school, with just one week before our half term, and it seems that the time has flown by.

It's also been something of a season of school trips here at St Christopher's! Our minibuses have hardly had time to cool

down between adventures. Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Knole Park last week, exploring the grounds and learning more about local history and wildlife. On Tuesday, Year 5 travelled to the Transport Museum, bringing to life their studies of innovation and movement, while on Wednesday, Year 1 spent a delightful day at Godstone Farm, meeting animals and connecting their classroom learning to real-world experiences. All of these outings are such an important part of what we do. They take learning off the page and out into the real world, allowing pupils to experience the things we talk about in class, to ask questions, explore, and make memories that last far longer than any worksheet ever could. Trips like these remind us why an enriched curriculum is so much more than lessons and tests.

Meanwhile, back at school, we've been busy putting the finishing touches to something new and rather exciting: our very first Saturday Morning Discovery Day for prospective parents. I've always found traditional school open mornings on weekends a little... staged. I am sure you may have experienced them: polished corridors, pristine displays, everyone on best behaviour, and parents dutifully shuffling from one immaculate classroom to another. Perfectly pleasant, yes, but not always a true reflection of what makes a school special. So, in the spirit of Excellence Differently, we're doing things a little differently. Our Discovery Morning will invite parents to choose from a range of workshops that capture the real ethos and energy of St Christopher's, from our use of IT, to how the EYFS runs and wellbeing sessions. With ten sessions on offer, there should be something for everyone. These sessions will be hands-on, interactive, and give parents a real sense of life at our school, without the risk of being set any homework! Of course, when you're doing something new and without precedent, it has to be planned with military precision! I'm so grateful to

Mr. Pretara, Mrs. Nilsson, Mrs. Jeffery, and Mrs. West for helping to turn this idea into reality, and to the Year 5 and 6 pupils who have generously given up their time to help us on the day. Pupils are such an important part of this and really showcase living proof of the enthusiasm and pride our children have for their school. One parent told me something recently that sums up what St Christopher's is all about. Her son, a dedicated footballer, was given the choice between his usual Saturday training and coming to help at the Discovery Day. Without hesitation, he chose us, saying he "didn't want to let the school down." We may not be handing out Premier League contracts, but that kind of loyalty, pride, and team spirit tells you everything you need to know about our pupils, and, I hope, about our school.

Finally, I would like to thank all our families for the generous Harvest donations sent in over the past few weeks. It may seem, at first glance, a little unusual that Harvest remains such a prominent part of junior school life in the modern age. Yet it continues to hold great importance, not only as a celebration of gratitude, but as an opportunity to give back to the community and support those in need. Harvest has long been a time of sharing and reflection, when communities come together to ensure that everyone has enough. In today's society, this spirit is more relevant than ever. By supporting local charities and food banks, we help provide essential supplies to families who may be struggling, and our pupils gain a real understanding of how compassion and generosity can make a tangible difference. Next week, our Year 5 and 6 pupils will visit the local food bank to help sort and organise the donations. This experience will allow them to see first-hand the impact of their efforts. At St Christopher's The Hall, giving back to the community is an important strand of our school ethos. Through initiatives like Harvest, we aim to help our pupils grow into thoughtful, responsible young people who understand that small acts of kindness can create a stronger, more caring society.

See you for our final week of the half term next week, and don't forget our spooky dress up next Friday! Have a great weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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SCA

Autumn Term - Dates for the Diary!



- Please find below the exciting events that we have planned for this term:
- Pantomime at The Churchill Theatre - Sales are now open via the SCA page! Sales close on *Monday 13th October*, so grab your tickets before then!
<https://www.scasales.co.uk/>
- *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. Please return the completed forms to class teachers by *Friday 17th October*.

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



Royal Festival Hall: Christmas Extravaganza

Just a reminder to save the date for our special event at the Royal Festival Hall. We're incredibly excited about the evening and hope you can join us for what promises to be an unforgettable experience. For all those in Year 4, 5 and 6, please mark your calendars for **10th December** and watch out for more details coming your way soon.



Allergy reminder:

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

EYFS - Fun Stories Friday Highlights!

This week in Fun Stories Friday...Linking to Black History Month, the Reception children explained to Preschool that one of our Character Values is Respect and we spoke about how important it is to respect others including others hair. We discussed the



differences in our hair and for today's session we read Don't Touch My Hair! By Sharee Miller. In this story, Aria and her wonderful hair have to try and avoid and escape from people and creatures that

won't stop touching her hair! In the end, Aria explains to all that they must remember to ask permission.

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

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Sports

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in the Sports Department, with all children in Years 3 to 6 proudly representing the school in various fixtures against local schools.

Year 3 made a memorable start to their sporting journey, travelling to Colfe's to take part in their very first fixture for the school. The pupils displayed great enthusiasm and teamwork, setting a strong foundation for future competitions.

Year 4 welcomed St Dunstan's for a joint training afternoon that developed into their first contact rugby matches. It was fantastic to see the pupils rising to the challenge, building both skill and confidence throughout the session.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have also been busy, travelling to St Dunstan's and Colfe's for rugby and netball fixtures. Their dedication to training has clearly paid off, with some excellent performances on show and great sportsmanship throughout.

In the pool, Years 5 and 6 took part in their first swimming gala of the year and performed superbly – a testament to their focus and preparation. Meanwhile, the Year 6 football team travelled to Allyn's to compete in the ISFA Football Tournament, representing the school with determination and pride.

A huge well done to all our Prep School pupils for their hard work, positive attitude, and fantastic performances. We look forward to an action-packed term ahead, with many more opportunities to develop and shine in sport.



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Year 4

Step Back in Time – Year 4 Stone Age Workshop at Knole Park!

Year 4 visited Knole Park, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 1st October for a fun, informative and activity filled trip.

Led by the very informative National Trust volunteers and staff, the pupils got a chance to take part in four workshops which covered: What did they wear?; What did they eat?; Where did they live? and How do we know?

Surrounded by ancient woodland and lots of beautiful roaming deer, children explored what life was like for early humans through hands-on activities including shelter building, tool making, cave art creation and necklace making. Led by experienced guides (John, Kate, Janet and Jenny), our interactive workshop brought history to life and supported our curriculum learning in a fun, memorable way. After an energy and information filled day, the children in 4C are now experts in all things Stone (Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic), Bronze and Iron Age!

How do we know?

By gaining an understanding that historical evidence is lost and buried over the course of thousands of years, the children became detectives looking at the evidence left behind by a modern day person in their rubbish bins and then exploring the hidden treasures left behind potentially by our Stone Age ancestors.

What did they eat?

Exploring examples of Stone Age diets, the children understood that at the beginning, our Paleolithic grandparents were hunter/gatherers who followed and recamped based on the availability of foods such as berries, nettles and pine nuts. Eventually, after the advent of the Ice Age, humans used their ingenuity to settle and farm, using new technologies and advancements that coincided with the Neolithic, Bronze and - eventual - Iron Age.

What did they wear?

Early clothing consisted of basic furs which acted more as wraps than clothing as we know. However, with human ingenuity, they discovered that through the use of bones, animal tissue/sinew, shaped stones and metals, clothing could be formed that allowed early humans to be better prepared for the changes in weather and climate. Eventually, they were able to form thread and create rudimentary looms.

Where did they live?

Being forced to hunt and gather meant that humans made very basic shelters and lived in natural habitats to protect themselves, such as caves. But, with the advent of technology and advancements, they were able to form more permanent dwellings and begin to cultivate their own homes which connected with the start of agriculture, the domestication of animals and farming.



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Year 1

Year 1 had a fabulous trip to Godstone Farm on Wednesday as part of our Science topic, Animals Including Humans. We were led by a tour guide who took us to feed the sheep and goats. She told us about llamas and how to tell if they are about to spit! We really enjoyed going to the mini beast garden where we were given magnifying glasses and pots to see what we could find. We managed



to find worms, ladybirds caterpillars and other tiny things! We then stopped for our delicious lunch and then looked at some more animals, including petting the chicks, African land snails and bearded dragons. It wouldn't be a trip to Godstone farm

without some time in the play area which we all thoroughly enjoyed!



St Christopher Hall Week 1 Autumn

Weekly menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spaghetti Pasta with a Homemade Tomato Sauce	Pepperoni Pizza	Sausage Meat Platt with Onion Gravy	Traditional Beef Lasagne	Chefs Catch of the Day
Cheese and Tomato Flan with Cheddar Cheese	Cheese Pepper and Tomato Pizza	Cheese and Spinach Wellington	Mushroom and Onion Lasagne	Vegetable Spring Rolls
Sweetcorn	Chefs Mixed Green Salad	Herby Roast Potatoes	Fresh Crispy Coleslaw	Peas
Green Beans	Peas	Fresh Sliced Carrots	Fresh Green Vegetable	Baked Beans
Baby New Potatoes and Spaghetti	Salt and Pepper Golden Wedges	Fresh Cabbage	Spicy Baby Potatoes	Chipped Potatoes
Lemon Drizzle Sponge or Fresh Fruit	Assorted Yogurt's with Fresh Fruit Cocktail	Ginger Short Bread Biscuit or Fresh Fruit	Assorted Yogurt's and Fresh Fruit	Apple Sponge with Ice Cream

Available daily

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

HARRISON
food with thought

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St Christopher's Allotment Has Sprouted!

We're thrilled to announce that our school allotment journey has officially begun! Thanks to the generous support from Harrison Catering, our little green thumbs in Pre-Prep have planted our very first vegetable and herb patch, the beginnings of the St Christopher's Allotment!

The children got hands-on planting a variety of plug plants, learning all about where food comes from. Helping us dig in were Chef Phil and Sous Chef Jane, who even sprinkled crushed eggshells

to naturally keep the slugs away; what a top tip!

This is just the start of something special. As our garden grows, so does our commitment to sustainability. We're proud to link this project to our Sustainability Horizon Project initiative bringing the farm-to-table journey to life. Soon, our very own produce will be making its way into delicious school lunches for all to enjoy.



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



Parent Partnership Event

You're Invited: Supporting Your Child with Stress and Anxiety – A Talk by David, Our School Counsellor

We are pleased to invite all parents and carers to a special talk by our school counsellor, David, on the important topic of supporting your child with stress and anxiety. David brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with children and families, and his sessions are always filled with practical, easy-to-implement strategies that can make a real difference at home and at school. This talk is a great opportunity to learn more about how to recognise signs of stress and anxiety in your child and discover effective ways to support their emotional wellbeing.

Date: Monday, 13th October

Time: 8:30 – 9:00 AM

Location: Music/Drama Room

There will also be time for a Q&A, so please feel free to bring any questions or concerns you may have about the topic.

We hope you can join us for this informative and supportive session.

What's Happening Next Week

Monday 13th October

- Parent Partnership Counsellor Talk (08:30-09:00)
- Year 5 and 6 Netball Masterclass with St Dunstan's (09:00-11:00)
- Year 3 Mixed Tag Rugby v St Dunstan's (Away), all pupils involved

Tuesday 14th October

- School Council for to help at Food Bank with donation (08:45-10:15)
- Year 5 Art Workshop at St Dunstan's (11:00-13:00)
- Year 4 Rugby v St Dunstan's (Away), all pupils to play
- Year 5 Netball v Braeside (Home)

Wednesday 15th October

- Year 5 St Dunstan's STEM Workshop selected children (11:00-15:00)
- Year 4 Rugby Workshop @ Farringtons

Thursday 16th October

- Freshwater Theatre BHM workshops all day (Rec-Year 6)
- Open Morning for Prospective Parents (10:30-12:00)

Friday 17th October

- **SCA - Dress Down Friday!**
Wear something Spooky! (£1 donation)
- Year 5 Ancient Greek Day.
- Year 4 - 6 Cross Country @ Colfes