

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe we've already reached the end of the first half of term. Six and a half weeks that seem to have flashed by in the blink of an eye! You'd think that after 25 years in education I'd be used to it, but I'm still perpetually amazed by how

quickly time seems to move when you work in a school. One moment we're welcoming everyone back in crisp new uniforms, and the next we're waving children off in their spooky attire!

Speaking of which, today has been an absolute (trick or) treat, quite literally, as we've seen an array of wonderfully creative costumes parading through the corridors for our Spooky Dress Up Day. From adorable pumpkins to impressively gory ghouls (and a few teachers who may never live down their outfit choices), it certainly added some colour to our Friday! I do hope these outfits can double up for any Halloween festivities over half term; that's what I call smart wardrobe planning.

Last Saturday we hosted our Discovery Day, which was a huge success. We received so many positive comments from visiting families, many of whom said they'd never seen an event quite like it. They were full of praise for our welcoming and knowledgeable staff, our stunning facilities, and how well-organised and engaging the day felt. I couldn't be prouder of our whole school community. It really was a shining moment and, I believe, a launchpad for even greater things to come.

Our Open Morning on Thursday was another highlight, offering prospective parents the chance to see the school in full swing. Once again, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on how polite, articulate, and confident our pupils were, as well as how vibrant the learning atmosphere felt throughout. It's always heartening to hear others reflect what we already know: that this is a truly special place, filled with exceptional young people and dedicated staff.

As I mentioned previously, we're also looking ahead to an exciting new building project. I'm delighted to be able to share some of the initial

visuals with you (though they may still evolve slightly as plans progress). The transformation will turn what we affectionately call "the Horridor" into a bright, airy, and contemporary space, a far cry from its current nickname! When I first joined the school five years ago, Mrs Jeffery reminded me that I described it as a gem just waiting to be polished. I can honestly say that now, our gem is sparkling and this will be the icing on the cake.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and enthusiasm, it makes all the difference. I wish you all a wonderful half term break, filled with rest, fun, and perhaps a few leftover sweets from Halloween!

Warm regards,

Mr Carter

Headteacher



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Year 5 St Dunstan's Art and STEM workshops

On Tuesday, Year 5 visited St Dunstan's secondary school and enjoyed an Art Workshop, in their incredible studio. They paid homage to the fallen soldiers ahead of the upcoming Remembrance Day. Year 5 took part in two different sessions - exploring the mediums of ceramics and watercolour. During the ceramics session,

they worked with clay using moulding, etching and cross-hatching skills to create their very own poppy. Each of these flowers will be placed in the St Dunstan's Remembrance Garden Art installation, as a symbol of gratitude for the soldiers who lost their lives in World War 1.

The children were then able to apply their painting, blending and colour-mixing skills, to create beautiful poppy bookmarks using watercolour and 'painting outside the lines'. The staff at St



Dunstan's complimented our children on their behaviour, enthusiasm, creativity and focus.

On Wednesday, a group of Year 5 children enjoyed participating in three exciting STEM activities at St Dunstan's Secondary School. During the first workshop, the children learnt how to programme, code and test sensors in a model house; in order to operate bins, lights and fans. They then enjoyed designing and making their own aluminium keyrings in the DT Department; using hammers,

files and sacrificial boards! Finally, the children developed their coding skills using micro bits and we even navigated a robot around an obstacle course. I am proud to say that our students' focus, innovation and engagement were commented on several times throughout the day!



Pre-Prep

As part of an exciting Horizon Sustainability project, children embarked on a creative journey to design and construct eco-friendly homes of the future. The project aimed to inspire awareness of sustainability and encourage innovative thinking around environmental issues.

Children worked together to imagine what eco houses and green apartment buildings might look like in a world focused on reducing its carbon footprint. Their designs featured green roofs, solar panels, rainwater collection systems, and recycled materials, all thoughtfully drawn and planned in the early stages of the project.

Once their concepts were ready, the young designers got hands-on, bringing their ideas to life using Kapla wood planks and LEGO bricks.

These accessible materials allowed for detailed, imaginative builds while promoting teamwork and problem-solving.

The project showcased the children's creativity and reflected the work that the children have done over the past 6 weeks on the importance of sustainable living. This was all done in a way that was fun, educational, and inspiring.



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Launching Learners: Growing and Learning in Early Years-Launching Learners

Our Preschool and Reception children have been busy exploring the wonderful world of Growing Things! As part of our Sustainability focus in Launching Learners, the children have been finding out what plants need to grow and have had a go at planting their very own grass and cress seeds.

They carefully sprinkled the seeds, remembered to give them water and light, and the children are excited to watch them sprout and change each day. This exciting activity has sparked lots of curiosity and discussion around the natural world, seasons, and caring for living things. It has also provided wonderful opportunities for developing early science skills, fine motor control, and the language of observation and comparison.



Linking to our sustainability focus, the children recycled and reused old yogurt pots as little plant pots. It has been great to see recycling in action for such a fun activity!



The children have taken such pride in being responsible gardeners, showing care and patience as they watch their seeds grow. Their enthusiasm has filled our classrooms (and windowsills!) with green shoots and smiles - a perfect example of how our Launching Learners sessions nurture curiosity, independence, and a love of discovery right from the start.

Allergy reminder:

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



Pupil Achievement

Well done to Anaiya in Year 5, who was awarded U9 Batter of the Year at her cricket club awards evening. We look forward to seeing her continue her progress over the coming years.

We love celebrating our pupils' successes, both in and out of school! If your child achieves something special outside of school - whether in sports, music, arts, or any other area - please let Mr Carter know, as he always enjoys hearing about their achievements.



EYFS: Fun Stories Friday Highlights!

This week in Fun Stories Friday, we have been continuing our exploration of afro-textured hair and different styles. For today's session we read *My Hair* written by Hannah Lee. In this engaging story our main character is busy figuring out which hair style to choose for her upcoming birthday. With the help of her family our heroine has so many styles to choose from! We discussed bonnets and durags and their importance in keeping styles in shape and for protecting hair. Big congratulations to our Observation Question champions: Millie in Preschool and one of our lovely Reception children Next week - it is RS's turn to join and we're already looking forward to more Fun Stories Friday



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Prep

We are excited to share that our new co-curricular Horizon Project has launched this half term with a brilliant focus on sustainability. Children across the Prep School have been exploring practical ways we can help look after our planet and improve the environment.

A key part of our learning has been understanding the 5 Rs of sustainability: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse,

Recycle, and Rot. These important concepts have helped the children think carefully about their choices, such as refusing items that are harmful to the environment, reducing plastic use, and reusing bags and bottles where they can.



Throughout the half term, the children have embraced this theme with enthusiasm. Many have created fantastic posters, thoughtful projects, and imaginative items made from recycled materials, all showcasing their creativity and growing awareness of eco-friendly habits.

It has been a fantastic start to the Horizon journey, and we look forward to next half term when the focus will shift to Concentration and Focus through specialist subjects. We can't wait to see what the children will explore and achieve next.

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 Chunks 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.

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Freshwater workshop

This week, St Christopher's was delighted to welcome the Freshwater Theatre Company for a series of inspiring workshops, celebrating Black History Month. Each session offered a unique, age-appropriate way for pupils to explore important stories, people, and moments in Black British history - all through the power of drama, storytelling, and imagination.

Our Year 1 and 2 pupils embarked on a fascinating journey in *Quest for the Windrush*, stepping back in time to 1948 to explore the experiences of the Windrush Generation. Through role play, movement, and storytelling, the children learned about the people who travelled from the Caribbean to help rebuild Britain after the war - and how their courage and culture have shaped our society today. The workshops helped pupils understand the importance of community, resilience, and pride in identity, bringing history to life in a way that was both joyful and meaningful.

Older pupils in the Prep School took part in *Breaking Barriers*, a thought-provoking workshop that encouraged them to reflect on key figures who challenged injustice and worked for equality. They explored themes of fairness, respect, and empowerment - connecting stories from history to the world we live in today. Through drama and discussion, the children were inspired to consider how they, too, can be agents of positive change.

Meanwhile, our youngest learners in Preschool and Reception enjoyed *A Carnival of Stories*, a vibrant and musical celebration of storytelling traditions from across the Caribbean and Africa. The children joined in with songs, movement, and colourful tales that celebrated joy, rhythm, and



creativity - a perfect introduction to the idea that stories can connect us all.

These workshops not only supported our Black History Month learning but also reminded us of the importance of diversity, empathy, and shared history. A huge thank you to the Freshwater Theatre Company for bringing these important stories to life and helping our pupils learn, reflect, and celebrate together!



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Food Bank with School Council

On Tuesday, members of our School Council in Years 3, 4 and 5, accompanied by Mrs Titchener, Mrs Eastwood and myself, enjoyed a meaningful visit to the Living Well Food Bank in Penge. The children delivered all of our school's generous food donations and had the opportunity to see first-hand how the food is sorted and distributed.



The children spent some time sorting all of the food for Living Well and did a fantastic job. They spoke with the dedicated

volunteers to learn more about the vital work they do and the difference it makes to people in need. It was a humbling and rewarding experience for everyone involved, inspiring thoughtful discussions about community, compassion, and the importance of helping others. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parents for their incredible generosity in contributing so many food donations; your kindness truly helps make a difference.

Drama

Save the Date! Christmas Performances

Our talented pupils are already preparing to spread some festive cheer - and we can't wait to share their performances with you!



Wednesday 3rd December, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Shows

- 1H & 2C: 9:00am
- 1J & 2Co: 10:00am

Tuesday 9th December, Early Years (Reception & Preschool) Christmas Show

- 9:30am

Please mark these dates in your diaries. Further details will be shared closer to the time. It's always one of the highlights of my festive season, so consider this your early reminder to book time off work!

Emailing teachers

REMINDER:

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



Parent Partnership Talk

David, our school counsellor, and Hendrix, our beloved therapy dog, recently delivered a very informative talk titled '**Decreasing the Stress and Increasing the Success.**' David shared valuable insights and practical strategies for how parents can support their children in managing stress and anxiety. He emphasised the importance of walking beside children during challenging times, to offer support and guidance, and then walking behind them to celebrate their successes, cheer them on, and be there when things don't go as planned. With his wealth of experience, David provided a range of helpful steps and suggestions that parents can easily put into practice. All the slides from the presentation are available at the link below:
[Decreasing the stress, Increasing the success](#)

What's Happening After Half Term

Monday 3rd November

- Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala @ Farringtons (selected pupils), timings TBC.

Thursday 6th November

- All Year 5 Rugby Workshop @ Colfes (13:20-15:45)

Friday 7th November

- Year 3 Science: Forces Workshop
- All Year 6 Rugby Workshop @ Colfes (13:20-15:45)

Saturday 8th November

- Bromley Primary Schools Cross Country, timings TBC

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HOLIDAY COURSE LONDON



Fun, engaging, inclusive, safe football activity for Boys & Girls of all abilities, during the school holidays. Our Holiday Courses are open to players between the school years 1-8 whereby they will experience different themed topics relating to our current men's and women's first team players.

Book now for our upcoming October Holiday Course by scanning the QR code or by using the below website and course code.

Course Code	Venue	Date
SS-SDUN-L-13	St. Dunstan's Jubilee Ground	27th-31st October
Timings	Ages	Price
09:00-15:00pm	School Year 1-8	£180.00



MINI MEDICS

WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER
10.00-16.00
£45.00

This is a very basic introduction to First Aid and Defibrillation aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 11.

Great fun ☒

Bring Packed lunch ☒

BOOK NOW



Certificate of attendance ☒

Comprehensive Curriculum ☒

<https://st-dunstan-s-enterprise.classforkids.io/camp/10>

www.st-dunstansenterprises.org.uk

chelseasoccerschools.co.uk

Swimming Crash Course

October 27th to October 31st
£60.00

Monday to Friday - 30 Minute Lessons
Lessons Between - 8:30am to 10:30am

BOOK NOW

swimming@stdunstans.org.uk | 02085167205

OCTOBER EXEAT HOCKEY CAMP

Monday 27 - Tuesday 28 October

1000-1600 £47.50 per day
Early drop off from 0900 - £5.00 Extra

Whether you are a beginner or looking to advance, come along and hone your skills in a fun and friendly environment!

REGISTER HERE:
<https://st-dunstan-s-enterprise.classforkids.io/>

Age 6 -
15 years