

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Now that we have officially stepped into December, Christmas has well and truly arrived at St Christopher's. There is a wonderful buzz around the School, and the daily joy of opening the Advent calendars I delivered to each class last

week has quickly become a much-anticipated moment for the children. It sets the perfect tone for what has already been a sparkling week.

On Wednesday, we welcomed families to our Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity, *Christmas Around the World*. This delightful production whisked us on a toe-tapping, fact-filled journey, discovering how different cultures celebrate Christmas. Both casts performed with warmth, confidence, and an infectious sense of enjoyment. It was a genuine pleasure to watch them take to the stage. A huge thank-you to our Year 1 and 2 teaching teams, whose planning, rehearsing, guiding, reminding, reassuring, and occasional costume-adjusting made the whole event shine. On Thursday, we gathered in the beautiful setting of St George's Church for our Years 1–6 Carol Service. It was a truly uplifting occasion, filled with thoughtful readings, beautifully sung carols, and even a special staff song! Several subtle adjustments since last year gave the service a refreshed feel while retaining all its tradition and warmth. For all of these Christmas events, my sincere thanks go to Mrs Eastwood and Ms Wooderson, whose energy, and attention to detail were evident at both events. Thank you also to all staff who supported pupils in preparing their readings and singing, your teamwork made the event feel wonderfully polished.

Today, our week reached another festive high point with the Christmas Fair. Mrs Cambage and Mrs Amsbury, along with their exceptional SCA team, have delivered what can only be described as a masterclass in calm, confident organisation. The lead up to this event has been smooth, and

beautifully arranged and, above all, done with their trademark positive attitude. I am deeply grateful to them and to every parent who has given their time to support the fair this afternoon. A strong school community is built on partnership, collaboration, and generosity of spirit, and today, I know will be a perfect example of all three.

And although we are very nearly at the finish line for this term, a few wonderful events still lie ahead. On Tuesday, we look forward to the EYFS Seasonal Show, which is always guaranteed to bring smiles, and I imagine, maybe, a proud tear or two. My thanks in advance to our Preschool and Reception teams, who have been working quietly in the background to prepare the children with care and encouragement. On Thursday, we have a truly festive day planned: it will be our Christmas

Jumper Day, certain to add colour and charm to the corridors, followed by our School Christmas Lunch, a highlight the children (and many staff!) look forward to each year. And then, in the afternoon, we reach the grand culmination of the term: the Royal Festival Hall performance, where Years 4–6 will take to an iconic stage for an unforgettable musical experience. My thanks again to all staff supporting this major event behind the scenes, their commitment ensures the children can enjoy such remarkable opportunities.

Finally, a reminder that, next week, school will close on Friday

12th December at midday, with the following staggered dismissal:

11.20 – Preschool (Side Gate),
11.30 – Reception (Side Gate),
11.40 – Year 1 & Year 2 (Main Gate),
11.50 – Year 3 & Year 4 (Main Gate),
12.00 – Year 5 & Year 6 (Side Gate).

Wishing you all a warm and relaxing weekend as we head into the final festive stretch of term.

With best wishes,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



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The Horizon Project

This term, our Horizon Project continues to prioritise one of the most important, and increasingly fragile, skills our children need: the ability to focus. With screen time and digital distractions playing a growing role in young lives, we are being intentional about helping pupils strengthen their concentration, sustain attention and develop healthy habits that support deep learning.

We are keeping this theme at the heart of the programme because focus underpins success in every area of school and life. By giving pupils structured opportunities to practise it, we aim to equip them with strategies that will serve them well far beyond the classroom.

In this week's newsletter, we share a snapshot of some of the sessions that have been running across the Horizon Project and how these are helping pupils build their focus, self-regulation and sense of purpose.

Learning Enrichment

Learning Enrichment in Horizon Club has focused on developing mindfulness, focus, and concentration. Students explored mindful breathing techniques, engaged in discussions about what it means to be mindful, and participated in calming activities such as guided meditation. We also incorporated enjoyable games that support the development of working memory, helping to strengthen focus and concentration each time they were played. Within the Prep years, classes particularly enjoyed playing Kim's Game, where 15 items were on display for a short period of time, before being covered up, with students trying to remember as many items as possible.

Art

This half term's Horizon Project has been all about strengthening focus and concentration, two skills that are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain in a digital world full of notifications, games and constant distractions.

In Art, pupils explored what focus and concentration really mean. Children in Years 3 and above looked even deeper, learning about how our attention spans are shortening over time, what causes this, and how concentration can be trained like a



muscle. With practice, they discovered, we can improve our ability to stay present, attentive and mindful.

Each class took part in three creative activities designed to stretch these "focus muscles." Through careful looking, talking and listening to one another, as well as hands-on making, pupils practised slowing down, noticing details and working with intention.

The project encouraged everyone to think about how they pay attention, not just in Art lessons, but in everyday life. By understanding how focus works, our pupils are learning powerful skills to help them thrive both now and in the future.

Languages

This half term, our Modern Foreign Languages lessons have been full of energy, enthusiasm, and purposeful learning as part of our Horizon Project: *Building Focus Through Language and Listening*. Across the school, children have been strengthening their listening skills, boosting their memory, and expanding their French and Spanish vocabulary through stories, songs, games, and plenty of movement. Learning languages in such interactive ways supports children's overall cognitive development, improves problem-solving abilities, and encourages creativity and resilience. Most importantly, it keeps learning fun, ensuring children stay engaged and motivated as they develop valuable skills that they can use across the curriculum.

Years 1: Little Linguists in Action

Children started lessons with the lively French "Shake-Down" routine, then read the story *Lili et Nounours, Chaud ou Froid*, where children challenged their teachers to recall key words.



Continues on page 4...

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Continued from page 3

Year 2: Christmas Crackers

Children enjoyed festive language activities, learning Christmas vocabulary through games and



songs. They designed their own French Christmas cards and finished with a fun vocabulary treasure hunt, building confidence in listening, speaking, and memory.

Year 4: Focused French Fun

Children practised French attention commands and clothing vocabulary through interactive games. Dressing Mr. Chowdhury in different outfits was a particular favourite! Lessons ended with children creating their own wordsearches while listening to calming music.

Years 5 & 6: Mastering Spanish

Older children tackled advanced listening tasks, following commands and repeating word sequences to strengthen memory. They took part in a "Generation Game" quiz, played Pictionary, and finished with the fast-paced Spanish *Splat!* The children listened closely and the games were full of focus, fun and laughter.

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

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Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch

We are excited to celebrate **Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11th December!** Children are warmly invited to come to school wearing their favourite festive jumper - think sparkles, snowmen, reindeer, or anything wonderfully Christmassy - along with their usual school uniform. As part of the fun, everyone will be treated to a **delicious Christmas lunch**, served by the staff at St. Christopher's. It promises to be a joyful day filled with festive spirit, cosy jumpers, and plenty of smiles. We can't wait to celebrate together!



U11 Netball Success!

Last Friday was a fantastic afternoon for our U11 netballers as they travelled to St Dunstan's to take part in two tournaments, one team entered in each competition. With five other local schools taking part, the standard of play was high, but our girls rose brilliantly to the challenge.

Both teams demonstrated outstanding teamwork, putting into action the skills they have been developing in lessons. Their movement down the court was confident and controlled, passing was accurate and their defensive pressure was superb. Most impressively, the girls showed excellent shooting throughout the afternoon, securing crucial goals that led to two well-deserved tournament wins.

Every player contributed to the success and they should all feel incredibly proud..

A special congratulations goes to Grace and Olivia, who were each awarded **Player of the Tournament** for their respective teams - an outstanding recognition of their effort, focus and skill.

Well done to all involved for a brilliant afternoon of Netball!



Pupil Achievement

We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our pupils both in and out of school.

Recently, Shaia represented St Christopher's proudly as she performed with the Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) Children's Choir at their concert on Saturday, held at Park Langley School for Boys. It was a fantastic event, and we were thrilled to hear that she was selected to sing in the front row, a testament to her hard work, enthusiasm, and growing confidence as a young performer. Shaia attends the BYMT Children's Choir every week, something she looks forward to immensely. We love celebrating the talents and passions of our pupils. If your child takes part in any activities or achievements outside of school, please let Mr Carter know - he absolutely loves hearing about them.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 8th December

- Meet Father Christmas for Preschool and Prospective pupils .

Tuesday 9th December

- EYFS Christmas Performance, (10:00—10:45).
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Swim Gala v Colfes.

Wednesday 10th December

- SDEG Christmas Extravaganza, 7pm - 9pm. (Y 4, 5 & 6 to be collected 14:30).

Thursday 11th December

- Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 option of coming in at 11:00.
- Christmas Jumper Day.
- Christmas Lunch.

Friday 12th December

- School Ends by 12:00 (see timings above).