

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It has been such a joy to see everyone return for the start of the Spring Term 2026. I was hoping the week might continue exactly as we returned: crisp mornings, blue skies and that optimistic "new term" feeling. Unfortunately, that particular

January wish was rather promptly scuppered, with normal service resuming by Tuesday in the form of ice, freezing air, and rain and even a little snow: unmistakably January weather. Still, it was a lovely dream while it lasted. What has been genuinely lovely is welcoming the children back into school. Although I very much enjoyed the holidays, I was delighted to return to work and see everyone again which probably says quite a lot about how much I love my job. There is something special about the energy of a new term, and it has been wonderful to feel the school come back to life.

As we so often do at the start of a new year, we talked in assembly about new beginnings. It can sound a little stereotypical, new year, new start, but this year I spoke to the children about something slightly different: the idea of a reset. I introduced them to our RESET BUTTON for 2026, and we explored what pressing reset can really mean. A reset isn't about big, dramatic promises, it's about small, thoughtful habits. We then explored three areas together: behaviour and attitude, kindness and relationships, and focus for learning. There were countdowns, volunteers to press those reset buttons on screen, thoughtful reflections and, of course, one unexpected cow noise during the Kindness Reset! Thankfully, the second attempt was much more successful. The children ended the assembly by choosing one small habit they wanted to reset or begin this year, before we pressed our invisible whole-school reset button together (to the music of Rick Astley no less!!). A simple message, but a powerful one: every day, we get the chance to begin again.

Speaking of resets and change, our new end-of-day arrangements have felt a little like introducing speedy boarding at an airport and the bollards at the entrance and exit have at times completed the illusion. I would like to extend a huge thank you to parents for helping make this transition so smooth. This week has naturally seen the greatest number

of parents on site at 3:30pm, as clubs have not yet begun and almost all families are collecting at this time. Even with this higher volume, the revised finish time has worked extremely well and has felt seamless from the outset. From next week, once clubs are underway, there will naturally be far fewer children to be collected at 3:30pm, which will ease things further still. There have been a few small practical tweaks but overall, the new system has been a real success, and we are very grateful for your support and good-natured cooperation as we bed it in.

Alongside these fresh starts, we are delighted to introduce our new focus within The Horizon Project, which this term centres on Life Skills. This programme is designed to build confidence, independence and practical capability through purposeful, hands-on experiences. In Pre-Prep, children will develop essential self-care and independence skills in a supportive, engaging way, while our Prep pupils will extend this learning through organisation, problem-solving and real-world tasks that promote responsibility and resilience. Together, these experiences help our children develop pride in their growing independence and confidence to navigate everyday life. Read more about this below.

Looking ahead to next week, our St Christopher's Compass Clubs will begin. I hope you found the new booking platform much more straightforward and easier to use. We are really looking forward to the children enjoying the wide range of clubs on offer, and, of course, to them beginning to earn their Compass Badges. Children love collecting things, and these badges will celebrate their commitment, curiosity and engagement.

Finally, please keep an eye out for another exciting development: the relaunch of our school website. We have been working hard behind the scenes on a full refresh and rebrand, which is why our current site may look a little out of date in places. Rather than updating something that was about to be replaced, we have focused our energy on getting the new version ready, and I'm hopeful it will go live next week.

I hope you have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to a positive and purposeful term ahead.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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EYFS

Early Years-Welcome Back!

The Early Years children have returned from the holidays with smiles, stories to share and a wonderfully calm readiness to learn. Both Reception and Preschool have settled back beautifully, showing us just how much they have grown. We loved coming together for *Launching Learners*, where the children shared news from their holidays, enjoyed a story together and engaged in collaborative play. This half term, we are excited to continue building key life skills and independence as part of our Launching Learners focus.



Reception

Reception have embraced the New Year with enthusiasm and confidence, taking impressive next steps towards independence. Many children are now packing parts of their own bags, showing pride in managing their belongings and preparing for the day ahead.

In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed delving into our new focus story, *Bedtime for Monsters*. They have been captivated by the imaginative fantasy descriptions and have loved using their growing knowledge of adjectives to describe a whole host of weird and wonderful monsters. Their creativity and vocabulary choices have been a joy to see.

Maths has been full of hands-on learning. The children have been securing their number bonds and exploring capacity and mass through practical activities. We have also introduced one fully "Maths Unplugged" session each week, where the children are completely immersed in mathematical learning without coming to the carpet or using

a PowerPoint. This has encouraged problem-solving, collaboration and deep thinking in a very natural way.

In Science, we made the most of the winter weather to explore ice and changing states. The children were filled with awe and wonder as they experimented with different ways to melt ice, both through play and during focused science lessons. We have also begun learning about people who help us, with enthusiastic role play as doctors and patients, complete with a variety of ailments! In PSHE, we have been thinking about New Year's resolutions and fresh starts, encouraging positive attitudes and reflection.

Preschool

Preschool have also settled back in calmly, enjoying a gentle focus on all things New Year while re-acclimatising to routines. They have been exploring the season of winter, helped along nicely by the frosty weather, and have enjoyed talking about what they can see and feel outdoors.



The children have been revisiting their sounds and numbers, building confidence through repetition and familiar activities. Creative play has been a real highlight, with lots of imaginative "cake making" using kinetic sand and a variety of resources to create birthday candles on top. Preschool has also been delighted to rejoin their specialist lessons, showing confidence and enthusiasm as they do so.

We are so proud of how both groups have returned and can't wait to see them continue to flourish this term.

Mrs Oliver - Head of Early Learning

Social Media

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



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Horizon Project - Spring 1

This term, our Horizon topic is Life Skills, designed to help children build confidence, independence, and practical abilities they can use every day. Through hands-on, age-appropriate experiences, students will learn important skills that support personal responsibility, organisation, and problem-solving.

In Prep-Prep, children will focus on foundational life skills such as planting and caring for plants, brushing teeth properly, putting on outdoor clothing, packing a bag, tying a shoelace, carrying a tray and pouring safely, learning left from right, making a simple snack, and making their bed. These activities encourage independence, co-ordination, and self-care in a fun and supportive way.

In Prep, students will develop independence and organisation skills such as tying their own tie and organising drawers, shelves, and school materials. They will also learn to read simple maps and directions, follow written instructions, and practise practical household tasks including using a dustpan and brush or mop. With guidance, students will make a cup of tea and prepare a simple meal. Further learning includes sewing skills, budgeting basics, writing a formal email, and participating in a school clean-up project.

Our Life Skills unit helps children develop confidence, resilience, and pride in their abilities, while reinforcing the importance of responsibility and teamwork both at school and at home.



Pre-Prep

It has been wonderful to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Christmas break, full of news about the things they have done over the Festive period. Everyone has settled back into the routines of school and there is much excitement for the new year ahead.

It was very exciting for the children to come back to a Winter Wonderland frosty landscape in the playground on the first morning back.

The New Year brings another busy and productive term including our brand new St Christopher's Compass clubs that start next week. We are all very excited to see this new development in our club provision get underway. In addition we begin a new Horizon Project this term, Life Skills, which will give the children the opportunity to develop skills for life that are a vital part of becoming responsible citizens. The activities



have been carefully chosen to suit each year group. Another term of exciting learning opportunities will be rounded off of course, with the annual St Christopher's Easter Catwalk Parade - there's so much to look forward to!

Mrs Chamadia - Head of Pre-Prep

Allergy reminder:

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



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Prep

Welcome back to all of our Prep School students and parents. I hope you had a wonderful, restful Christmas and New Year and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. We are very much looking forward to another busy and inspiring term in the Prep School, filled with curiosity, creativity and hands-on learning.

This term, each year group will be immersed in an exciting and carefully planned curriculum. Year 3 will journey back in time to explore the world of the Saxons and Vikings, learning about daily life, invasions and settlements through engaging lessons and practical activities. Year 4 will step into the sandals of the Romans, discovering how Roman life, engineering and innovation shaped Britain. Year 5 will delve into the Victorian Era, making meaningful links between history and their *Power of Reading* text to deepen their understanding of the period and its impact. Meanwhile, Year 6 will take on



greater independence, working on self-directed projects while also striving to achieve their St John Ambulance qualification, developing valuable first aid and life-saving skills.

Across the term, all year groups will enjoy a range of trips and workshops that enrich and bring their

learning to life, offering memorable experiences beyond the classroom. We are also delighted to be introducing a new horizon topic, Life Skills, designed to equip children with practical skills for everyday life.

Through this topic, pupils will learn how to sew, manage money, prepare simple food, and tidy and organise their

belongings, helping to build confidence, independence and responsibility.

It promises to be an exciting and rewarding term for everyone, and we look forward to sharing the children's progress and achievements with you along the way.

Miss Rule - Head of Prep

English: 10 Minutes That Make a Difference

At St Christopher's, we are passionate about nurturing confident readers and expressive writers, and one of the most powerful ways to support this starts at home.

Research shows that reading with an adult for as little as 10 minutes a day can have a significant impact on a child's language development, comprehension, vocabulary and long-term reading success. Those small, regular moments really do add up.

To help make daily reading both easy and enjoyable, our Heads of English have created a set of fun, accessible questions and sentence starters for you to use when reading with your child. These are designed to spark conversation, deepen understanding and mirror the high-quality one-

to-one reading discussions that take place in school every week.

We hope these resources prompt and support daily reading at home, helping children to think more deeply about what they read, talk confidently about books, and, most importantly, develop a genuine love of reading.

The guides are organised by age group for ease:

- [EYFS](#)
- [Pre-Prep \(Years 1-2\)](#)
- [Prep \(Years 3-6\)](#)

Whether it's a bedtime story, a shared chapter on the sofa, or a quick read before school, we hope these prompts help turn daily reading into a meaningful routine which the children look forward to and enjoy.

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SCA

We would firstly like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help with the Christmas Fair. It truly wouldn't have been possible without your support. From setting up gazebos in the sunshine to taking them down in the pouring rain (and darkness!), and everything in between, we are incredibly grateful.

A big shout-out to Mr Davies, Mr Gallett, our committee members, and some of our wonderful teachers who battled it out right until the end!

We hope the event was enjoyed by all and helped get everyone into the festive spirit.

We are thrilled to announce that we raised over £5,000, some of which has already been used towards a new screen and projector for the main hall. This will greatly improve the quality of productions, assemblies, and learning opportunities for our children.

Spring Term – Save the Dates

We have been working hard to finalise our Spring Term events which we hope will equally be a big success. Please add the following dates to your calendars:

- Friday 6th February– Pre-Prep Disco
- Friday 27th February – Prep Disco
- Wednesday 25th February, 8:00pm - SCA AGM (Annual General Meeting)
- Friday 6th March – Parent's Bingo Social
- Friday 13th March – Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop (during school hours, children only)
- Thursday 21st May - Last day of term! – Re-scheduled Open-Air Cinema Night (after school, children only)

More details will follow in the coming weeks.

We would also love to invite you to our AGM on Thursday 26th February at 8pm. It will be a short meeting, and your attendance would greatly help us meet our obligations as a charity. Do come along.

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our exciting events this term.



Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.



Pupil Achievement

We are delighted to share a recent achievement from Sofia in 3O. Sofia attends Stagecoach every week and has just passed her Performing Arts Award (PAA) Debut Grade Exam with a Merit, a fantastic accomplishment that reflects her dedication and enthusiasm for the performing arts. In addition to this success, Sofia has now completed four continuous years of attending Stagecoach, showing real commitment and perseverance. Well done, Sofia; we are very proud of you!



If your child has achieved something outside of school, whether in sport, music, drama, or any other area, please do let Mr Carter know. He absolutely loves hearing about all the wonderful things our pupils are getting up to beyond the classroom.

What's Happening Next Week



Thursday 15th January

- Yr 4 Roman Workshop
- Yr 3&4 Swimming Gala v St Dunstan's (selected pupils).



Friday 16th January

- Year 6 Football v St Dunstan's (away).