

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I can scarcely believe we are already at the end of week two. Last week felt a little like easing a slightly creaky bicycle back into motion, a few wobbles, a bit of gentle puffing, and some determined pedalling. This week,

however, the wheels have well and truly come off (in the good sense). The days have flown, routines have settled, and the whole school feels properly back in the swing of things.

Behind the scenes this week, many of our subject leads headed off to our second Subject Cluster Meeting, where they spent the afternoon working with their counterparts from across the St Dunstan's Educational Group. This is an initiative I have set up and am coordinating, and it has been brilliant to see our teachers building strong professional links beyond our own school. These meetings bring together teachers from each school to share what is working well in their classrooms, swap ideas and resources, refine assessment approaches, and work through any subject-specific challenges together. Just as importantly, they ensure that every school is represented and heard when wider curriculum decisions are being shaped across the group. The reason this matters so much is simple: it makes teaching better. Our staff benefit from fresh ideas, collective problem-solving and ongoing professional development, and your children benefit from lessons that are thoughtful, consistent, ambitious and continually improving. It helps us keep our curriculum modern, creative and robust, while still staying true to what makes St Christopher's feel like St Christopher's.

Back at school, Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic Roman workshop this week. Much was learned about daily life, soldiers, and civilisation... but I suspect what will live longest in the memory is Mr Chowdhury's outfit, which was truly a sight to behold. You can always tell the teachers who really relish a good costume opportunity.

You may also remember from the SCA section of last week's newsletter that we have a new projector and screen arriving for the Hall. These will be installed next week and I cannot overstate how transformational this will be. The screen is large, bright and beautifully clear. No more slightly faded

edges or squinting at important details. It will make assemblies, performances, presentations and open mornings feel far more professional and engaging, and will open up new possibilities for how we use the space. It is one of those quiet improvements that makes a real difference to day to day school life, helping us elevate the small details that collectively move things to the next level.

We also enjoyed two particularly lovely assemblies this week. On Tuesday, Mr Styles took us on a journey from "Winter to Spring" and spotted the early signs of change. This encouraged the children to become expert seasonal detectives, noticing small details in the world around them: lighter mornings, tiny buds, hopeful birdsong and the gradual return of the idea that summer might, one day, exist again. Then on Thursday, Mr Codd led an assembly for Winnie the Pooh Day, centred on celebrating friendship. There were wise words from Pooh, thoughtful moments of reflection, and more than a few quiet smiles around the hall. It was a gentle, heart-warming reminder of how important kindness, loyalty and looking out for one another really are, whether you are a bear of very little brain or a pupil in a Prep School.

And on that note, it only feels right to end the week with a little wisdom from Winnie the Pooh himself.

"A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference."

A simple message, but a powerful one, and a rather lovely thing for us all (children and adults alike) to carry into the weeks ahead. Here's to week three (which I hope will continue at roughly the same brisk but cheerful pace).



Best wishes,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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EYFS

We had great fun at our Parent Fun Stories Friday edition before the Christmas break! Congratulations to Mr Newman, Dr McClure and Miss Bacon for being our Parent Observation winners!

In the first Fun Story Friday's session of the year, we reflected on the lovely break we have had with our loved ones. Many of the Early Years children enjoyed the Magic Light premiere of the short animation "*The Scarecrow's Wedding*" an adaptation of the Julia Donaldson story. Of course, we had to read it for ourselves! This delightful tale follows the story of Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay, two scarecrows who decide to marry. They wish to throw the best wedding yet, the wedding that no one will ever forget! So, following Betty's list they hunt around the farm for 5 very unique items to

make their wedding day extra special. However, disaster strikes when Harry O'Hay is delayed in fetching one of the items on the list and Reginald Rake (who is not nearly as great as he thinks) tries to take his place. But fear not, all is well by the end of their tale. Big Congratulations to our Observation Question winners: Aliya in Preschool and Millie in Reception.

Next week-It's RO's turn to join and we're already looking forward to more Fun Stories Friday Fun!



Preschool

Our Preschool friends have been having a truly magical time learning and exploring together over the past few weeks! Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we've been diving into the wonderful world of fairy tales, with a special focus on the classic story Jack and the Beanstalk. This familiar tale has sparked lots of curiosity, imagination, and rich conversations as we talked about characters, settings, and what might happen next.

Inspired by Jack's adventure, the children created their own number beanstalks, combining early math skills with hands-on creativity. The children enjoyed counting, recognising numbers, and watching their beanstalks "grow" as they added each number. These activities supported number recognition while also encouraging fine motor skills and problem-solving in a fun and meaningful way.

Our art area has also been very busy! The children loved making magic wands during craft time, decorating them with sparkles, colours, and plenty of imagination. These wands quickly became part of our dramatic play as the children retold the fairy tale and invented their own magical stories. We also worked together to create a giant beanstalk



for our classroom, which has become a much-loved display and a great conversation starter. It's been wonderful to see the children so proud of their collaborative work.

In our Launching Learners sessions, we have been learning all about caring for our teeth and the important role of the dentist. We talked about why we brush our teeth, what foods help keep our teeth healthy, and what happens during a visit to the dentist. The children enjoyed learning new vocabulary and sharing their own experiences, helping to build confidence and understanding around health and self-care.

Our sound of the week has been "k", and the children have been busy listening for, identifying, and practising this sound in words. We explored the sound through songs, stories, and games, and the children did a fantastic job recognising words that begin with the "k" sound. These early phonics experiences help build a strong foundation for future reading and writing.

It has been a joy to watch the children engage so enthusiastically in their learning, using their creativity, curiosity, and growing skills each day.

Thank you for your continued support; we love sharing these special learning moments with your families!

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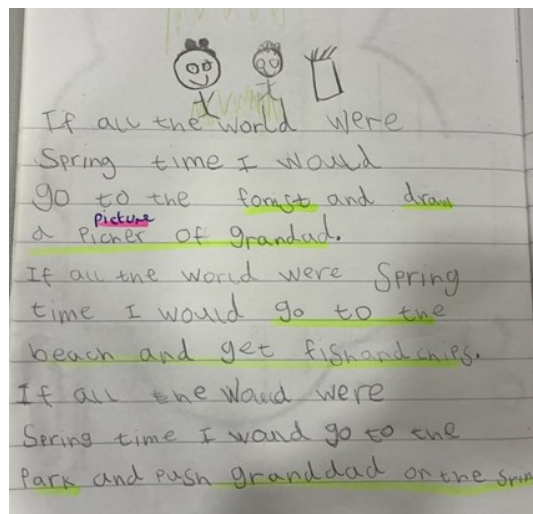


Year 1

Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying their new English learning sequence, inspired by the beautifully written text "If All the World Were" by Joseph Coelho. Through this thoughtful and imaginative story, the children have explored deeper ideas and themes, engaging meaningfully with the text. They have developed their analytical skills by making predictions, asking thoughtful questions, and uncovering hidden meanings within the story. The children have particularly enjoyed stepping into the roles of the characters, using drama and discussion to explore emotions and perspectives, and imagining how it might feel to be the child in the story. This has supported both their empathy



and understanding, bringing the text to life in an engaging and memorable way.



Use of AirTags and Personal Tracking Devices in School

As part of our wider safeguarding policy, we would like to remind parents and carers that AirTags or other personal tracking devices must not be placed in pupils' bags, clothing, or belongings while they are in school or on school trips.



While we fully understand the reassurance that these devices can provide to families, their use in school raises important safeguarding, privacy, and consent concerns and is therefore not permitted.

Why are AirTags not allowed in school?

Personal tracking devices:

- Can collect and transmit location data about children and adults without their knowledge or consent.
- May unintentionally track other pupils or members of staff.
- Create potential safeguarding risks if location information is accessed or misused.
- Conflict with data protection and safeguarding responsibilities that schools are legally required to uphold.

For these reasons, the school must be able to ensure that pupils are not carrying active tracking

devices during the school day or on educational visits.

What happens if a child is found with an AirTag?

If a pupil is found to be carrying an AirTag or similar device:

- It will be removed by a member of staff.
- It will be stored safely in the school office.
- It will be returned to the parent or pupil at the end of the school day.

This is not a punishment, but a safeguarding measure applied consistently for all pupils.

Year 6 pupils walking home independently.

We recognise that some Year 6 pupils walk home on their own and that families may wish to use tracking devices to support this.

In these cases:

- AirTags or tracking devices should not be kept with the child during the school day.
- They should be handed in to the school office each morning, in the same way that mobile phones are.
- The pupil may collect the device from the office at the end of the school day before leaving to walk home.

Thank you for your support.

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SCA

Spring Term – Save the Dates.

Please add the following dates to your calendars!



Wednesday 25th February, 8:00pm - SCA AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Friday 6th February– Pre-Prep Disco Tickets live next week!

Friday 27th February – Prep Disco Tickets live next week!

Friday 6th March – Parent's Bingo Social!

Thursday 12th March – Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop (during school hours, children only)

Thursday 21st May - Last day of term! – Rescheduled Open-Air Cinema Night (after school, children only) - More details will follow in the coming weeks.

We would like to invite you to our AGM on Wednesday 25th February at 8pm. It will be a short meeting, and your attendance would greatly help us meet our obligations as a charity.

Thank you again for your continued support; we look forward to lots of exciting events this term!



Year 3

The children had a fantastic time becoming Earth Scientists as they explored the exciting world of rocks.

From the moment they started investigating, their curiosity took over and they were bursting

with questions for us to answer. They loved examining different rocks up close, spotting patterns, making predictions and discovering how rocks are used all around us.

Whether sorting, matching or debating which rock might be best for a building, the classroom buzzed with enthusiasm! Our rock hunts, hands

on challenges and lively discussions helped the children deepen their understanding while having great fun, and the topic was clearly brought to life.

Safe to say, the Year 3 classrooms are bursting with excitement for our next Science lesson!



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 19th January

- Year 3 Boys' Football v Farringtons (away).
- Year 3 Girls' Football v Farringtons (home).

Tuesday 20th January

- Year 5 & 6 Bromley Schools Hockey Tournament (selected pupils).

Thursday 22nd January

- Year 5 Football v Babbington House, all pupils (away).

Friday 23rd January

- Year 6 Football v Breaside, all pupils, (away).