

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It hardly seems possible that January 2026 is nearly behind us already, as in a blink we will be charging full speed into February.

On Monday, we practised our 'Shelter in Place' procedure as outlined in my letter last week. I

wanted to take a moment to reassure you just how calmly and smoothly this was handled. It was deliberately kept very low-key, with no fuss and no fanfare, and I am pleased to report that it was a great success. As a first step, it worked extremely well, and the pupils were quite simply brilliant, sensible, mature, focused and impressively unruffled.

In assembly on Tuesday, we also explored a very important, and understandably sensitive, topic: Holocaust Memorial Day. While this may sound like a very big subject for young pupils, it is one that can be approached carefully, thoughtfully and in a way that is appropriate for their age and understanding. We discussed how it is a time to remember people who were treated unfairly, to learn from the past, and to think about how we can choose kindness and respect in our own lives. The children learned that a long time ago, some people were treated badly simply because of who they were, and that this was wrong. We explained that Jewish people were targeted just for being Jewish, and that this kind of hatred has a name: antisemitism. Rather than focusing on frightening details, our emphasis was firmly on what this means for us today. We talked about the importance of including everyone, being fair, using kind words, speaking up if something feels wrong, asking questions kindly, being curious rather than unkind, and standing up for others when they need support. This feels like an especially important conversation to be having with children, given the various events unfolding across the world at the moment. The pupils approached the discussion with thoughtfulness, compassion and maturity well beyond their years, and it was genuinely heartening to see their empathy in action.



Now, onto lighter matters! Next Friday brings with it the mathematical magnificence that is National Number Day! Children are invited to come dressed in "Numbers Around Us" inspired outfits, and I will, of course, be fully embracing the spirit of the occasion. My own Traitors-esque cloak, resplendent with numbers, is already waiting dramatically in the wings. You will have received some information about this already, but we are very much looking forward to welcoming parents into school for the occasion. From 8:15am, you are invited to join us for a coffee morning, where you can tackle a few fun maths challenges while chatting with other parents and enjoying a well-earned caffeine boost. We will also be starting the day with a Wake and Shake aerobics session following the coffee morning at 08:40, designed to get bodies moving, brains firing and enthusiasm levels raised before the first lesson even begins,

and again parents are very welcome to join us for. At the end of the day, our Prep pupils will enjoy an "End-of-Day Parade" in the Pre-Prep playground, where they will proudly showcase their number-themed costumes and creations before heading home. This parade will be for Prep pupils only, as our Pre-Prep children have their own extremely important social engagement that day: their Disco. Dancing shoes will be deployed accordingly.

And the following week (and last week of the half-term), we move straight into Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, beginning on Monday 9th February, with the theme "This is My Place". This will focus on helping pupils feel safe, seen and heard within their environments, both at home and at school, and on celebrating that sense of belonging which is so vital to children's wellbeing. To launch the week in suitably cosy style, we will be holding a Wear Your Pyjamas to School Day on Monday 9th February, with a suggested £1 donation. A perfect opportunity for children to start the week feeling comfortable, relaxed and wrapped in familiarity.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as it truly makes events like these such a joy to plan and run.

Mr Carter
Head Teacher

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SCA Spring Term – Save the Dates

Please add the following dates to your calendars!

Friday 6th February – Pre-Prep Disco
Tickets close tonight!

<https://www.scasales.co.uk/disco-2026>

Friday 27th February – Prep Disco
Tickets close tonight!

<https://www.scasales.co.uk/disco-2026>

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

Friday 6th March – Parent's Bingo Social! Tickets now available via the SCA website.

<https://www.scasales.co.uk/bingo-2026>

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

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 and we look forward to seeing you at the exciting events ahead!



Horizon Project

Year 1 have been very busy developing a range of important life skills through our Horizon Project. The children have shown fantastic independence and enthusiasm as they have learned how to put on their own coats and fasten their zips, organise their learning spaces, and take responsibility for keeping them tidy. They have also practised carefully pouring and carrying liquids, developing both confidence and coordination.

Next week, we are really looking forward to building on these skills even further. The children will be enhancing their fine motor control while also deepening their understanding of hygiene and healthy nutrition as they prepare and safely chop fruit to make their own fruit salads. This hands-on



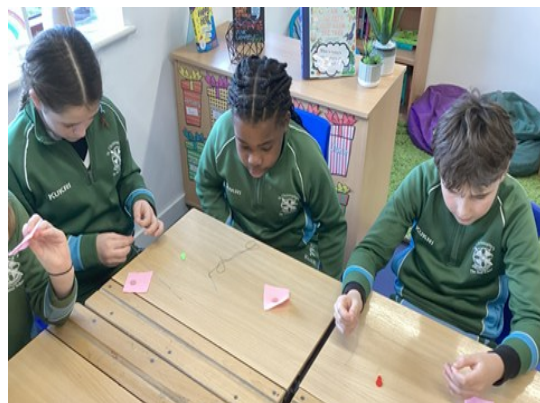
experience is a lot of fun and will support both practical skills and healthy life-style choices, and we are excited to see the children continue to grow in confidence and independence as the weeks go on.



Year 5 and 6 Horizon

In this week's Horizon Project, Year 5 were asked to plan a day trip for themselves and an accompanying adult. They carefully planned their journey from their home (using a range of maps and websites) and researched the total cost of the day (including travel, activities, food & beverages). This allowed children to develop their logistical and financial budgeting skills, key life skills for the future.

This week, Year 6 developed a very important life skill: learning how to sew on a button. The children began by carefully threading their needles before practising the backstitch technique to securely attach a button onto a piece of felt. Throughout the lesson, they demonstrated impressive focus and concentration, working patiently and precisely. Every child successfully completed the challenge, showing great perseverance and pride in their work.



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Launching Learners

This week in **Launching Learners**, our Life Skills sessions were all about learning to pour accurately – a skill that might seem simple, but which involves focus, control, and teamwork!

We enjoyed exploring this skill in our mud kitchen, the children used the water, mud and various containers and utensils to fill, pour and empty. Inside, we were extra early in celebrating Pancake Day by using various tools to mix and pour the ingredients needed for pancake batter, yummy!

To make the sessions even more meaningful, we buddied up Preschool and Reception children, encouraging collaboration and peer support. The younger children loved watching their older buddies demonstrate how to play the various activities, while Reception children enjoyed taking responsibility for guiding and supporting their friends.

We finished the session with a particularly heart-warming moment: Reception children carefully poured a cup of hot/warm chocolate or squash for their Preschool buddy, demonstrating patience, care, and a real sense of achievement. It was wonderful to see them putting their new skills into practice in such a meaningful and collaborative way.

Watching the children learn through play reminds us of the importance of building life skills in a fun, supportive environment. Pouring might seem small, but it is a stepping stone to independence, teamwork, and confidence – all vital skills for life.

We are so proud of the children's focus, teamwork, and determination this week and can't wait to see how they continue to grow these skills in the weeks ahead.



Pyjama Day – Monday 9th February

To kick-start Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, we'll be holding a Pyjama Day on Monday 9th February. Children are invited to wear their pyjamas or comfiest clothes, with slippers for the classroom (and suitable shoes for break and lunch).

We kindly ask for a £1 donation to support our chosen charity, Cancer



Research. Children with PE on this day should still bring their PE kit.

This exciting, cosy day helps us promote wellbeing and start important, age-appropriate conversations about mental health.

Thank you for your support; we're looking forward to a positive start to the week where we all feel more relaxed and ready for the day ahead.

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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 School Group

EYFS

Fun Story Friday was full of adventure this week as we shared, *We're Sailing Down the Nile* by Laurie Krebs and Anne Wilson. This beautifully illustrated story links perfectly with our Pre-school focus on traditional tales, while also supporting Reception's upcoming literacy sessions, where children will be exploring African folklore. We jumped onboard the river boat and sailed down the Nile, stopping off at the local market, the Valley of the Kings and we even spotted some Pharaohs. We love choosing stories that introduce traditions and cultures from different parts of the world, helping children to build curiosity and respect for global diversity. The children were absolutely amazed by the pyramids, sparking lots of excited discussion. One child proudly shared that the River Nile is the longest river in the world, so we explored a map together to see just how far it stretches and even spotted Cairo, the capital city of Egypt. A big congratulations to our Observation Question winners, Lola in Preschool and Theodore in Reception. Next week, it's **RO's** turn to join us, and we're already looking forward to more Fun Story Friday fun!



Charity

On Sunday 15th March, Miss Davison, from the PE Department, will be taking part in the Bath Half Marathon to raise money for The Alzheimer Society. She has already raised a significant amount through generous support and is hoping to raise even more through this challenge. Any donations, big or small, would be hugely appreciated and will help make a real difference to the charity's work.

If you would like to support Miss Davison, donations can be made via the following link:

<https://2026getprobathhalf.enthuse.com/pf/emily-davison>

What's Happening Next Week



Monday 2nd February

- Year 3 Football v St Dunstan's (away). All Pupils.



Tuesday 3rd February

- Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala at Colfes. Selected pupils.



Wednesday 4th February

- Bromley Schools Girls Football Tournament. Selected pupils.



Thursday 5th February

- Yr 6 - trip to the Science Museum.
- Yr 5 STEM/Computing Workshop at St Dunstan's.



Friday 6th February

- **Number Day** - parents coffee morning 8.15am - 8.40 Main Hall.
Wake and Shake 8.45am - 9.00am. Parents welcome.
End of day parade for Prep children 3.15pm. Parents welcome.
- Year 6 Football v Farringtons (away).
- Pre-Prep Disco 3.15pm - 4.30pm.