

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Today we celebrated National Number Day, an event we value because it helps children grow up seeing maths as something to enjoy rather than endure. By focusing on confidence, curiosity and the idea that numbers are everywhere, in games, technology,

problem-solving and everyday life, the day encourages children to see themselves as capable mathematicians. That sense of enjoyment and confidence was clear from the very start of the morning which started with a parents' coffee morning. The buzz and easy conversations, as well as the sight of parents getting involved created a real feeling of community, and it was especially lovely to see so many of you staying on to throw yourselves into the aerobics afterwards. There was something quietly heroic about parents, pupils and staff all jumping around together before 9am, and the energy, laughter and good humour carried through the rest of the day. It was a pleasure to watch pupils supporting one another, stepping into leadership roles and learning alongside their families in such a relaxed and joyful way.

As we move into Children's Mental Health Week next week, today felt like a perfect reminder that wellbeing and learning go hand in hand. Children do their best thinking when they feel happy, safe and connected, so we are beginning the week gently with a pyjama day on Monday, encouraging comfort, calm and conversations about rest, emotions and self-care. Sometimes a pair of slippers and a sense of ease are exactly what's needed. In keeping with this focus on wellbeing and thoughtful choices, next week also includes Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. This year's theme, "*Smart tech, safe choices*" reflects how quickly digital tools and AI are becoming part of children's everyday lives. Our emphasis is on

helping pupils build confidence, critical thinking and good judgement online, not fear or restriction, and on reinforcing the message that online safety is an ongoing, shared responsibility between school and home. For those who would like to explore this further at home, the UK Safer Internet Centre has some excellent, accessible resources [here](#), and tips for young people [here](#).

With wellbeing very much in mind, I also wanted to share a small but happy change I've made to the rewards linked to my weekly Celebration Assembly. Previously, those pupils who received my special sticker joined me for a celebratory lunch,

which was always enjoyed, but it had begun to feel a little too similar to the end-of-term special lunch for merit winners. So this week, and moving forward, I've swapped it for a break-time meeting instead, where pupils can come and chat, perhaps play a game of Connect Four, and enjoy a specially made biscuit just for them. This worked brilliantly this week. I am always delighted to spend time talking with pupils, and they never disappoint, arriving with fascinating facts, strong opinions and, occasionally, quite extraordinary stories. As we often joke, as long as you don't believe everything you're told about school from your child, we promise not to believe everything they tell us about you...

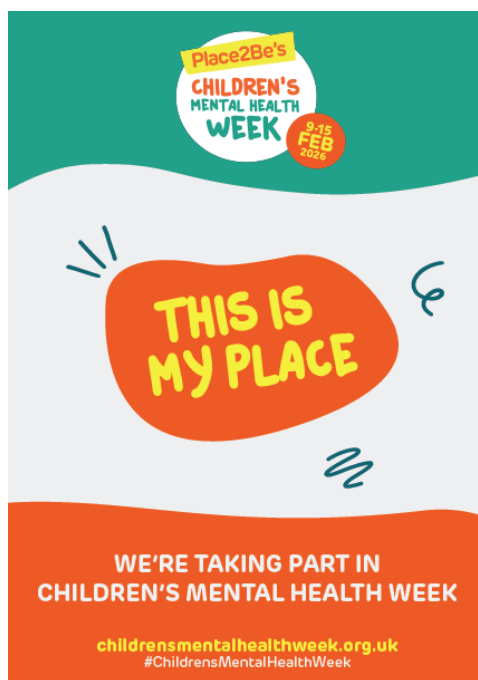
although I will admit that some of the stories do make me roar with laughter. However, more importantly, these moments give pupils time to feel seen, heard and valued, which sits right at the heart of good mental health.

Thank you to those who started the day with us and joined in so enthusiastically, and to you all for continuing to support the many small (and sometimes slightly silly) ways we work to keep school a happy, healthy and thoughtful place to be.

With very warm wishes,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



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School Council Hub

On Friday 30th January, our School Council representatives from Years 1–6 visited St. Dunstan's Junior School for our first School Council Hub meeting with other schools in the group. The children took part in fun ice breaker games and team building activities, enjoyed delicious homemade biscuits, juice and fruit and shared presentations about what each School Council has been working on in their own schools. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and exchange ideas. The next step is for everyone to go away and think about a whole group project; one exciting idea already suggested is to design a shared logo for the School Council Hub. It was a super and very productive morning for everyone involved.



Year 5 STEM workshop

This week, Year 5 were treated to an engaging, practical robotics workshop at St Dunstan's Secondary School. The children used micro:bits to programme their robot - instructing it to move forwards, backwards and rotate. They developed their coding skills, using logic and methodical

thinking, as well as their troubleshooting skills (to solve problems that occurred and make edits to improve & refine their code). The children had an enjoyable time and were fully engaged with their learning. We were so grateful for this experience and the opportunity to stretch our STEM knowledge through this hands-on session.



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MFL

Over the last two weeks, 5T and Reception have been buzzing with excitement as the children teamed up for a fantastic collaborative project exploring numbers in French.



Our Year 5 children loved stepping into the role of helpers, showing real kindness, patience and maturity as they worked with the younger children. They were incredibly proud of themselves, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they shared their knowledge.

In turn, Reception children thrived with their older role models, building confidence while learning in a lively and supportive atmosphere..

The sessions were packed with exciting activities, from singing French number songs and playing interactive online games to hands-on counting with stickle bricks and blocks. The children created models, counted their chosen blocks and enjoyed rolling dice games, all whilst practising accurate counting in French.



This project has been a brilliant example of learning together across the school, with clear benefits for both Year 5 and Reception. It's been a joy to watch the children learning, leading and having fun together.



St Christopher's Compass Clubs

Our new Early Engineers after-school club, part of the Compass Club provision, has been off to a fantastic start with our Year 1 and 2 children embracing the role of young designers and problem-solvers. Each week, the children have been set a clear design brief, challenging them to think carefully about how to build stable bridges and tall towers using a wide range of materials including playdough and wooden skewers, playing cards, lolly sticks



and pegs. Most recently, the children worked on a large-scale challenge, designing and building chairs using our Pre-Prep construction resources.

Following a brief has helped the children to develop important engineering skills such as planning, testing ideas, adapting designs and working collaboratively. There has been a real focus on perseverance, especially when working with playing cards, where structures don't always stand up first time! The children have learned that mistakes are part of the process and that "keep going" is often the key to success. To inspire them further, we explored the work of a professional engineer who earns his living by building enormous playing-card structures around the world; proving that creativity, patience and problem-solving can turn even the simplest materials into something extraordinary.



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PLAYER TRAINING CENTRE

OPEN INVITATION



Our Player Training Centres provide an inclusive, challenging and inspiring environment for those looking to fulfil their potential in enhancing their footballing ability, confidence and self-esteem.

We focus on individual development, which always aims to compliment any Grassroots football our players take part in outside of our programme. To book please either scan the QR code or use the below website and course.

PLAYER TRAINING CENTRE

St Dunstan's Jubilee Sports Ground
Monday Evenings (excluding holiday periods)
17.45-19.00
School Year 1-7
3G Surface
Course Code: PDP-SDUN-L-36



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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

Spring Term – Save the Dates

Please add the following dates to your calendars!

Friday 6th February – Pre Prep Disco (Sales now closed). The disco finishes at 4:45pm, please collect your child from the Pre Prep Playground.

Friday 27th February – Prep Disco - (Sales now closed). We have upgraded to a NEON party! To enjoy the full experience, please bring along a white T-Shirt / item of clothing.

The disco finishes at 4:45pm, please collect your child from the Pre Prep Playground.

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

Friday 6th March – Parent's Bingo Social! LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! Purchase now via the SCA website:

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

Thursday 13th March – Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop (during school hours, children only).

Thursday 21st May - Last day of half 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 lots of exciting events this term!



Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the address mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.



What's Happening Next Week



Monday 9th February

- Wear your pyjamas to school day.
- Years 5&6 Swimming Gala v Farrington's, away, selected pupils.



Thursday 12th February

- Year 3 Viking Workshop.
- Year 5&6 - Football v Allyn's, away, all pupils.



Friday 13th February

- U11 IAPS Netball Tournament at Royal Russell.
- Yr 3 Coffee Concert - 8.30am - 10am.