

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

And just like that, we have reached the end of half-term, and with it, the halfway point of our school year. It always feels like a significant milestone, a moment to pause, reflect, and perhaps wonder how on earth the time has passed so quickly!

This week we marked Children's Mental Health Week, beginning in the most comfortable way possible... in our pyjamas. I do wonder how many parents found this to be the fastest morning routine of the year, straight from bed to school with minimal negotiation required!

As we wrap up the half-term, your child's mid-year report will arrive in your email inbox today at 16:15. If you don't see it, please do check your junk folder first. Should it still be missing, do let the School Office know and we will happily resend it. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Ibini for organising the electronic delivery of reports for Rec – Year 6, a truly mammoth task, as I am sure you can imagine. These reports provide a snapshot of your child's progress and build on the conversations from Parents' Evening in the Autumn Term. Our aim is always to support every child in reaching their full potential, and we encourage you to celebrate their achievements, no matter how big or small. It is important to remember that we all grow at different rates and in different ways. Learning is not a linear pathway; much like nature, children develop and flourish in their own time and at their own pace. A gentle reminder for all of us, telling a child they are above a certain level can sometimes create pressure to maintain it, and telling a child they have not yet reached a level can lead to anxiety or feelings of failure. This is true whatever stage your child is at. What matters most is steady progress, confidence, and a love of learning. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress further at Parents' Meetings on Thursday 19th and Tuesday 24th March. Of course, if you have any immediate pastoral or academic concerns before then, our door is always open. Equal-

ly, please be reassured that if we felt your child should be attaining at a higher level in a particular area, we would already have been in touch.

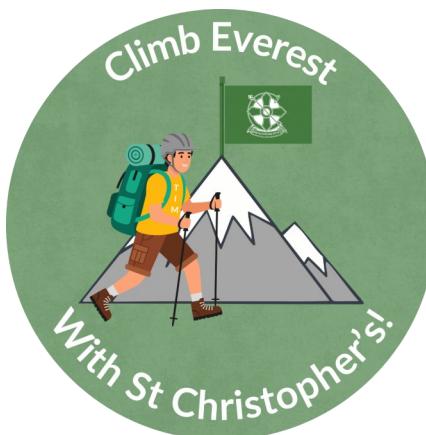
We are incredibly excited to share plans for a very special whole-school event after half-term. One of our alumni and parents, Tim Allardyce, will attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest in April 2026, fundraising for several charities, including his alma mater, to help ensure today's pupils benefit from the same transformative opportunities that shaped his journey. Inspired by this, and our own historic Everest connection (in 1953, shortly after his first ascent of Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary chose St Christopher's as his first stop on returning to England!), we are launching our very own Everest Challenge. This will be a cross-curricular day in which staff and pupils work together to see if, collectively, we can cover the distance to the Everest summit in a single day. We will even have treadmills in school, giving staff and parents the opportunity to take part in sponsored 30-minute sessions to help us clock up the miles needed. Further information will follow about how to sign up for a treadmill slot. Having seen so many of you in impressive gym attire at drop-off, I know your children would absolutely love the chance to cheer you on during your session! I will, of course, be doing my part too... although I can confidently confirm that my contribution will involve walking rather than sprinting.

Wishing you all a restful, joyful half-term break. For our Year 6 families, I imagine there will be plenty of celebrations following the excellent 11+ results, with the final outcomes arriving today, many congratulations to you all! For everyone else, I hope this is a time to relax, recharge, and enjoy precious family moments. If you do nothing else over the break, please keep reading with your child every day. Reading remains one of the most powerful ways to support learning, building vocabulary, comprehension, and imagination in ways that are truly invaluable.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher



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Reception

This term we have been learning about how stories are created by exploring a wide range of traditional tales from different cultures and time periods. We have talked about how every story has characters, a setting, a problem and a resolution, and how authors choose their words to make their stories exciting and memorable.



Last week we visited the Discovery Centre in Stratford, where our imagination truly ran wild (as well as the children!) in the amazing exploratory spaces. The environment was filled with creative areas designed to spark ideas, from storytelling corners to

hands-on activity zones. Vicky the Story Builder from the centre helped us begin creating our own Supported by our visit, in our Literacy sessions we have been focusing on a traditional tale from Ghana, *Anansi the Spider*, along with his many adventures.



stories and well-loved folk stories. We have learned about how Anansi is a trickster character and how his clever (and sometimes mischievous) actions often teach important lessons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed retelling these stories, and acting them out. They then had a go at creating their own Anansi-inspired tales.

In Maths, we have now reached number 10 and have been developing our understanding of number bonds. We have been learning how different numbers can be combined to make 10 and exploring this through practical resources, games and visual representations. The children are beginning to record their ideas as number sentences using the + and = symbols. They are especially enjoying our "Maths Unplugged" sessions, where they explore different activities in and around the environment to demonstrate hands-on numeracy skills. These sessions encourage problem solving, teamwork and discussion, helping the children to see how maths can be applied in everyday situations.

In Science, we have been learning about the different states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. In a very Early Years style, we have explored these concepts through practical, sensory experiences. The children have investigated how materials can change when heated or cooled, such as watching ice melt into water and observing how water can turn into steam. With the hands-on exploration and thoughtful discussion, the children are developing a strong foundation in understanding how materials behave and change in the world around them and having a lot of fun.



Allergy reminder:

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



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Easter Hatwalk

It may seem a while away yet, but at the end of next half term we'll host our annual and much-loved Easter Hat Walk. Several parents have asked whether we might share the themes in advance this year, so that those who wish to spend some time over the half-term break creating a hat together at home are able to do so. We are very happy to support this, as these shared moments of making and designing are often just as special as the parade itself.

With this in mind, we are pleased to share the themes for **EYFS (Preschool and Reception)** "**Little Chicks & Springtime Wishes**": Soft chicks, lambs, bunnies, nests, and delicate pastel touches celebrating the arrival of spring.

Year 1 "In Full Bloom": Fresh flowers, blossoms, butterflies, and gentle garden colours bringing spring to life.

Year 2 "From Garden to Table": Carrots, vegetables, watering cans, and Peter-Rabbit-style garden charm.

Year 3 "Eggs of Wonder": Beautifully decorated eggs, gold details, patterns, and carefully crafted Easter designs.

Year 4 "Spring Skies & Rainbows": Soft clouds, sunshine, raindrops, and elegant rainbow colours capturing the changing season.

Year 5 "Enchanted Spring": Subtle fairy-tale touches; woodland creatures, blossoms, light sparkle, and gentle magic.

Year 6 "A Celebration of New Beginnings": Refined, creative designs symbolising growth, hope, and looking ahead to the next chapter.

We very much look forward to seeing the children proudly wearing their creations as we come together to celebrate the end of term in true springtime style. As always, thank you for the enthusiasm, creativity and care that help make this tradition such a special part of life at our school.



Year 6

Year 6 had an unforgettable day on their recent visit to the Science Museum, packed full of excitement, discovery and hands-on learning. From the moment we arrived, the children were buzzing with enthusiasm and curiosity, ready to explore everything the museum had to offer.

One of the highlights of the trip was the **POWER UP** zone, where pupils travelled through the history of video games from the 1980s right up to the present day. The children had the opportunity to play and explore a wide range of consoles and games, discovering how technology, design and storytelling have evolved over time. This interactive experience sparked lots of discussion, teamwork and problem-solving, and it was wonderful to see pupils supporting and encouraging one another as they took turns and tried new challenges.



The class also visited the **Wonderlab**, an exciting gallery filled with live demonstrations and hands-on experiments. Here, pupils explored key scientific concepts including forces, electricity, space, light and states of matter. They were fascinated by the live experiments and eagerly engaged with the interactive exhibits, asking thoughtful questions and making links to their learning back in school. The opportunity to see science come to life helped deepen their understanding and inspired a real sense of wonder and curiosity.

Throughout the entire visit, Year 6 represented the school superbly. Their behaviour was excellent, and they showed respect, enthusiasm and responsibility at all times. It was a truly fantastic day, full of learning, laughter and memorable experiences, and one that will no doubt inspire many future scientists, engineers and innovators.

Well done!



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Maths

Last Friday 6th February, St Christopher's was filled with excitement as pupils celebrated NSPCC Number Day in style. From Pre-school to Year 6, children arrived in creative number-themed outfits, including sports shirts, domino designs and colourful tops decorated with calculations, setting a lively tone for the day.

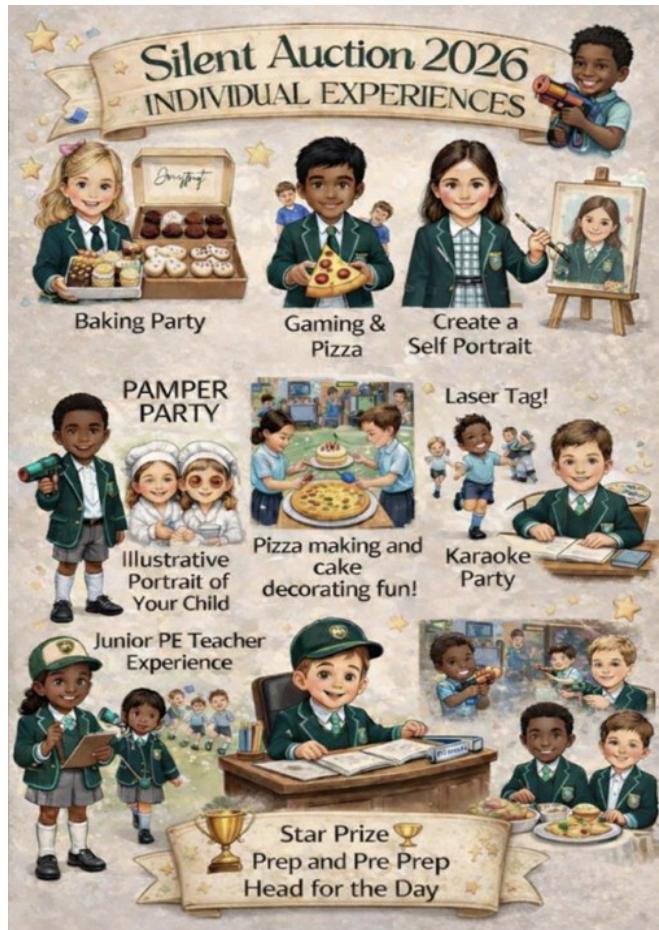
The day began with a Coffee Morning for parents in the Main Hall and was followed by an energised Wake and Shake workout, led by Mr Chowdhury. Watch out Mr Motivator, there's a new instructor in town! The children and adults had a wonderful start to their days which continued with aplomb.

Throughout the day, classrooms became hubs of mathematical fun. Younger children enjoyed counting games, shape hunts and interactive challenges, while older pupils tackled problem-solving activities, maths relays and binary code-breaking tasks. Friendly competition flourished during

TTRS and Blooket challenges, and teamwork was key in group investigations.

All in all, the activities encouraged collaboration, resilience and plenty of smiles.

Teachers joined in the fun, adding to the positive atmosphere and proving that maths can be both engaging and enjoyable. By the end of the day, pupils had strengthened their confidence with numbers and raised valuable funds, making it a truly memorable Number Day for the whole school community.



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SCA: Parent's Bingo and Silent Auction! Friday 6th March

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Every year we hold a silent auction at St Christopher's The Hall, where parents can win awesome experiences for their children with staff! This year, the auction will be held alongside the BINGO night. The link for bidding will be available soon with further details.

Check out the amazing list of auction prizes to be won!



- Create a framed Self Portrait with Mrs Chamaidia and Mrs Craig
- Gaming and Pizza with Miss Rule and Mr Pretara
- Quizz, Giggles and Afternoon Tea with Mrs Goberdhan, Mrs Craig and Mrs Davies
- Prep Head for the Day with Mr Carter
- Pre Prep Head for the Day with Mr Carter
- Prep Homework Pass from Mr Carter
- Laser Tag Party with Mr Codd and Mr Chowdhury
- Pamper Party with Mrs Shivers
- Pizza Making and Cake Decorating with Mrs Vasey, Mrs Coombs, Mrs Oliver and Mr Styles!
- Professional Illustrative Portrait of your child with Mrs Williams
- Karaoke Party with Miss Wooderson and Mrs Eastwood
- Junior PE Teacher Experience with Mr Murphy, Miss Davison and Miss Steeden
- Baking Treats Party with Mrs Aldridge and Mrs Black
- Musical Afternoon Tea with Mrs Heselwood and Mrs Malcolm
- Painting Party with Nibbles and Music with Miss Johns, Mrs Mantle and Mrs West

Get your tickets to the Bingo at www.scasales.co.uk to be in amongst the action!

All proceeds go towards the SCA. We hope to see you there!

EYFS

Fun Stories Friday was full of colour, counting and curiosity this week as we shared the book *How Many Jellybeans?* by Andrea Menotti. The children were completely amazed as we explored what 1 million jellybeans actually looked like; they were tiny so as to fit on the pages!

We loved carefully counting the jellybeans on each page and seeing how much bigger the amounts were growing, so many jellybeans! We linked this to our learning about healthy choices from Launching Learners and we decided that 1 million jellybeans was definitely not a good choice for our bodies!

Our session also linked perfectly with NSPCC Numbers Day, and it was wonderful to see the children proudly wearing their number-themed costumes while talking about numbers in a fun, meaningful way. We ended our story time by singing a lively numbers song, joining in with actions and counting along together to finish on a high note.

Big congratulations to Seb from Preschool and Oscar from Reception, fantastic engagement and super counting!

Next week it is RS's turn to join and we are already looking forward to more Fun Stories Friday Fun!



What's Happening After Half Term

Monday 23rd February

- Year 3 Football v Eltham, away, all pupils.

Tuesday 24th February

- Year 4 Football v Eltham, away, all pupils.

Thursday 26th February

- Year 5 Football v Eltham, away, all pupils.

Friday 27th February

- Year 5 Trip - Victorian workshop at Kent Life.
- Prep Disco 15.30pm - 16.45pm .