

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome you back to school as we begin our final half of the academic year. I hope you all enjoyed time with your families whilst avoiding the rain. Obviously, half term also

brought about the news of a General Election and following last term's letter from Mrs. Curtis, our Chair of Governors, I thought I would just touch on VAT on school fees. Please know that for quite some time, the Governors have been proactively considering ways to address this potential challenge. Our school has also reached out to political candidates in our constituency to highlight the difficulties and negative impact that such a policy could have on families. Despite these uncertainties, our commitment to providing the highest quality education for your children remains unwavering. Our core values, diverse academic and co-curricular offerings, and strong pastoral care will always be our top priorities, regardless of the political landscape.

On Wednesday, we held a special assembly to celebrate World Environmental Day, highlighting the importance of environmental awareness and sustainability. We are deeply committed to fostering an environmentally conscious and sustainable school community. We are actively working towards achieving the prestigious Green Flag Award, which recognises schools that have made significant strides in becoming more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We are thrilled to have a dedicated team of pupils, led by Mrs. Cornish, driving this initiative, and value their hardwork and enthusiasm (more on this, as well as a competition below)

Additionally, on Wednesday, we started a new initiative called Phase Fusion to replace our usual ECHO hour. For the next five weeks, each Wednesday from 13:20 to 14:20, we will buddy up a Prep class with a Pre-Prep class. The purpose of this program is to foster bonds between children from different phases and engage them in team-building activities. This mixed-age environment allows younger pupils to observe and learn from their older peers, whether it's in academics, behaviour, or social skills. Each week will focus on different themes such as shared reading,

teamwork and collaboration, mindfulness, or STEM-related activities.

We hosted our second annual St. Christopher's The Hall Secondary School Fair, on Thursday which was a fantastic opportunity for parents to explore a wide range of secondary schools, each offering unique educational experiences and environments. I hope those who attended found it a valuable chance to gather information, ask questions, and begin envisioning the next step in their child's educational journey at 11+. Do remember, you do not need to start looking too soon, but we hope it gives parents, particularly in Year 4 and 5 a helpful guiding hand. As I say every year to those parents in Year 5 during our 11+ meetings, I encourage you to keep an open mind and consider all options, even those you may not be familiar with. Our area is fortunate to have many excellent schools, and we hope you will appreciate the distinct ethos and values each one offers. We hope those who attended started to see the possibilities ahead for their child and feel more confident in making an informed decision about their education. While there is often much discussion about the 11+, I want to reassure you that it is not as daunting as it may seem. With the support of our school team and our excellent relationships with secondary schools, we can successfully navigate this journey with all of our Year 6 students.

Next week, on Tuesday, we are looking forward to hosting our Digital Strategy Parent Partnership meeting. This meeting will primarily focus on the significant impact for Year 3 and Year 4 as we plan the rollout of 1:1 devices starting next year. We will outline our approach, expectations, and the ways in which this initiative will enhance our curriculum. Additionally, we will discuss how we intend to support both students and parents in this transition. Despite a real focus being on those parents who will be in Year 3 and 4 next year, we welcome all parents to join us, regardless of your child's year group, to learn more about this initiative and how it will benefit our school community.

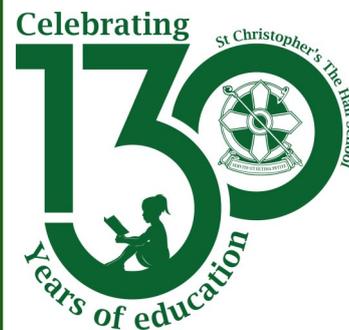
Have a great week,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Children's Charity

Year 1

On Monday, Year 1 took part in a Dance-a-thon to raise money for MIND charity and it was a resounding success! They danced their hearts out for a full hour, ensuring that at least one person was always moving. Year 1 have a love for dancing, which shone brightly as they twirled, hopped, and grooved together all afternoon. We even saw some impressive ballroom and breakdancing! Thanks to their dedication and the generous support from family and friends, they collectively raised nearly £1000—a truly remarkable achievement. We are incredibly proud of their effort

and enthusiasm. A big thank you to everyone who sponsored and donated, making this event memorable and impactful. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will make a significant difference.



Year 6

On Monday, Year 6 had Elisha and Tanya visit from our school charity, Mind. Throughout the workshop, the children took part in a number of practical activities aiming at supporting them in their understanding of mental health, and also training them to become young mental health ambassadors. They all received a badge to wear, which was very exciting!

One big take-away from the session was the reinforcement of the idea of Mind's 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', as touched on in Elisha's initial assembly to the school. These five ways are:

Connect, Breathe, Take Notice, Learn and Give.

In the picture below, Anthony, Felix and William, who were the children who initially pitched Mind to be our school charity, are proudly showing off their new badges.



Some of our pupils' reflections from the session:

"I've learnt from the Mind workshop that there is always someone to reach out to, no matter where you are and that we should always be respectful towards people who share their problems or worries." ~ Daniel

"I found out that 1 in 5 children have mental health issues, which means that no one is alone." ~ Ella

"I can be active and socialise to look after my mental health." ~ Rafi

"I think learning a skill, like crochet or a new language, can take your mind off of things and help your mental health thrive." ~ Maya

"Talk to a trusted adult when you're worried or have something on your mind. For example, your parents or teachers." ~ Anthony

Allergy reminder:

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



Social Media

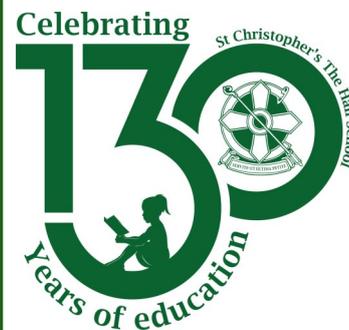
If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story!



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

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Year 5

Before half term, Year 5 went on their residential trip to Bowles. The children had a wonderful time taking part in a range of activities and challenges, whilst learning the importance of teamwork and resilience. Each group participated in: High ropes, Rockclimbing, Team Challenges, Kayaking, Archery and Skiing. They also had the pleasure of roasting marshmallows on a camp fire whilst

listening to funny stories.

Throughout this trip, we were so impressed with their behaviour and support towards one another. We had many



children conquering their fears, encouraging one another during times of need and sharing many laughs and great memories together. All of the instructors were extremely impressed with the children's manners, teamwork skills and behaviour throughout the trip.

We are so proud of Year 5 and all that they accomplished during Bowles.



Library

We are looking for some new parent volunteers to support with lunchtime library sessions from September 2024

onwards. In joining us, we ask that you keep our library looking fresh and organised, liaise with the Year 6 Library

Monitors, read with pupils who visit (or simply assist with their book search!) and use the online system to help pupils borrow and return their library books. Of course, you will receive full training on this before starting, and will always be able to ask questions along the way!

You have the freedom to sign up to as many or as few shifts as you like, with shift times being from 12:20-13:20. We would ask that you arrive 5 minutes early, just to help get yourself settled before pupils start to arrive.

If you are interested, please send an email to [mail@](mailto:mail@stchristophers.org), for the attention of Mr Pretara, who will be in touch to discuss your availability and commence the DBS application in readiness for September 2024.

Thank you!



Eco Committee

Wednesday was World Environment Day, and this was a good opportunity for our ECO committee to introduce themselves to the school. They have been doing lots of work behind the scenes to look after and protect our environment. The committee is running a competition for a school ECO code/slogan. The closing date for the competition is the **17th June**. The winner's ECO code/slogan will be displayed in the School and on our website, newsletters etc.

We will also be making an abstract mural with plastic bottle tops. Please can we have as many plastic bottle tops as possible brought into school. If

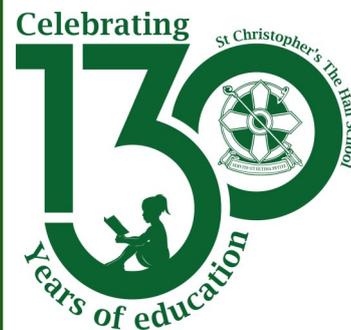
anyone knows a coffee shop or restaurant that would be willing to donate bottle tops, please let us know.

Thank you for your support in our drive to look after our planet.



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Governors

Mr Tuki Rounds has stepped down from the Board of Governors. We would like to thank him for making the time to work with us since 1st December 2022, despite his busy schedule as Senior Deputy Head at Trinity School, and we are very grateful for the wisdom and insight he brought to the role.

St Christopher's in the Community - Litter Picking

On the morning of June 4th, the School Council team embarked on a litter picking exercise in our local area. Equipped with gloves, litter pickers, and bin liners, we were prepared to tackle the litter problem.

To our surprise, we encountered a significant amount of rubbish, including glass bottles, cans, plastic items, crisp packets, metal screws, and various other debris. Despite the daunting task, we managed to fill three bin liners with collected litter, marking our effort as a significant success.

We believe our efforts made a notable difference in cleaning up our local area and contributing positively to the community. The children particularly felt proud of our contribution to helping wildlife, as reducing the amount of rubbish prevents animals from consuming harmful items or getting entangled in debris.

Overall, the litter picking exercise was not only a practical success but also an educational and community-

building experience. We look forward to continuing our efforts to maintain a cleaner and safer environment for all. With 15 litter pickers, this amounted to 11 and a half hours community service which we are so proud of! Thank you to all of you for your hard work.



Pupil Achievement

Over the half-term, we received a lovely story from Som (Year 2) who was very proud of his work in the garden at home. Not only has he been helping build the wildflower meadow for the last six years, he's started making "living sculptures" by weaving the hawkweed, and arranging bouquets for new neighbours. He said, "I like nature and I also really like art so I combined the two."



If anyone else has stories like this, or pupil achievements outside of school you would like to share, do email Mr Carter, as he loves hearing about these things.

What's Happening Next Week

Monday 10th June

- Year 3/4 Girls Cricket V Bromley High, selected pupils to play, (14.40 - 17.15)

Tuesday 11th June

- Year 4 - 6 Swimming Gala @ Colfes, selected pupils to play (15:20-18:00)
- Digital Strategy Parent Partnership meeting (16:00-17:00)

Wednesday 12th June

- Yr5/6 Cricket Tournament at Tonbridge school - selected pupils to play (all day)
- Open Morning for Prep parents (08:15-09:00)
- St Christopher's in the Community selected pupils in Year 6 to visit Jansondean Nursing Home

Thursday 13th June

- Bromley Schools Athletics Championships, Yr 4/5/6, selected children to participate. (all day)
- Open Morning for Pre-Prep parents (08:15-09:00)

Friday 14th June

- Preschool New Joiner play afternoon (13:15-14:15)