

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

As we wrap up the first full week of the Autumn Term, I hope your children have enjoyed being back in and around school, settling into their routines, and reconnecting with friends. We trust they've

come home with plenty of stories to share about their experiences so far!

It was such a pleasure to catch up with many of you over a cup of tea (and perhaps one or two biscuits!) at our Parents' Coffee Morning on Tuesday (in between nipping off to do assembly!)

It was wonderful to welcome new faces to our school community, as well as see some of our familiar friends. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us—I hope you enjoyed it! A special mention goes to the SCA for their fantastic support in hosting the event. They always do a marvellous job, and we're incredibly grateful for the time they dedicate to making these gatherings so special.

They are always looking for more mums and dads to join them so if you feel you could get involved, please get in contact with Mrs McHugh or Mrs Hill.

It was also good to see some of our Year 6 parents at the Secondary Transfer Information Evening on Tuesday! We know

the process, including the 11+ exams, can feel overwhelming, but we hope the meeting helped to clarify what lies ahead and how we are supporting your children during this time. We hope it was also useful to have parents and pupils from last year come to talk to our current Year 6 parents, so they get to hear everything from the horse's mouth, as it were. Many parents often ask how they can best support their child, and while my answer may not be what you're expecting, it's always heartfelt: spend quality time with your child. Listening to them read, discussing books, talking about world events, or visiting interesting places like museums and exhibitions—there is truly no substitute for the time you spend together. This is the most powerful way to help them grow, and it outweighs any num-

ber of trials or tutoring sessions, ensuring our pupils remain well-rounded and calm as they prepare for the next step. We've seen how too much extra 11+ preparation can overwhelm and exhaust students, often preventing them from performing at their best when it matters most. Our goal is to make this process as smooth and stress-free as possible for all our Year 6 students, and I have every confidence they will do wonderfully! In the coming weeks, I will be meeting with Year 6 parents individually to discuss the best options for your child's transition to secondary school. I hope these meetings will provide valuable guidance and support for you during this time—remember, you are just as important to us as your children, and I am always here to help.

Currently, in school, we are making a concerted effort to improve table manners during lunchtime. In our assembly this week, Mrs. West and I talked about this and hopefully it was a silly, and funny experience for everyone! Please

ask your children about Mrs. West's manners and what they thought of how she was eating her food during the assembly - to give you a clue, one pupil described it as 'savage'! Obviously, learning to use a knife and fork properly is an essential skill, and we are committed to helping all our pupils develop it. To support us, you can help your child at home by guiding them on how to hold a knife and

fork correctly. Encourage them to use their fork in one hand to hold food steady, and their knife in their right hand to cut into bite-sized pieces. Practice makes perfect, so making this a regular part of mealtimes, especially for younger children (and a few older ones too!), will really help. We have included a few hints and tips on how you can also model this at home at meal times, which would really help in school to work in partnership with what we want to achieve.

I am delighted to announce the return of our Grandparents' Tea! This special event, which we host every two years, was a magical experience last time, and we can't wait to welcome



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grandparents or elderly relatives back to school again. The Grandparents' Tea will be held on **Wednesday, 6th November**, during our first week back after half-term. It will be a wonderful opportunity for grandparents (or elderly relatives) to join us for tea and scones, enjoy a performance by their grandchild, and have a look at some of their school work. Here are the timings for each year group:

- **Reception-Year 2:** 09:45 - 10:45 (10:00 start)
- **Year 3 and 4:** 13:15 - 14:15 (13:30 start)
- **Year 5 and 6:** 14:45 - 15:45 (15:00 start)

If your child's grandparents or elderly relatives would like to attend, please fill out the [Google Form](#) to help us get an idea of numbers. Please note that there is a limit of four guests per child. Please note this is not an event for parents, as

there are many opportunities for parents to visit the School; this event is specifically for grandparents (or elderly relatives). We can't wait to see many wonderful grandparents and relatives at this very special event!

Finally, I want to take a moment to give a big shoutout to our new PE department, Mr. Murphy and Miss Davison, who have already been a big hit with the children! Our refreshed approach to sports lessons has brought a new energy that the students are absolutely loving. We are excited to start fixtures with great enthusiasm, but we kindly ask for your patience as our new team members establish these connections with schools. Mr. Murphy is brimming with enthusiasm, and we're confident it will all come together seamlessly very soon with plenty of opportunities for all!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Table Manners

We are having a real drive on behaviour and manners at lunchtime. Here are some helpful tips for teaching and practising good table manners with your children. These are obviously not an exhaustive list, but it's a good start:

1. **Use Utensils Properly:** Teach children how to correctly hold and use a knife and fork. Encourage them to cut their food into bite-sized pieces and use their utensils to bring food to their mouth rather than their hands.
2. **Chew with Mouth Closed:** Remind children to chew with their mouths closed and to avoid talking while eating. This helps maintain a pleasant dining experience for everyone.
3. **Say "Please" and "Thank You":** Practise polite language by asking children to say "please" when asking for something and "thank you" when they receive it.
4. **Good posture at the table is important:** Remind children to sit up straight with their elbows off the table.



5. **Take Small Bites and Eat Slowly:** Teach children to take small bites and eat slowly, savouring their food. This prevents overeating and is also more polite.
6. **Keep the Table Clean:** Encourage children to keep their eating area tidy. If they spill something, they should clean it up or ask for help. In school, we find quite a bit of food on the floor after lunchtime for some reason!!!
7. **Ask to be Excused:** Once they are finished, children should ask to be excused before leaving the table. This shows respect for those still eating.
8. **Practise Listening and Conversation Skills:** Encourage children to listen attentively and participate in polite conversation at the table, taking turns to speak and listen without shouting.
9. **Practice, Practice, Practice:** Regularly practise these skills at home during family meals, making it a fun and engaging learning experience.

These tips can help children develop great table manners that will benefit them for a lifetime!

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School Council and House Representatives

We are very proud to announce our School Council team this year. Two children per year group have been chosen and they will be representatives of the School Council team for the duration of the year.

The School Council team at St. Christopher's The Hall acts as the voice of the student body, advocating for their peers by gathering and communicating student concerns, ideas, and feedback to the school leadership and staff. They are responsible for promoting a positive, inclusive school environment by helping to organise events and lead initiatives that reflect the needs and interests of students. Additionally, they will work to raise further awareness of social and environmental issues within the school, encouraging sustainable practices and fostering a culture of respect and responsibility. We look forward to our first meeting in a few weeks.

School Council this year will be:

Lolade and Naome (Rec), Aryen and Isla (Year 1), Zoe-Grace and Raphael (Year 2), Hazel (Year 3), Anaiya and Gurshaan (Year 4), Alfie and Phoebe (Year 5), Trinity and Heidi (Year 6)

In other roles of responsibility, during our house meetings this week, the children got the opportunity to exercise their democratic right and vote for their house representative. Each Year 6 who wished to stand had prepared a short speech, showing just how they embody the character values in everything they do. They all spoke eloquently and passionately about why they wanted the jobs, and clearly worked hard on their preparation. As house leaders we are very proud of them all. House representatives are some of our best, but it is very hard to choose, nevertheless the children voted and we counted those votes, the decision was democratically made. All of our year 6's are role models for our younger children and during house meetings and activities they get the opportunity to share their skills and encourage each other. Those chosen will lead that for the rest of this year, we wish them luck. the pupils of our school also agree.

Heads of House this year are:

Blyton - Miraya
Campbell - Polina
Hillary - Shreya
Johnson - Lily



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Preschool

The Preschool children have quickly settled into their new classes and have been happily taking part in all the activities and the Music, Drama and PE lessons with enthusiasm. We have been talking about ourselves and our families and the children have had lots of good ideas and thoughts to share with their friends and teachers. Well done Ladybirds, Butterflies and Bumblebees, what a great beginning to the year!

Mrs Jones

Head of Preschool



Pre-Prep

It has been fantastic to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Summer break and to welcome our Reception classes and new starters - children and staff. It has been so exciting to see so many new



faces in Pre-Prep. All the children have been doing so well adjusting to new routines, teachers and classrooms. We have a new PE team and a specialist Art teacher for this Academic year and we are all looking forward to the new activities and projects that they have planned.

As always, we have a busy and productive term ahead of us, packed with class trips, workshops and more. We have already started our new term ECHO clubs, with Art and Colour, Fun Fine Motor, Construction, Board Games, Story and Movement and Mindfulness Drawing clubs on offer. It is wonderful to see the children returning to class after the ECHO afternoons sessions - they are always brimming with excitement and full of stories of what they have been up to! The opportunity the children have to enhance their learning and development through the ECHO clubs is an invaluable addition to the Pre-Prep Curriculum.

Mrs Chamadia

Head of Pre-Prep

Prep School

We have had a fantastic start to the Year in the Prep School. The children have settled into their new classes incredibly well, and are enjoying working with their new teachers.

This term, the children have many new learning experiences to look forward to: Year 3 will be visiting the Horniman Museum as part of their humanities topics; Year 4 will enjoy learning about life during the Stone Age period through a hands-on drama workshop and their trip to The Natural History Museum; Year 5 will be exploring life in space as well as developing their coding skills at the London Transport Museum and Year 6 will be delving into their Science topic 'Light' and experiencing a STEM workshop at Cedars School.

We are also incredibly lucky to have introduced the IPADS into Year 3 and 4; the teachers and children are excited to use this technology to support and enhance their learning.

The children have already shown outstanding enthusiasm and resilience over the past two weeks, and I am sure they will continue to demonstrate all of our Character Values as the term progresses.



Miss Rule

Head of Prep



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Pupil Success

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news about one of our dedicated pupils, Cole (Yr 2)! Over the summer, Cole has been hard at work training with his new football team, the SAS Academy FC Under 7 Ajax Team. Their efforts paid off in a big way this weekend as they secured a thrilling 6-4 victory in their opening league game in the Epsom and Ewell League. Congratulations to Cole and his team for their impressive performance!

We are also delighted to share that Arjun (Year 2) and his NexGen u7s team won the Orpington FC tournament last weekend. The team played some fantastic football, winning all seven games, scoring 23 goals and only conceding a goal. Well done, Arjun and all the boys in his team on this achievement.

We love celebrating our pupils' achievements and interests both inside and outside of school. If any other pupils have notable successes beyond the classroom, we'd love to hear about them. Please email us with the details and any photos you'd like to share, and we'll feature them in our next newsletter. Mr. Carter is especially excited to hear about and celebrate your accomplishments!



Emailing teachers

REMINDER: - ALL emails to teachers should use the mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk It is very likely that emails will not get to their destination if you email teachers directly.



Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

Music or peris lesson	musicadmin@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Sports or fixtures	sport@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Lunchtime or afterschool clubs	clubs@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Finance	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (bookings)	scamps@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
SCAMPS (logistics or payment)	bursar@stchristophersthehall.org.uk
Anything class related or for the teachers	mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for. Anything urgent or time sensitive please call or mark email URGENT
Anything that needs the Head's attention	headsqa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

School Photographs

We will be having our individual school photographs taken on the morning of **Tuesday, 17th September**.

Please ensure all pupils come to school looking tidy and in full school uniform, including blazers, proper school shoes, and ties. Thank you for your cooperation!

What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 16th September**
 - Year 4 (U9) Netball v Royal Russell (15:45-17:20)
- 🔔 **Tuesday 17th September**
 - Individual and sibling photographs
 - Parent 5min remote meetings (15:30-17:00)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 18th September**
 - Year 6 Bikeability course
- 🔔 **Thursday 19th September**
 - Year 6 Bikeability course
 - Parent 5min remote meetings (15:30-17:00)