

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

The weeks continue to flash by, and now we are near the end of our first month back at school, and it seems we are also getting to the end of any dry, sunny days!

This week in assembly, with Black History Month just around the corner, I spoke to the children about celebrating modern heroes and how we can all be heroes too. The aim was to highlight inspiring figures from Black British history who are making a difference today and encourage the children to reflect on how they can be heroes in their own right. We discussed well-known individuals like Marcus Rashford, who helped ensure children had access to free meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dina Asher-Smith, an Olympic sprinter and role model for girls and women, and Stormzy, who supports talented students through scholarships. These modern-day heroes show us that anyone can create positive change. I encouraged the pupils to think about ways they could help others, whether by speaking out against unfairness like Marcus Rashford, setting goals and working hard like Dina Asher-Smith, or supporting opportunities like Stormzy. Heroism doesn't require superpowers—just kindness, bravery, and a commitment to making the world a better place!

We also held our Phonics meeting on Monday for our Reception parents. It was fantastic to see so many of you there, getting a sense of how our structured programme works and how you can support your child's learning at home. Thank you so much to Mrs Oliver and Mrs Cornish for this presentation and for their work with the pupils. For those who couldn't make it, don't worry—you can

find a copy of the slideshow, in the Parents' Area of our website [here](#), and the audio with slideshow on our Youtube channel [here](#).

We understand that it's not always easy to attend events in person, so we're currently exploring the option of running a hybrid version of future parent events. This would mean holding meetings both in-person and remotely, allowing more parents to participate. While it may not be perfect, as remote sessions can sometimes miss out on the interactive elements, we hope it will help us accommodate all parents who want to engage.

Finally, we had our first Open Morning of the term for prospective parents, which was incredibly well

attended which is a very positive outlook for the future! Our Year 6 pupils did an exceptional job as ambassadors for the School, guiding parents around and showcasing the very best of what we have to offer. We received so many positive comments about how well-behaved and focused all our students were during class visits—a real testament to the fantastic community we have here. Additionally, seeing as I mentioned heroes at the start of the newsletter, a big thank you, as always, to my own superhero, Mrs



Jeffery, who puts so much energy into these events, and parents get treated to her warm and cheery demeanour that you will all know so well and will have experienced from her as current parents. Additionally, thank you to parents from the SCA who helped out at this event; your support, your expertise in tea/coffee making as well as your invaluable sharing of experiences with prospective parents is so invaluable and appreciated.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



ECHO Debate Club

The children in Prep School have had the opportunity to hone their debating skills and develop their discussion and persuasion abilities through a series of skill building activities each week with Mr Chowdhury and Mr Murphy.

In week one, children looked at what techniques we use to persuade one another - in day to day conversations - by taking on the Remote Island challenge. Imagining that they were marooned on a desert island, what special items would you save and which would you choose to discard?

During week two, the children developed their use of explanation to support a key point. We used a variety of statements to practise, rehearse and respond to each other's persuasive suggestions, with a judge hearing opposing opinions in a Conscience Alley. Once all points had been heard, the Judge made their own decision, solely based upon the points and responses made. Heated responses were generated when responding to: 'Your teeth should be brushed before you eat breakfast'.

This week, the children will prove why they should be chosen ahead of their peers, using a Balloon Argument structure: Everyone is about to escape a desert island in a balloon, but unfortunately there is only space for one less than the total trying to escape. Who should escape and who should stay behind?

Next week, we will use the successful BBC programme structure of Traitors (based upon the game 'Werewolves and Villagers') to see what we have learnt when it is in an all-against-all setting.



SCA

It's only been a few weeks since we have been back, but the SCA has already been busy organising events for this coming year. We would firstly like to say thank you to all the parents that joined us for the coffee morning; it was great to see so many new and regular faces.

The SCA is very excited to have secured tickets for this year's Panto of Snow White at the Churchill Theatre on Thursday 12th December. Tickets are now live and can be purchased from www.scasales.co.uk. Be quick, tickets are on a first come first serve basis and will close on 4th October.

Your child will be bringing home an 'IQ Cards 2024 Design Sheet' on which they can design their own Christmas cards, wrapping paper, note book, fridge magnet and many more Christmas gift ideas.

The children's designs will need to be returned into school by Friday 11th October. The School will also pick a winner from Prep and Pre-Prep to use for their own Christmas cards.

Lastly, we are very excited to announce we will be hosting a parent and teacher quiz and curry night on Friday 15th November at 7pm. More details to follow.

All proceeds from SCA sales will be going towards the redevelopment of the Pre-Prep playground and we already have some exciting ideas for this initiative. We will update you accordingly as things progress with this amazing project!!

Watch this space...

Year 1

In one of our first computing lessons, the children learned what technology is and how it helps us. The children then went out looking for examples of technology and took iPads with them to snap photos of the things they found. We had adapted Michael Rosen's famous line into "We're going on a Tech hunt!" "We're going to snap a photo!"



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Art

The students have been buzzing with excitement over the launch of our new Art & Design Curriculum! Focusing on both traditional and modern mediums, the program will encourage creativity and self-expression while helping students build practical skills.

Our Pre-Prep students kicked things off by celebrating International Dot Day, inspired by Peter H.

Reynolds' book *The Dot*. They explored different techniques, including drawing, painting, and oil pastel resist, to create vibrant dots now proudly displayed outside the new Art Room.

Year 3 has been learning how to highlight and shade with oil pastels, drawing doves inspired by Picasso and International Peace Day. Year 4 has focused on lines, shading, and focal points for their autumn-themed project. Year 5 is diving into lessons on tone and value, while Year 6 has been exploring the science of colour and mixing a full spectrum of colours (ask them why printers use CMYK ink!).

The energy and creativity in the Art Room are truly inspiring as students immerse themselves in these projects. We are excited to see their artistic journeys unfold throughout the year. With each lesson, they are not only developing valuable artistic skills but also gaining a deeper appreciation for the power of creativity in the world around them. We can't wait to share more of their amazing work with the school community in the coming months!



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Holiday clubs

Unfortunately, as we are having some building work to the windows at the front of the school, we are unable to host Camp Elite during the Half-Term break; however we will be running:

- Messy Creation Club from 21st-25th October from 09:00-14:00

More detail on these will follow next week.

In addition...

If You're Looking for More Activities? Perhaps you might consider trying a typing course at Dulwich College!

Dates:

October 28–31,
November 16–19,

December 16–19

Times: 10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Beginners, improvers, and advanced typists are welcome! Sessions combine formal technique with the latest app games, helping your child learn efficiently while having fun. By the end of the course, they could be typing 40+ words per minute with proper posture.

Cost: £176.00 per place with a 10% discount for siblings, bring-a-friend, or returners
OFSTED registered – childcare vouchers accepted, Duke of Edinburgh Award skills assessor.

Apply now at: www.typingscool.co.uk

For more details, contact Nick and Sarah Holt at 07812 632238.

Word of the Week

We are happy to announce that St Christopher's is launching a **new** initiative linked to our English Curriculum: **Word of the Week**. Each Friday in assembly, a new word will be revealed to the children for them to focus on for the upcoming week. There will be one word for children in Reception to Year 3, and another for those in Year 4 to Year 6.

Exposing children to more adventurous vocabulary encourages them to vary their language choices in their writing and take more risks. Class teachers will be promoting this in school and setting different challenges throughout the week. Parental engagement and encouragement at home will further the potential success of this initiative, so please get involved where possible.

You might find the following question stems helpful to prompt conversations:

- What does _____ mean?
- Can you use _____ in a sentence?
- Can you use _____ in a conversation?
- Can you teach somebody what _____ means?
- Can you sound out the word _____?
- Can you spell the word _____?
- Can you act-out the word _____?

- How many syllables can you hear in the word _____?
- Can you use your finger to spell-out _____ on someone else's back?
- Does _____ contain a root word? (*Prep Only*)
- How many vowels/consonants can you count in _____? (*Prep Only*)
- What word class is _____? (*Noun, adjective, verb, adverb, etc*) (*Prep Only*)
- Can you think of any synonyms or antonyms for the word _____? (*Prep Only*)

The new week's words are:

YR - Y3 - saunter

Y4 - Y6 - ululation

We hope you are ready to learn lots of new vocabulary as your child begins their journey into becoming a young lexicomane!

Mr Pretara



Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Celebrating Pupil Success!

We are always delighted to hear about our pupils' achievements outside of school, so please do let Mr. Carter know if your child has done something special – he loves to share these successes with the school community!



This week, we are celebrating Greta (Year 2) who completed her 11th 2k Junior Park Run at Beckenham Place Park and earned her half marathon wristband! She proudly wore it at the finish line, and we couldn't be prouder of her accomplishment. Well done, Greta!

In addition, we are delighted to share a fantastic community initiative led by one of our pupils, Som (Year 3)! With the kind permission of South Eastern, Som has helped establish a "take a book, leave a book" community library at his local train station. He started by setting up a basket filled with the first selection of books, including some of his own donations.

Now that the library is in place, Som is dedicated to keeping it tidy on his way to and from school. This thoughtful project provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the community to access books. If any of our pupils or their families have books at home – whether for children or adults, and in any language – that they no longer need, they are welcome to pass them along to Som (or his mum or dad) to help keep the library stocked. Well done, Som, for such an inspiring effort in promoting reading and community spirit!



Dismissal Forms - URGENT

We are still awaiting some parents to complete the dismissal forms. These are a crucial part of our safeguarding procedure and must be completed termly. As a matter of urgency, if you have not yet filled in the form, please complete it by clicking [here](#) for your child/children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Grandparents' Tea Reminder

We thought we would give another reminder about our Grandparents' Tea on Wednesday, 6th November, during the first week back after half-term. Timings:

- 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)

Please confirm attendance via the Google Form [here](#).

Note: This event is for grandparents and elderly relatives only, with a limit of four guests per child.



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 30th September

- Year 3 Rugby (all Year 3) v Merton Court (15:00-17:00)

Tuesday 1st October

- Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala (selected pupils) @ Colfes (16:00-18:15)
- Year 6 Parents' meeting (16:00-17:30)

Thursday 3rd October

- Year 6 Parents' meeting (16:00-17:30)
- Year 3 Author Visit (9:00-10:45)

Friday 4th October

- Year 6 Mixed Netball (all Year 6) v Colfes (14:30-16:30)