

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

October is here, and that means it's time to kick off Black History Month at St Christopher's! We're so excited to be celebrating all the amazing contributions and achievements of Black individuals throughout history. We've got a

jam-packed month ahead, filled with exciting activities, assemblies, and special events that will help our pupils learn, appreciate, and be inspired. From reading books by incredible Black authors to meeting inspiring guest speakers, there's something for everyone to enjoy and learn from. We'll be sharing updates throughout the month, so keep an eye out – you won't want to miss out on all the fun we've got planned!

You might have noticed that the School website is looking a little bit different lately. Over this next month, we'll be rolling out all the fantastic new photos from our Summer Term photoshoot! We're taking it one step at a time, but soon enough, the whole site will be filled with fresh, vibrant images of our pupils, teachers, and school life. We're very proud of these new snaps – they really capture the smiles, energy, and spirit of our St Christopher's family. So, take a peek whenever you have a moment and see if you can spot your child looking their absolute best! We think you're going to love them as much as we do.

This week, we welcomed Year 6 parents for the first of our parent meetings. These early meetings are crucial, as they provide key, up-to-date information about each child's progress at this important stage of the year. We aim to ensure that parents have all the necessary insights about their child's journey in this pivotal year. Year 6 parents will also have a follow up meeting before Christmas to keep you informed of their child's progress. I hope Year 6 parents found these meetings useful; a big thank you to Miss Rule and Mr Pretara for the dedication and care as they manage the journey of these pupils in their classes. On the topic of Year 6, I am incredibly proud of these pupils, who have returned with a remarkable focus and maturity, showing real drive and determination. Every year, I always find it fascinating how, after just a two-month summer break, there's such a noticeable change, between

Year 5 and 6, and pupils step up to the challenges with great enthusiasm in the final year in school before secondary transfer. Personally, I am thoroughly enjoying teaching my own group of Year 6s during some of their English lessons each week, and it's a joy to see their growth firsthand.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our annual Harvest Assembly, next Friday. There's an article below with more details about how we're supporting Living Well, a local food bank. It includes information on what items we hope you may be able to donate and bring in from Monday, 7th October to Thursday, 10th October.

And finally, what a whirlwind week it's been for sports! We've had some fantastic fixtures across rugby, swimming, and netball, and it's been wonderful to see our pupils throwing themselves into the games with such enthusiasm and team spirit. There's nothing quite like the excitement of seeing our pupils giving it their all and supporting one another on the field, in the pool, or on the court. A massive thank you to Mr. Murphy and his team for bringing so much energy and dynamism to the PE department – they've truly outdone themselves this week! We hope all the pupils had an amazing time, whether they were scoring tries, making a splash, or shooting hoops.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Harvest

We are proud to be supporting Living Well, a local food bank, as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. Class representatives, from the School Council, will hand deliver and help sort our donations. If you would like to donate items, then please can children bring them into school between Monday 7th October and Thursday 10th October. The items most needed are:

- baked beans
- pasta
- cereal
- tinned custard
- shampoo

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.



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Sport Round Up from Fixtures

Rugby

This week has been a busy week of fixtures for pupils across the Prep School. On Monday, Year 3 travelled to Merton Court to play 2 matches of Tag Rugby. This was the first fixture for Year 3 and it was great to see how excited they all were to get out on the pitch and represent the school. They all played superbly, scoring some excellent tries and we look forward to seeing their progress over the coming months.

Swimming

On Tuesday, 16 pupils from Year 5 and 6 competed in a swimming gala at Colfes, where they each swam an individual race, 2 relays and a fun float race. The afternoon saw some amazing swims, close finishes and all pupils should be proud of the progress they have made so far. We look forward to seeing the team compete again in the near future.

Netball

Today, Year 6 travelled to Colfes for mixed Netball matches and you can find out how they got on over on our Sport Instagram page.

Bromley Primary School Cross Country

Next Saturday, the Bromley Primary Schools Cross Country will be taking place at Crystal Palace Park for Years 5 & 6. If any pupils would like to sign up for the event, please do so by Monday 7th October at the latest.

Follow us...

Stay connected with our sports journey by following our Instagram page @stchristhehallsport! Each week, we share exciting updates, highlights, and key events, giving you a glimpse into the fantastic achievements and activities of our students. It's a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work and stay engaged with our school community. Don't miss out – join us and cheer them on!



Year 4

This week, Year 4 had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Chana, Gurshaan and Harnoop's mum, into Year 4 to talk about Sikh ceremonies. We learnt all about the 5 K's and why these are so important in the baptism ceremony. Did you know that Sikh's never cut their hair or that they should comb their hair twice a day? Mrs Chana brought in the 5 K's from home to show us close up. Much discussion was had around the meaning of the 'kirpan', the little knife that a Sikh must wear every day after their baptism. It really was a fascinating talk and we all learnt so much that will enrich our future RE lessons. Thank you Mrs Chana for supporting our children!



This is what some of the pupils said:

Ellie 'I enjoyed the sweet that we were given which was made out of butter, sugar and flour. They eat it in the Gurdwara after a meal.'

Tilly 'I enjoyed learning about Sikhism. It was also fun because we got to see how to put on a turban and what Gurshaan wears to ceremonies at the Gurdwara.'

James 'Learning about the 5 K's was really interesting. When a Sikh is baptised, no one is allowed to see this unless you are baptised or preparing to be baptised yourself.'



Anaiya 'I was amazed how long a child's turban is and that the adult's turbans can be 8 metres long!'

Olivia 'I liked seeing the uniform worn by Sikhs and feeling what it was made from.'

Grace 'I enjoyed learning about the importance of the knife (kirpan), their curved cases and the knife itself. We talked a lot about how it is very important to be responsible as a person with a kirpan.'

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Black History Month

At St Christopher's, we are proud to celebrate Black History Month, a time to recognize and honour the contributions, achievements, and rich history of Black individuals and communities. Throughout October, we have planned a range of engaging activities to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Black history and culture.

Mr. Carter and Mrs. West have already led assemblies that highlight the significance of Black History Month and introduce some key figures who have made a difference. Additionally, Mrs. Shivers and Miss Leaf have curated an exciting lineup of events and activities, which include:

- Children will enjoy books by Black authors and illustrators in their classes, fostering a greater appreciation for diverse voices in literature.
- Several Black players from Crystal Palace Football Club will visit to speak about their heritages and sporting achievements, followed by a Q&A session (Tuesday, 8th October during the school day).
- In collaboration with Beckenham BookShop, we will host a book sale featuring selected titles centred around Black role models and authors (Thursday, 17th October 2024, in the school's library at 3:30 pm).
- International DJ & Capital Radio Presenter Mistajam, also known as Peter Dalton, has recorded a presentation about his background and career in the music industry.
- Musical Theatre actors from the production of Mrs. Doubtfire have been interviewed about their Afro-Caribbean backgrounds and their achievements in the Arts.

We look forward to a fantastic month of learning, inspiration, and celebration!



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

Parent Partnership

We believe that a strong partnership with parents is essential to your child's success. It's more than just dropping them off at the school gates; it's about being involved, informed, and engaged in their educational journey. By working closely with you, we aim to provide the best experience and ensure clear communication about what we do.

Next week, we're excited to host two events that will give you a chance to connect with our team, ask questions, and learn more about what's happening at school.

Preschool (Thursday 10th Oct)

All parents of Preschool children are warmly invited to come to our Parents' Information Evening on **Thursday 10th October at 4pm** in the Ladybirds Classroom. This will be an opportunity to find out about the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and how we help the children with their learning and development in the Preschool and will include some ideas for you and your child to share at home. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday; however, if you are unable to attend, we will be sending out the handouts and slides to all Preschool parents afterwards.

Year 6 (Monday 7th Oct)

Our school counsellor, David Brooks, will be hosting a coffee morning next Monday, 7th October, at 8:15 am. David will give a short talk on ****managing stress at home while preparing for the 11+ exams, navigating the secondary transfer process with your child, and strategies for handling both your child's stress and your own during this important time.** He'll also be available to answer any questions you may have.

It's a great opportunity to connect, ask questions, and enjoy some coffee and biscuits. We hope to see you there!

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Word of the Week

This week's words are:

Pre-Prep: *Dreary*

- Game Idea: Suggest a Synonym: Take turns thinking of other words that mean something similar to "dreary." Words like "gloomy," "dull," or "boring" could come up. The challenge is to think of as many as you can!
- Game Idea: Opposites Challenge: What's the opposite of "dreary"? Encourage your child to come up with words like "cheerful," "bright," or "fun." Try to see how many opposites you can find and use them in sentences!

Prep: *Elongate*

- Game Idea: Elongate the Word: Start with a short word like "cat" or "hat," and see how you can elongate it by adding letters or syllables. Can "cat" become "caterpillar"? "Hat" into "hatstand"? Be as creative as you like!
- Game Idea: Synonym Swap: Think of words that mean "elongate," such as "stretch," "extend," or "lengthen." Then, take turns using those words in sentences, trying to "elongate" your ideas in creative ways.



These word games will make learning vocabulary an enjoyable part of your child's day!

Counsellor update

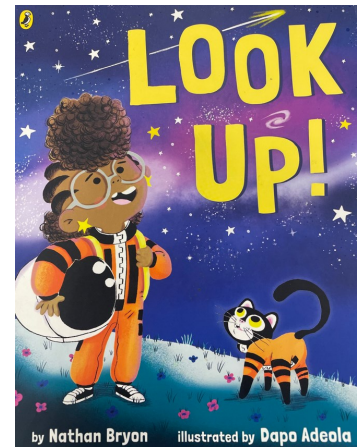
As we mentioned at the start of term, we are delighted to welcome Mr David Brooks to our school community. Mr Brooks is a counsellor with a wealth of experience. Mr Brooks and his therapy puppy, Hendrix, have been making their way around the year groups to introduce themselves. Needless to say, Hendrix has been very popular with staff and pupils and he takes all the attention in his stride..



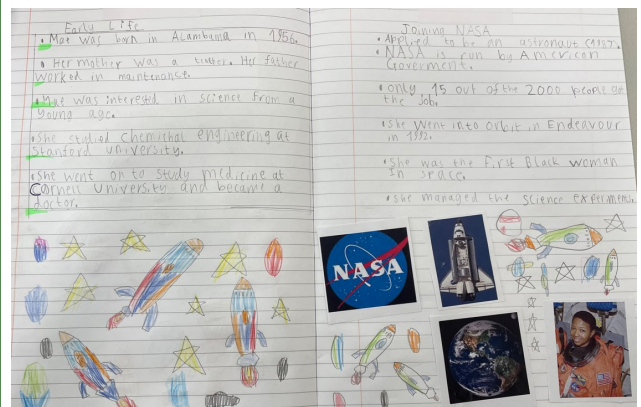
Having a school counsellor join our community will enable us to help students improve their self-esteem and self-confidence, build helpful relationships within the school environment and increase their resilience. It will also raise awareness of mental health issues and allow early intervention to proactive ensure that our young people have a positive outlook towards mental health and remove barriers to learning. Mr Brooks will be taking some assemblies as well as talking to year groups in PSHE lessons. Mr Brooks is available for one to one sessions and this will mean that children can get the support they need while at school without missing valuable learning.

Year 2

In Year 2, we have been enjoying the book 'Look Up!' by Nathan Bryan. Mae Jemison is mentioned in the story, so we decided to carry out some research about her and find out why she is famous. We discovered that Mae Jemison is the first Black-African



woman to have made it to space. We were inspired to learn that she achieved this dream even though she is scared of heights! We are looking forward to deepening our knowledge about space over the coming weeks.



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Flu Vaccination

A reminder to all parents of students from Reception to 6 who opted in to the Flu Vaccination, this is being held at school on Monday 7th October. If you opted in, your child will be seen by the NHS Immunisation Team for the nasal spray vaccine.

If you missed the deadline and wish for your child to have a flu vaccine, please scan the QR code to book an appointment via the catch up clinics also on offer.

Flu can be a serious illness in children. Every child from Reception to Year 11 is offered the flu vaccine each year. The School Immunisation Team is visiting our school on Monday October 7. To ensure your child receives their flu vaccine, please complete your consent form <https://sav.hrch.nhs.uk/flu/2024/bromley>

If you have any questions about the flu vaccine, please contact the Bromley School Age Immunisation team on 020 3903 3375 or email HRCH.ImmunisationTeamBromleyMailbox@nhs.net



Missed your flu vaccine?

Live in the borough of Bromley?
Aged 4-16?

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself this winter!

Saturday 28 September
09:00 - 14:00
BCI Chislehurst Clinic, BA7 5AB

Saturday 12 October
09:00 - 14:00
BCI Chislehurst Clinic, BA7 5AB

Saturday 19 October
09:00 - 14:00
BCI Chislehurst Clinic, BR7 5AB

Call 020 3903 3375 or scan the QR code to book an appointment



ECHO Construction Club

This term in Construction Club, the children have spent each week working with their peers (across the Prep school) to complete a range of challenges using Lego and Kapla. Before construction could begin, we worked together as a team to research different tree houses, and came-up with a list of tree house features ahead of tackling the week's design brief.

Here are some of the pupils' explanations of their designs:

Jacob (Y6) and Henry (Y5) - 'Our tree house is a big tree which has been chopped for the purpose of being a treehouse. It contains a zip line, a colourful flower garden and a slide that ends in a delightful infinity pool. There is also a getaway motorbike for little adventures, emergencies and exploration.'

Ray and Hazel (Y3) - 'There is a Jacuzzi in our tree house to help visitors relax. We have installed a system to support our tree house and stop it from blowing away.'



What's Happening Next Week

Monday 7th October

- Flu Vaccination
- Year 6 Parent Partnership and coffee: Managing secondary transfer with your child (08:15-09:00)

Tuesday 8th October

- Black History Month - Presentation from Crystal Palace Football club

Wednesday 9th October

- Year 4 Knoll Park trip
- Year 6 Practice Interview workshops

Thursday 10th October

- Year 3 Magnet Workshop
- Preschool Parents' Information Meeting (16:00-17:00)

Friday 11th October

- School Council visit to Living Well Charity to deliver donations

Term Dates 2025-2026

Please visit our website [here](#) to view the term dates for the next academic year, which are now available.