

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

It's beginning to look (and sound!) a lot like Christmas here at St. Christopher's The Hall! This week, the arrival of our Christmas tree has added an extra sparkle to the School, and the children have thrown themselves into decorating it with enthusiasm and creativity. If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of their festive masterpieces during drop-off or pick-up. Meanwhile, the sound of carols drifting through the corridors is truly magical - our pupils are hard at work rehearsing for the Whole School Carol Service (5th Dec), the Preschool Concert (6th Dec), and the Pre-Prep Nativity (11th Dec). I can already tell we're in for a treat!

In our House Meetings this week, each house explored the theme of "the gift of giving". They talked about the excitement of giving a thoughtful present rather than just receiving one, using an advert about a boy eagerly counting down to Christmas - not for gifts but to give a perfect one he had chosen. The children shared stories about finding special gifts for loved ones, like at our Christmas Fair's "secrets room", and reflected on the joy of kindness and thinking of others - not just at Christmas, but all year round. In addition to all the festive fun, on Wednesday, we reflected on something important during a special World Children's Day assembly. I shared with the pupils why this day is so significant. World Children's Day is a celebration of every child around the world, but it's also a reminder of something bigger: that all children, everywhere, have rights. These rights - such as the right to learn, the right to play, the right to be safe, and the right to speak up - were established in 1989 in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We ended with a promise to stand up for what is right and make the world a better place for every child - a powerful reminder of how small actions can make a big difference.

Additionally, we were thrilled to host two incredible Parent Partnership Events, which had a fantastic turnout and were very positively received. Our school counsellor, David, led a session on Monday, focused on being a positive influence in your child's life - a topic that resonated deeply with

parents. The session provided an opportunity to reflect on the impactful yet simple ways parents can shape their children's lives - through encouragement, patience, and presence. It also sparked great conversations about how to implement these ideas and explore ways to become the best possible influence on our children. Many parents shared wonderful feedback, highlighting the valuable insights and practical tips they took away, and mentioned they were inspired to delve further into some of the references shared during the event, which I was delighted about. There is an article below with a list of valuable resources that you might find useful. We're excited about the schedule of topics David will cover this year and are confident these upcoming events will continue to be as engaging and well-received. Thank you to everyone who attended. The second event gave parents a peek' behind the curtain' of our classrooms. How do we teach English and Maths at St. Christopher's? What does a typical lesson look like? How do we tailor learning to each child? These were just some of the questions we explored during this hands-on session. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the creative and engaging ways we inspire a love of learning. Hopefully, it gave you some new insights into your child's daily experience at school - and maybe even a few ideas to try at home!

To finish this week, I wanted to mention the fun of last Friday's Parents' Quiz Night, which delivered in spades! The atmosphere was buzzing, and it was lovely to see so many of you putting your general knowledge to the test (or at least having a good laugh trying!). I'm delighted to report that the staff team emerged victorious (I can tell you, it wasn't due to my contributions!) - proof that I have a team who are not just great teachers, but also masters of trivia! Thank you to the SCA for organising such a fantastic evening and to everyone who came along to support our school community.

Finally, we're looking forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening next week, for Reception-Year 6, on Tuesday and Thursday. It's always a pleasure to share your child's progress and celebrate their successes with you.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Words of the Week

This week's words are *sombre* for Pre-Prep and *hinder* for Prep. We encourage parents to join the fun by using these words at home! Ask your children what part of speech they are, explore synonyms and antonyms together, and see how many ways you can use them in sentences.



For an extra challenge, why not play a game? Each day, see who in your family can slip the word into conversation first – whoever does gets a point! Let's see how many points you can collect by the end of the week!

Happy wordplay!

Pastoral and Parent Partnership

If you missed David Brookes recent talk on Monday, don't worry! Many parents attended and found it insightful. Below is a list of the resources used during the session, and the slides will be available in the Parent section of the school website in the coming days.

We aim to host parent pastoral talks each term and already have an exciting program planned for this year. If there's a specific topic you'd like David to address in a future session, please let us know - we're happy to include it!

Resources for the 'Positive Modelling Talk':

- *The Power of Showing Up* by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson
- *How to Help Your Child Clean Up Their Mental Mess* by Dr. Caroline Leaf
- *The Optimistic Child* by Martin Seligman

Additional Recommendations Mentioned During the Talk:

- *The Five Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell
- *The Whole Brain Child* by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson

For Co-Parenting:

- *The Guide for Separated Parents: Putting Your Children First* by Nick & Karen Woodall

Year 1

On a wet-looking Thursday Year One headed off on their first trip of the year. This time they headed to Godstone Farm to support their science learning on animals and habitats. They had the chance to touch several less common animals, including a hissing cockroach! They then headed out with the farmer to feed lots of the animals, but the highlight was definitely the week-old piglets!



Social Media

There have been some great new posts this week about our European Day of Languages and our parent assemblies on our social media channels so follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on insta and Twitter, as well as [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life!



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SCA news and Christmas Fair

The SCA extends its thanks to everyone who joined us for quiz night last Friday. It was a fantastic evening filled with friendly competition, fun, and laughter. Congratulations to the Teachers' team, *Let's Get Quizzical*, for clinching the win with the final picture round! We also want to thank all who participated in the Silent Auction. It was an exciting and spirited event that raised significant funds for our school playground. Winners will be contacted directly by the teachers organising the event.

The St. Christopher's Hall Christmas Fair is on Saturday, 30th November, from 12–3pm! Volunteers are needed to help with stalls, contact your class rep for details. Advanced ticket sales and SCA currency will be available starting Wednesday, 20th November, at 12pm to avoid que-ues. Sales will end Sunday, 24th November at 7pm.

Internal stalls and games will only accept SCA currency, while the SCA Fizz Stand will accept cash, card, and SCA currency. External stalls like Liz Cocozza Wreaths, Kingsley Creations, and Babur will accept cash and card. More info on Santa's Grotto and raffle tickets coming soon. It's shaping up to be a festive and fun-filled day.

Mindfulness ECHO

Mindfulness is a technique where you focus on what's happening in the present moment. It may include breathing, mindful walking, listening and even mindful eating!

In our mindfulness ECHO club, we are learning skills to become aware of our bodies, minds and surroundings. The outcome is to relax the body, mind, and to reduce stress. Last week, we introduced infinity breathing techniques, breathing in and out to feel calm and self-aware. The children all designed their very own wall art as a visual guide to use in the future. In session two, our focus is mindful painting, using the time to create 'dot art' whilst connecting with the calm space around us. The sessions are a positive space for us all, we have lots of fun as well as mindful moments together!



What's Happening Next Week

- 🔔 **Monday 25th November**
 - All Year 3 & 4 Rugby v Farringtons - **TBC Start Time**
- 🔔 **Tuesday 26th November**
 - Parents' Evening for Reception-Year 6 (15:00-18:20)
- 🔔 **Wednesday 27th November**
 - Science Competition at Walthamstow Hall selected Year 4 and 5 pupils (12:00-16:00)
- 🔔 **Thursday 28th November**
 - Parents' Evening for Reception - Year 6 (15:00-18:20)
- 🔔 **Friday 29th November**
 - Reception Assessment for prospective pupils (13:30-14:45)
 - Year 5 & 6 Rugby v Farringtons - **TBC Start Time**