

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Another week done—and can you believe we have just a week and a half left before the Christmas holidays? Time really does fly in School!

It was such a pleasure to see so many of you at Parents' Evening on Tuesday and Thursday.

Every year, I'm amazed by how much progress pupils make in the short months between September and Christmas—a true testament to their hard work and determination. I hope you left your meetings feeling uplifted by the many positives shared about your child's achievements, as well as with a clear sense of the next steps in their individual learning journey. These evenings are such a valuable chance for us to come together, reflect, and support your child as a team.

On Wednesday, we held our annual Charity Assembly, a special tradition introduced four years ago. Our Year 6 pupils choose a charity that resonates with them - whether due to a personal connection or local cause deserving of support - and presents their case to their peers. After an initial vote in Year 6, three finalists are chosen to present to the whole school. During the assembly, pupils listen to the finalists' presentations and vote for the charity that inspires them most. The winning charity becomes our official charity for the year, with funds raised from various events going to support their work. We also invite representatives from the chosen charity to speak to the pupils and collect donations at the end of the year. This year, I was incredibly proud of our finalists—Elliot and Harnoop, Jack and Jacob, and Lily and Neve—who spoke confidently and passionately in front of the School. After the votes were counted, we are thrilled to announce that the chosen charity is **Epilepsy Society**, a cause particularly important to Jack due to his personal connection. We are excited to support this vital charity over the coming year.

This week, we also welcomed the final Open Morning of the term for prospective parents, which served as a brilliant lead-up to today's Reception Assessments for prospective pupils. It was such a delight to welcome so many little ones, all full of curiosity and excitement about the possibility of

joining the St. Christopher's family next September. We'd expected a few nerves (and perhaps a tear or two - quite understandable on such a big day!), but this cohort of tiny visitors was calm, confident, and utterly charming.

On a sadder note, I'd like to share some staff news. At the end of this academic year in July, we will be saying goodbye to the wonderful Mrs. Jones. Since the moment I arrived, she has been an integral part of my Senior Leadership Team, providing practical advice, humour, and unwavering support. After over 25 years in Early Years education, including 13 fantastic years at St. Christopher's, Mrs. Jones has decided to retire to spend more time with her family and explore new adventures. She plans to work alongside her husband at his Athletics Academy and volunteer with local charities. Mrs. Jones has spoken fondly of her time here, and I know she will deeply miss the children and the wider school community. Personally, I will miss her invaluable insight and calm presence, which have made her a cornerstone of our team. While we'll miss her greatly, rest assured we'll celebrate her properly at the end of the year. The good news is we still have her for another eight months! Stepping into her very big shoes in September will be Mrs. Oliver, who will take on the role of Head of Early Learning. This newly structured role will oversee the entire EYFS, encompassing both Reception and Preschool, as part of our commitment to seeing early learning as a cohesive, two-year key stage. This will strengthen the foundation of our early learning program and ensure greater collaboration between Preschool and the rest of the school.

The festive season is here, and we'd love to see you at our Christmas Fair tomorrow (Saturday) from 12:00–15:00. Join us for our annual carol concert at St. George's Church on Thursday, and don't miss the Christmas lights switch-on at Beckenham Green on Friday, where we will be carol singing! Let's come together and enjoy some holiday cheer. Next Friday is Christmas Jumper Day, and we're counting on everyone to wear their quirkiest, silliest, or most sparkly festive jumpers. It's also our Christmas dinner day, so it'll be a fun, food-filled yuletide celebration.

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's

### Volunteers Needed for Lunchtime Library Support!

Our school library is a cherished space where pupils love to explore books, discover new stories, and enjoy some quiet time during their day. Over the past term, having parents volunteer to help in the library during lunchtime has been a fantastic success. Their presence has created a welcoming and engaging atmosphere for our pupils to enjoy this wonderful resource.

We're now looking for more parent volunteers to join us in the library from 12:20 to 13:20. If you have a passion for books and a little time to spare, we'd love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to connect with our school community and share the joy of reading with our pupils.

If you're interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Mr. Pretara at [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk). Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our school!

### Visit from our local MP

We welcomed our local MP, Liam Conlon, Member of Parliament for Beckenham and Penge, to our school for an assembly on Monday. This visit was not about politics but rather an important part of our commitment to teaching the processes of democracy and the rule of law, as outlined in the National Curriculum. Learning about local government and the democratic system provides valuable context for our students' understanding of how society functions.

Liam shared his journey to becoming an MP, offering a fascinating glimpse into the responsibilities and challenges of his role. The assembly gave our students the opportunity to learn directly from someone actively involved in the democratic process, helping them understand the role of elected representatives and the steps involved in shaping laws.

Our students engaged eagerly, asking thoughtful and insightful questions about the decisions Liam helps shape alongside his parliamentary colleagues. He was highly impressed by their politeness, maturity, and curiosity, leaving with glowing praise for our school community.

### Board Games ECHO

In our Board Games ECHO Club we have been having lots of fun playing a variety of games. Using our logical thinking, decision making and problem solving skills to help us, as well as a bit of luck. We enjoyed working as a team and encouraging each other to beat the clock when we played Pictionary.



### Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

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

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic time visiting the Horniman Museum. From exploring the museum for Egyptian artefacts, exploring the grounds and being part of an ancient Egyptian workshop, 3C was kept busy! The children loved being able to interact with the museum using their iPads including a treasure hunt around the museum and taking photos of their favourite parts. They also enjoyed the thought-provoking discussion about the origins of the artefacts and where they should belong in 2024.

3C loved the chance to bring their Egyptian studies to life and wowed the workshop organisers with their extensive knowledge of ancient Egypt. A huge well done to everybody in the class for their fantastic enthusiasm throughout the day.



### Year 4 Mission to Mars!

Last week, Year 4 visited the amazing Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London, to take part in a LEGO Robotics workshop.

After taking a train to Victoria and a busy London Underground tube to the museum, the children left their possessions in the schools' area before exploring the Evolution Gallery to find answers to Mrs Morris's fiendish Stone Age quiz. Looking at the lifelike displays of a Neanderthal and early Homo Sapien, as well as the wide variety of skulls, tools and weapons on show, the pupils extended their current Humanities learning about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

After lunch, the pupils had a chance to explore some more of the museum before taking part in the main event with the NHM's knowledgeable, kind and helpful adults: Fatima and Pat.

The children worked in teams of two and three to programme and build model Mars rovers to carry out a variety of tasks from LEGO sets. The pupils did amazingly well and applied their confidence with iPads and previous coding learning in Scratch to take control of their technologically advanced robots. The end results would give the American and Russian Space Agencies a run for their money. Well done, Year 4.



### **Allergy reminder:**

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



# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Words of the Week



In our continuing effort to build a rich and varied vocabulary, this week our new *Word of the Week* for Pre-prep children is the word doubtful, while Prep children is oration. Below are some simple and fun ways to incorporate these words into everyday life at home.

#### **Pre-Prep: *Doubtful***

(Definition: feeling uncertain or unsure about something.)

For younger children, engaging with this word can be as simple as weaving it into everyday conversations:

1. *Role Play*: Act out scenarios that involve making decisions. For example, pretend to choose between two outfits or snacks and say, "I'm feeling doubtful about which one to pick!"
2. *Story Time*: While reading books together, pause to ask, "Do you think this character feels doubtful about what's happening?"
3. *Discuss Feelings*: Encourage your child to use the word to describe their own emotions. For instance, if they hesitate before trying something new, you could say, "It's okay to feel doubtful sometimes. Let's talk about it!"

#### **Prep: *Oration***

(Definition: a formal speech delivered to an audience.)

For older children, this is a fantastic opportunity to build confidence and communication skills:

1. *Family Speech Time*: Encourage your child to prepare a short speech about something they love - perhaps a favorite hobby or a recent adventure. Gather the family as the audience for their "oration."
2. *Historical Explorations*: Share examples of famous orations, such as Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Discuss why it was powerful and memorable.
3. *Everyday Practice*: While having dinner, ask your child to "present" their day in an oration style. This is a fun way to turn routine chats into an exercise in expression.

By using these words in various contexts, children can deepen their understanding while enjoying the learning process. Let us know how your family incorporates these words this week!

### Social Media: Stay Connected This December!



Get ready for some festive fun! Starting this Sun-day, we're launching our *Advent Calendar of Posts* on social media @stchristhehall. Each day, you'll find a delightful rhyme and a fun "door" to open, adding some extra cheer to your December. Be sure to follow along and join the excitement!

While you're at it, don't forget to check out our newly revamped sports page @stchristhehallsport. Every week, we share updates on all the amazing sporting activities happening in school, along with results and highlights from the fixtures we've been attending. Sport has never been more vibrant, so follow us to stay in the loop!

Don't miss out – follow us now and join the fun!

### Penny Post



We are delighted to announce that our St Christopher's Penny Post will be returning next week.

Please bring your Christmas cards to the hall before school, along with your pennies, so the Year 6 pupils can stamp and deliver them to the correct classrooms.

It costs one pence per card to post and the money collected will be donated to our chosen charity, **Epilepsy Society**.

Year 6 look forward to helping you deliver your wonderful Christmas cards.

### Emailing teachers

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



# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



### Christmas Fair

The SCA is excited to welcome you to the Christmas Fair on Saturday, 30th November, from 12–3pm! A big thank you to Emma, Bobby, and all the volunteers, SCA members, and parents for their time, donations, and ideas in making this event possible.

#### What to Expect:

- **Stalls & Games:** Fun activities for kids, external stalls, and more.
- **SCA Bar:** Enjoy mulled wine, fizz, and other drinks (card, cash, and SCA currency accepted).
- **Currency Reminder:** Internal stalls use SCA currency only; external stalls accept cash or card. SCA currency and entry tickets are available on the day.

#### Santa's Grotto:

- Pre-book your child's slot (£5 per child) to avoid disappointment at [www.scasales.co.uk](http://www.scasales.co.uk).

#### Raffle:

Amazing prizes are up for grabs, including Ninja products, beauty gifts, Spanish lessons, and more! Visit [www.scasales.co.uk](http://www.scasales.co.uk) or [www.galabid.com/scachristmasraffle24](http://www.galabid.com/scachristmasraffle24) to view prizes and buy tickets. The raffle draw will take place virtually on Tuesday 3rd December at 10am, to allow you all to buy raffle tickets until the Fair closes. Please do join us online at on Tuesday, by clicking [here](#)

### Volunteers Needed:

If you can help on Friday evening or Saturday morning, please contact Bobby, Emma, or your class reps.

ENTRY  
£3  
FREE  
UNDER 2

Christmas  
**FAIR**

**GAMES, GIFTS,  
CRAFTS & FOOD**

PICK UP YOUR PRESENTS AND DECORATIONS  
WHILE SUPPORTING THE SCA

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 30TH  
FROM 12PM - 3PM**

ST CHRISTOPHER'S THE HALL,  
49 BROMLEY ROAD, BR3 5PA

BUY TICKETS & CURRENCY AT  
[WWW.SCASALES.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCASALES.CO.UK)

### Update on Christmas Holiday Club Availability

Unfortunately, we regret to inform you that we will not be able to run any holiday clubs during the upcoming Christmas break.

We understand how valuable these clubs are for our families, offering both childcare support and enriching activities for the children, and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Please rest assured that going forward, we are still looking at the possibility of running holiday clubs throughout the year and we will update you as and when we have definite plans in place.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

- 🔔 **Thursday 5th December**
  - Preschool workshop with Gordon the Entertainer (11:00-12:00)
  - Carol Service (14:00-15:00)
- 🔔 **Friday 6th December**
  - **Christmas Jumper Day**
  - Christmas Lunch in school
  - Senior Choir carol singing at Beckenham Green (17:00-18:00)

