

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

This week has been filled with festive joy in a series of events. On Tuesday, we kicked things off with a wonderfully silly and festive assembly in preparation for our Christmas Jumper Day today! Mrs. West and I shared important messages about the

purpose of Christmas Jumper Day - raising money for Save the Children to support children worldwide with essentials like food, healthcare, and education, all whilst layering in multiple Christmas jumpers, much to the pupils' amusement (ask your child how many we were wearing!). With festive music, a fun quiz, and plenty of laughter, the assembly set the perfect tone for today's celebrations when pupils came in wearing a wonderful array of quirky jumpers!

Our festive spirit continued on Thursday afternoon with our well attended Carol Concert. Featuring wonderful performances from our Junior, Senior, and Chamber Choirs, as well as impressive solos and thoughtful readings by our talented Year 6 pupils, the concert was a real triumph. This event is always one of my favorite moments of the year, as it brings our entire school community - parents, pupils, staff, and governors - together in celebration. There's something quite special about the sound of carols echoing through the beautiful setting of St. George's Church, creating an atmosphere filled with the joy and wonder of Christmas.

Today, parents were treated to our Preschool Concert - another highlight of the Christmas season! Watching our youngest pupils take to the stage is always something to behold. Their enthusiasm, innocence, and sheer delight in the moment remind us of the magic of Christmas and never fail to bring smiles to every face in the audience. I know parents must have been bursting with pride as they

watched their children shine today. Unfortunately, I had to attend a Heads' Meeting during this morning's performance but I was lucky enough to watch the dress rehearsal with the School on Wednesday. The children were absolutely fantastic, and it was such a joy to see them on stage.

At this time of year, I always want to extend a huge thanks to both Ms. Wooderson and Mrs. Gay. This season is an incredibly busy one for them, with countless rehearsals and preparations for our many events, yet they remain calm, serene, and wonderfully organised throughout. Their efforts ensure that everything runs smoothly, and their dedication truly makes these moments magical for everyone involved. I'd also like to offer a special mention to Mrs. Paulidies, whose exceptional musical accompaniment at the Carol Concert brought our carols and choir performances to life, adding depth and beauty to an already special afternoon.

Today, we announced the highest merit earners in each year group for this term and they have each received an invitation to a special lunch in my office next Tuesday. We also revealed the House that has earned the most character counters this term. Character counters represent collective achievements and encourage each House member to contribute to a shared goal. It's exciting to share that the winning House this term is [Johnson](#)! As a well-deserved reward, members of the winning House can come to school in their own clothes on Monday.

Just a reminder, we will be carol singing at Beckenham Green later this afternoon at approximately 17:00 for the Christmas lights switch-on - so do join us if you can! Additionally, as we head into our final half week before the Christmas break now, please note the early finish time on Thursday (12th). Have a good weekend.

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

Dismissal time on our last day of term - Thursday 12th December

Reminder that we finish early on the final day of school on **Thursday 12th December**.

The timings for collects are as follows:

- 11.20** - Preschool from SCAMPS Gate
- 11.30** - Reception from the Front Door
- 11.40** - Year 1 & 2 from the Main Gate
- 11.50** - Year 3 & 4 from the Main Gate
- 12.00** - Year 5 & 6 from the SCAMPS Gate

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Science Workshop

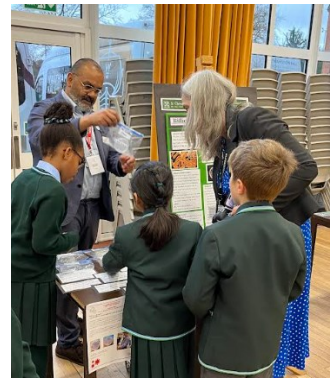
On Wednesday afternoon, two teams of Year 4 and 5 pupils (Group 1 - Grace, Anaiya, Samuel, Fola and Dustyn and Group 2 - Sofia, James, Oliver, Oscar and Joanna) attended Walthamstow Hall Secondary School, Sevenoaks to take part in their first science event / competition.

The theme for the event was 'Marvellous Microbes' and the children were challenged to design and carry out an experimental or research project linked to the theme.

After two months of dedicated work and commitment, ten teams participated in the final event, showcasing their work and discussing their findings with the panel of teacher and pupil judges. The standard of work was very high and

the final decision was very difficult for the team to arrive at, but Group 1 with their project: 'Billions of Bacteria - Which surface encourages the most bacteria?' won second prize overall, and Group 2 were in the top five.

The children learnt lots about microbes, bacteria, moulds and fungi through the highly engaging and fun laboratory based activity during the afternoon and celebrated with chocolate brownies kindly provided by the school. The children all had a fun(gi)tastic time!



Preschool

On Wednesday, the Preschool children gave a fantastic performance of their Christmas concert to the whole school and on Friday they did it all again to their parents and families! They sang so confidently, and managed to remember the words and actions, as well as knowing when to get on and off the stage. We have had lots of fun prac-tising all the songs, and ringing our bells to wake up Santa's reindeer has really got us in the Christmas mood.

Well done Preschool - you were amazing!



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Parents' Survey -We Value Your Feedback!

At St. Christopher's The Hall, we are committed to providing the highest standard of education for your children. To continue growing and improving, we need your help! Your input is invaluable in helping us understand what we're doing well and identifying areas where we can do even better.

We've created a short survey to gather your thoughts. It's quick and easy to complete, and your feedback will directly guide us in shaping our school development plan to better meet the needs of both you and your children.

Take a moment to complete the survey [here](#).

Together, let's make St. Christopher's The Hall the best it can be. Thank you for your time and support!

Online Quiz club

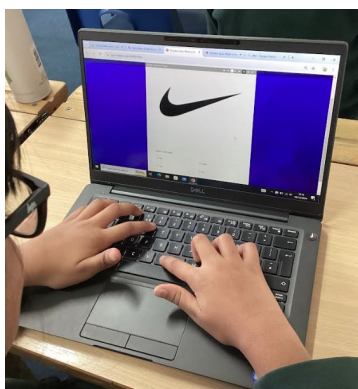
During our Online Quiz ECHO club, children have had the opportunity to design, code, test and debug their own Quiz. Here is some pupil voice, explaining what they enjoy most:

"I liked making challenging questions that get harder every time. My friends enjoyed the challenge of playing my quiz." *Dennis (Year 3)*

"I liked searching for pictures on the computer to put into my own quiz that I made. I enjoyed playing my friend's quiz that she had also made." *Freya (Year 4)*

"I really liked learning new computer skills. I didn't know that Quizmaker existed. I have even accessed this at home! My quiz was to guess the logo, I enjoyed challenging Mrs Shivers and Mrs Davies to this!" *Sonia (Year 5)*

"I really enjoyed making my own quizzes as we were allowed to do any theme we wanted. You also got to see what your friends enjoyed and learn new things from their quiz." *Jack (Year 6)*

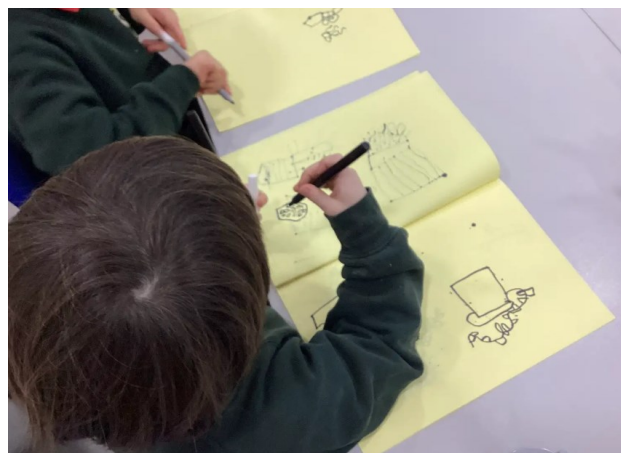


Mindfulness Drawing Club

In Mindfulness Drawing Club the Pre-Prep children have had the opportunity to take some time out from their busy week and focus on being in the present. We have started each of our sessions with calm and relaxing breathing exercises to help clear and focus the mind. The children then use their listening skills to follow the step by step instructions, helping to develop their fine motor skills, using small, precise movements to complete their drawings.

Each week the children have been adding to their 'Drawing Journal' following the theme of the week. Whilst listening to calm and relaxing music we have learned to draw animal faces, expressions, plants and flowers, and the most popular theme so far, food!

At the end of term each child will take their Drawing Journal home, so that they may continue their Mindful drawing at home whenever they need some time to relax and be calm.



Newsletter

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Word of the Week

Our new Words of the Week are:

Pre-Prep: *Ghastly*

(Definition: something that is very frightening, horrible, or unpleasant.)



This word can be fun to explore in a playful and light-hearted way:

1. Storytelling: Make up silly or spooky stories together where things are described as *ghastly*, like a haunted house or a funny monster.
2. Role Play: Pretend to be a ghost or monster and use the word in context, saying, "I'm so *ghastly* that everyone runs away!"
3. Art and Drawing: Encourage your child to draw or create their version of something *ghastly*, like a funny ghost or spooky scene. Share what makes it *ghastly* and discuss how it feels.

Prep: *Ample*

(Definition: enough or more than enough.)

You might want to encourage this word use at home by doing:

1. Word Games: Can you think of some words which rhyme with 'ample'?
2. Story Time: Read books or stories about an animal that perhaps had too much of something in his life and ask questions like, 'Do you think the elephant had ample food on his plate?'
3. Creative Challenges: Have them thinking of different sentences containing the word 'ample' and using it in the correct context. Can you think of a synonym for ample?

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 [@stchristthehall](#) on insta and Twitter, as well at [@stchristthehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life!



Charity - St Christopher's in the Community!

Congratulations to Phoebe in Year 5, who has once again demonstrated extraordinary initiative and compassion by leading the charge for this year's Salvation Army Toy Appeal. Throughout this week, Phoebe has been collecting donations on Tuesday and Wednesday, showcasing her commitment to this effort. Her dedication to bringing happiness to others during the festive season perfectly encapsulates our school's ethos of kindness, generosity, and social responsibility.

Phoebe is a beacon of our character values, showing how one person's efforts can make a significant impact.



We are so proud of Phoebe and we would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations, which have helped Phoebe achieve her goal. Her actions remind us all of the importance of giving and the joy that comes from helping others. Well done, Phoebe - you are an inspiration to us all!

What's Happening Next Week

🔔 Wednesday 11th December

- Nativity performance to parents by 2C, 1O, RO (09:00-09:40)
- Nativity performance by 2J, 1H, RC (10:00-10:40)

🔔 Thursday 12th December

- **Term ends (between 11:30-12:00 see timings above)**

