

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a joyous and restful Christmas holiday. It has been a strange start to the term, as I was unwell on Tuesday and Wednesday, but I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the pupils on Thursday. It is so lovely to see

everyone back and settling into the routine of school life once again.

You will have received the news about our merger with St. Dunstan's Education Group, announced on Monday. On behalf of Mrs. Curtis and our entire Board of Governors, I want to emphasise how enthusiastic we are about this proactive step forward. St. Christopher's is already in a strong position, but this merger represents a chance to enhance our offerings, strengthen our foundations, and ensure resilience in an ever-changing educational landscape. Unlike many mergers that occur out of necessity, this partnership is a deliberate and forward-thinking choice, made with the best interests of our pupils at heart. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the meeting on Thursday, and I hope you found it helpful to meet Mr. Hewlett in person, and his insights reassured you about the incredible opportunities this partnership brings. Please click [here](#) to view the recording of the meeting. Joining forces with St. Dunstan's will unlock new resources, expand expertise, and provide even richer opportunities for your children. Together, we can reinvest in key areas, from curriculum development to extracurricular activities, ensuring that St. Christopher's continues to thrive for years to come. This collaboration also aligns beautifully with our values: a commitment to high-quality education, inclusivity, and holistic growth. St. Dunstan's shares our ethos, making them a natural fit. I want to assure you that nothing will change in the day-to-day life of St. Christopher's. Our character, culture, and ethos will remain the same. This merger is about building on what we already do so well and opening new doors for our students to succeed and grow.

I was going to lead our back-to-school assembly on Tuesday, but as I was unwell, Mrs. West kindly stepped in. The theme of the assembly was exploration and adventure, setting the tone for a term filled with curiosity, growth, and resilience. The

children were invited to imagine themselves as explorers, but instead of being equipped with maps, torches, tents, and compasses, they thought about essential tools like curiosity, kindness, and resilience. They reflected on the adventures of the holiday break and looked ahead to the treasures this term holds. It was wonderful to hear how much the children enjoyed it and to see their excitement for the months ahead.

On Friday, Miss Rule and I held a meeting with Year 4 parents to discuss the 11+ process, addressing concerns about secondary school transfer. We reassured families that Year 4 is too early to focus on these decisions and that Year 5 is the ideal time to start preparing. We also cautioned against narrowing options prematurely, as children's interests and strengths evolve between Year 4 and Year 6, and decisions made too early may no longer align with their needs. Our merger with St. Dunstan's provides additional avenues helping all students reach their potential. We clarified that through-schools often prioritise scholarships for Year 7 intakes and that secondary schools select students based on academic and social readiness, not early applications. Our approach to the 11+ is tailored to each child, ensuring they are prepared without stress, and our post-11+ curriculum offers valuable skills like life skills, public speaking, and coding. Staying at St. Christopher's through Year 6 also provides the children with leadership opportunities and lasting friendships. We are here to guide families through this process when the time is right to ensure the best outcomes for each child.

A quick update on a few important bits of admin: Please be aware that there will be no after school Clubs or SCAMPS on Tuesday, 25th February, as all staff will be undergoing their annual safeguarding training. As the provider for this training has limited availability, we were obliged to choose this date and, unfortunately, we are therefore unable to offer clubs on that day or SCAMPS past 4pm. Therefore, all children will need to be picked up at the usual end of the school day. Additionally, as you may recall, Miss Leaf got married over Christmas and will now be known as Mrs. Titchener which we will now all need to get used to!

Mr T Carter

**Head Teacher**

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### Social Media

If you are not following us on social media, you are only getting half the story!

You can follow us at [@stchristthehall](#) on Insta and X, as well at [@stchristthehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! You can also now follow us on Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group.



### Pre-Prep School

It has been wonderful to see all the Pre-Prep children back in school after the Christmas break, full of news about the things they have done over the Festive period. Everyone has settled back into the routines of school and there is much excitement for the new year ahead. In Year 2 the Tooth Fairy has obviously been exceptionally busy over Christmas, as we were greeted by lots of very toothless grins on the first morning!

It was also lovely to see how many of the Pre-Prep children had challenged themselves to read a variety of books over the break and had filled in the 'visual bookshelf' that was sent home to all of the Pre-Prep children. Well done!

The New Year brings another busy and productive term, full of workshops, trips and more. We have a new set of ECHO clubs for this half term and after the February Half Term break we will be working with the Prep School in cross phase activity groups. Another term of fantastic learning opportunities will be rounded off of course, with the annual St Christopher's Easter Catwalk Parade - there is just so much to look forward to!



### Prep School

Welcome back to all of our Prep school students and parents. I hope you had a wonderful and restful Christmas and New Year. This term in the Prep school, we have many exciting things to look forward to: Year 3 will explore the Saxons and Vikings, Year 4 will study the Romans and Year 5 will delve into the Victorian Era and link it to their Power of Reading text, Street Child. With the 11+ exams now behind us, Year 6 will work on independent projects, linked to their Humanities topic as well as strive to earn their St John Ambulance qualification. Throughout the term, each year group will also enjoy trips and workshops tied to their learning including the Science Museum, Royal Observatory, Roman and Viking Workshops. We are also introducing a new initiative, Phase Fusion, which will begin in Spring 2. During this half term, Prep and Pre-Prep children will collaborate on various tasks such as maths games, art, spelling challenges, and team games. Additionally, we have a range of exciting new Echo clubs for the children to enjoy! The Prep School is excited for the fantastic Spring Term ahead.





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### Our Character Values

At our school, we believe that education is about more than academics; it's about building character and life skills that prepare children for the challenges of the modern world. Resilience is one of our core character values because it equips students to adapt, grow, and thrive in the face of adversity.

A recent BBC article highlights the increasing mental health challenges young people face and the vital role of resilience in overcoming them. As a school community, we strive to nurture resilience by teaching problem-solving, fostering emotional regulation, and creating a supportive environment where every child can grow.

We encourage parents to read [this article](#) to understand why focusing on character values like resilience is essential in today's world. Together, we can help our children build the skills they need for a brighter future.

### Pupil success

We are thrilled to share some exciting news about one of our pupils, Erik Adams-Day (Year 3C). Erik ended 2024 on an incredible high note by completing his 50th Junior Parkrun, achieving a new personal best (PB) time of 10:48 minutes! To top it off, he was awarded the prestigious ultramarathon wristband, a testament to his hard work, determination, and dedication.

A huge congratulations to Erik on this fantastic accomplishment. We are so proud of him for reaching this milestone!

If any other pupils have achieved success outside of school, we'd love to hear about it. Please let Mr. Carter know so we can celebrate and share your achievements with our school community.



### Emailing teachers

**REMINDER:** - ALL emails to teachers should use the [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk)

### Communication

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>

### EDI initiative

We are thrilled to announce an exciting and new EDI initiative at St Christopher's, called 'Secret Reader'. We would like to invite you, Parents and Carers, to read and record a traditional short story or tale, from your cultural or religious background (approximately 5 - 10 minutes). These video recordings will then be shared with our children, in order to celebrate our amazing and diverse community here at St Christopher's the Hall!

If you would like to participate, please send your recording to [mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk](mailto:mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk) (FAO Mrs Shivers and Mrs Titchener) by Friday 31st January. We look forward to collaborating with you and exposing our students to a culturally rich range of texts.

### *What's Happening Next Week*

#### Thursday 16th January

- Year 6 Hockey v Colfes (Away)  
All Year 6 to play (15:15-17:00)

#### Friday 17th January

- Year 6 Football v Breaside (Away)  
All Year 6 to play (14:30-16:00)