

# Newsletter

## Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

As we wrap up our second week back, life at St. Christopher's feels a little more like "business as usual" after the excitement of our first week – including the big news about the merger! Despite the January chill, spirits have remained high throughout the

school, and we've packed plenty into the week. A highlight has been welcoming two new 'Head Teachers' on Wednesday – Miss Lindsey and Miss Eastwood! These two delightful new "staff members" were actually our very own pupils, who served as Head for the Day. They dove into the role with great enthusiasm, coming up with all sorts of ideas for how we might improve the School (I suspect I may have some competition in the leadership department!). You'll find a little note from each of them below. It gave me a rare day off, which I happily accepted!

On Wednesday, we marked World Religion Day, which officially falls on the 19th of this month. During assembly, we explored the importance of this day, which promotes understanding, respect, and unity across different faiths.

Another exciting development is the launch of our Alumni Relations program. Since announcing that St. Christopher's is joining the St. Dunstan's Education Group, I've been touched by the messages I've received from Dunstonians with previous ties to our school. One particularly special note came from the Newton brothers, whose mother, Suzanne, served as Headmistress

here for many years. Now in her mid-90s, she was thrilled to hear the news! If you know of, or are interested in helping us build these alumni connections, we'd love to hear from you.

I wanted to share some news with you regarding our music department. Mrs. Gay received an unexpected but exciting job offer over the Christmas period and sadly will be leaving us to take on the role of Director of Music at Aberdour School, Tadworth after Easter. Mrs. Gay is very reluctant to leave us, as she has loved being part of our school community, but as some of you may know, she travels a significant distance each day to get here. This daily journey, while a testament to her dedication and love for our school, is simply becoming unsustainable. While we will deeply miss her calm, good-humoured, and organised presence, we understand and support her decision. I want to assure you that we are currently in the process of recruiting someone to fill the big shoes Mrs. Gay will leave behind.

Finally, I'm excited to share that plans for the new Pre-Prep playground are coming along well. We would like to have displays up in the School soon, so pupils can get a sneak peek at the designs, and I'll be sharing the final plans with parents as soon as possible. The refurbishment, set to take place over the summer, promises to bring some fantastic new opportunities for outdoor play and learning – I can't wait to show you what's in store!

Warm regards,

Mr Carter

**Head Teacher**



Dear Parents,

I really enjoyed being Head for the Day on Wednesday. It was fun saying 'Good Morning' to everyone at the gate even though it was really cold! It was exciting but also nerve wracking standing at the front in assembly speaking about Judaism. I got to ask the children a bunch of questions about it and show them the Menorah. Sitting in the Head's chair was so exciting; I think it will be a good career being a Headteacher!

Miss Lindsey

**Head for the Day**



Dear Parents,

It was great being Head for the Day. I really enjoyed choosing my outfit and felt very important wearing it with my staff lanyard. It was fun saying 'Good Morning' to my friends at the gate and being called Miss Eastwood all day. I loved standing up in assembly and later on I got to share some ideas about how to improve things around the School, such as having some pictures in the SLT room which looked very bare!

Miss Eastwood

**Head for the Day**

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### Music

At our first rehearsal of this term, the Senior Choir were very proud to receive individual letters from our MP, Mr. Liam Conlon, thanking them for their carol singing at the switch-on of the Beckenham Green Christmas lights in December. This was such a lovely event and we really enjoyed taking part!



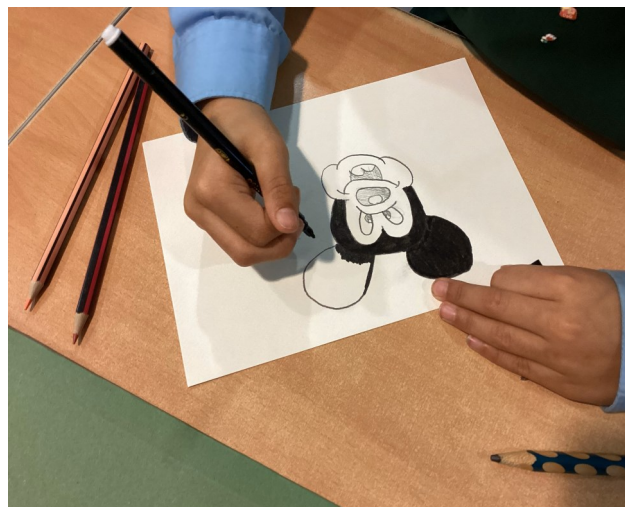
### Illustration ECHO Club

Illustration is the decoration, interpretation or visual explanation of a text, concept or process. It is so exciting because it can include design for print, posters, flyers, books, video games, film and animation.

This week, we loved exploring the classic animation and icon Mickey Mouse. Our Pre-Prep children learnt to draw this iconic figure using a step-by-step guide and considered his famous colours carefully.

We had a great time exploring Mickey and were really pleased with the results, we have some confident illustrators amongst us!

Did you know...Mickey wasn't created by Walt Disney alone, it was his best friend Ub Iwerks who first illustrated and designed him back in 1928!

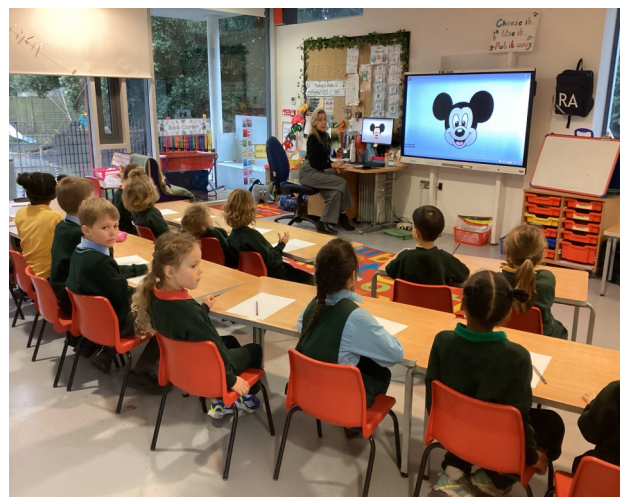


### Flex and Run ECHO (MW & EO)

This week, we kicked off our Flex and Run ECHO Club with a burst of energy and enthusiasm. The session began with some gentle stretching and flexing to warm up our muscles, followed by slipping into hi-vis jackets for a refreshing jog around the local area.

Our speedy front runners led the group as we made our way through Kelsey Park and nearby roads. Along the way, the children chatted and laughed with friends, all whilst focusing on their breathing and stride techniques. It was wonderful to spot some wildlife and hear birds chirping in the trees - a cheerful reminder that spring might be just around the corner. We hope!

We're excited to see the children's stamina grow week by week and cannot wait for next week's session, which will include some hill training!





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### Communication

A quick reference guide for communication in school.

Music and instrumental lessons	<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> NB: please mark F.A.O and indicate who this is for. Anything urgent or time sensitive please call or mark email URGENT
Anything that needs the Head's attention	<a href="mailto:headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk">headspa@stchristophersthehall.org.uk</a>

### Pupil Achievement

A huge congratulations to Nesta and Guy (Year 3 and 1) for completing a 5K walk in support of the NSPCC's Walk For Children campaign! Braving the freezing weather, they showed incredible resilience and determination, going above and beyond to smash their fundraising target. Together, they raised an outstanding £1,290, which will make a real difference in helping children who don't have safe and happy home lives.

We are incredibly proud of Nesta and Guy for their inspiring community spirit and for setting such a fantastic example of kindness and perseverance.

If anyone else achieves something special outside of school, please do let Mr. Carter know – he would love to hear about it and celebrate your achievements!



### February Holiday Club

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting Camp Elite, an award-winning camp for children aged 4-11, this February half term (17th Feb 2025 - 21st Feb 2025)!

Get ready for an action-packed week filled with a variety of engaging and enjoyable activities, including Football, Multi-Sports, Arts & Crafts, Music, Performing Arts, and Tennis. All sessions will be led by their dedicated and enthusiastic instructors, ensuring a fun and enriching experience for every camper.

As before, the highlights will include a Thursday Showcase where parents can join to watch their child shine during a special performance, showcasing everything they've learned throughout the week, and a Fun Friday Trip.

You can book in via this link:  
<https://camp-elite.classforkids.io/camp/10>

In the meantime, if you require further information you can email at [info@campelite.co.uk](mailto:info@campelite.co.uk)

We hope this is helpful to parents.



### *What's Happening Next Week*

- 🕒 **Monday 20th January**
  - Year 3 Football v Breaside (Away)
  - All Year 3 to play (14:30-16:00)
- 🕒 **Thursday 23rd January**
  - Year 5 Hockey v Colfes (Away)
  - All Year 5 to play (15:15-17:00)