



7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

What a delightful start to the term. May I thank you all for your patience and good humour this week as the children entered together through the main porch door each morning. The children were full of enthusiasm for the new term and as you will see from our Twitter page @StChrisEpsom they have all got off to an excellent start.

A special welcome to all our new families joining the happy St Christopher's community. A wonderful opportunity for parents to make new friends will be at our Macmillan Coffee Morning open to everyone next week when you can enjoy a range of delicious cakes in the School Hall from drop off at 8.35am next Friday. We warmly encourage as many of you to come as possible and support the PTA as well as this important charity initiative.

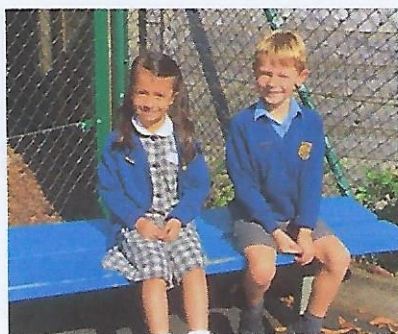
A few of you have questioned the need for an email alert when your child has received a bump to the head. We have amended the wording of these emails to confirm that they are not an extreme cause for concern. If we are worried about a major head bump or episode of ill health we would ring you at once and speak to you personally. If your child does bump their head the former procedure was for a letter to be placed in the book bag. These letters sometimes got mislaid if your child was collected by friends or family and our new system is in response to requests from parents who are grateful for an email alert so that the usual process of observation may continue during the evening.

We are always looking for ideas to improve the information delivered to parents about next schools and accordingly this year I have arranged a 'Head to Head' initiative for Wednesday 26th September at 1.30pm until 3pm. This will involve the Headmasters of the two schools that received the majority of our Year 2s during the last 2 years namely City of London Freeman's and Downsend. The Headmasters will give a short presentation about their school and then be available for questioning. We will not be repeating this initiative every year and accordingly this afternoon will be available for parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 on a first come first served basis. A letter will follow. I appreciate that some families may prefer an evening event but because we have information evenings during the next two weeks we are trialling an event which does not require a babysitter!

Next week we are getting on board with the National Year of Engineering initiative. We have dedicated the week to inspiring the engineers of the future and are combining an exciting week of practical challenges and cross-curricular work to challenge stereotypes and enthuse boys and girls into getting involved and learning about this valuable profession.

This term we proudly announce the introduction of the 'Organised Octopus' reward scheme. We are delighted with the additional effort that has been made this week by our young students eager to win this laminated reward. Congratulations so far to Lambert Sturges and Thomas Pierson for being the first to impress their teacher with their splendid organisational skills!

Annie Thackray
Headteacher



We are particularly proud of our new Blue Bench Monitors Arisa and Nathan who have made a sterling start to the term by offering the hand of friendship to anyone feeling 'blue' sitting on our special blue bench. They were both hand-picked for their especially kind attitude for this important honour and are already proving to be an asset.