Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all. I do hope that you have all had a relaxed and happy Christmas break. The whole team here at St Christopher’s were extremely touched by your extraordinary kindness and on behalf of everyone may I thank you all for the wonderful messages, cards and gifts that you so generously gave.

The Spring Term has got off to a flying start and the children seemed delighted to be back writing copiously about their enjoyable festive holiday. The quality of the writing has particularly impressed us as you will see from the example of Dara’s excellent story featured on page 2.

January is an exciting and industrious time for our Year 2 children and we wish them all luck as they sit for a range of 7+ tests. We are delighted to see them so perfectly prepared demonstrating impressive confidence as they show their new schools their significant skill set. Good luck to you all.

Last Friday we all enjoyed our House Assembly and marvelled at the kindness as the older children gently led the younger children in each House by the hand as they set off to hear a chapter by their own House author.

On Thursday we were delighted to welcome a real Dentist into school! Mr Metcalf very kindly visited Year 1 to complement their topic about Healthy Eating with some invaluable advice concerning tooth care.

This week’s Lunchtime Superstar is Felice F for making such a wonderful start to lunchtimes in her first week in Nursery delighting the Team with her daily polite requests for seconds! Well done Felice.

Please could I remind parents that at the end of the day the children must only walk down the path with their own parents or nominated adult. In an effort to be supportive and helpful some parents are volunteering to take other children on behalf of their friends and this has on occasions caused difficulties when we have already received a phone call from a parent advising us of their delay and making arrangements which are then compromised. Please always check before you offer to help and remind your child that if they can’t see you they must wait please with me.

Congratulations to Dahl House for jumping to the top of the Leader Board in the first week of term with a wonderful total of 196 Housepoints.

Mrs Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This week’s Merit Awards
Fraser W, James W, Annabel H, Dara O, Noah B, Leo E, Annie S, Joe C, Tommy C, Lily C and Henrietta L.

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Work of the Week

This week Year 2 have been refining their story writing skills. Dara O from Mercury wrote this amazing story about a chair that could fly. Dara wrote this all by himself and he should be very proud of this impressive story and some wonderful punctuation. Well done Dara.
Welcome back to you all and especially our new Sparkling Stars and their families. We are very happy to have you in our Nursery. Well done for settling so well. Our book this week has been ‘One Snowy Night’ by Nick Butterworth. We have enjoyed re-enacting the story with puppets, making our own characters and hunting for the animals in the garden. Our sound of the week is ‘ssssss’. We have been finding objects that begin with ‘ssssss’ in our tray of soapy snow and making ‘S’ shape bird feeders in our woodland garden. In the art room we have been creating our own story. We have painted the sky, mountains and grass, made a castle, some princesses and a dragon. It looks amazing! Our role play in the red room is a snowy wonderland where children have built their own igloos. Our lovely ice disks in the Woodland Adventure area have been admired by everyone - do look at the super photo on Twitter @StChrisEpsom.

Our book this week is ‘Polar Bear. Polar Bear, What do you hear?’ By Eric Carle. We have been looking at all the different animals in the book including flamingos, peacocks and leopards. We have making paw print number lines and using them when ordering numbers and then calculating more and less as we add on or subtract 1, 2 and even 3 more and less. We have made our own snow to use in our small world play with arctic animals. We have been using our phonic sounds to help write the story in the correct order. We have also been outside a lot this week making animal home, cages, making food and role playing zoo keepers. Time for a rest!

The Foundation Stage Team

REMEMBER TO SEND IN ANY WOW MOMENTS TO SHARE AT SCHOOL

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 17th January – Pre-Nursery Sessions start
Wednesday 18th January 7pm – Nursery and Pre-Reception Parents’ Meeting in the school hall
Thursday 19th January – Year 1 trip to Wisley
Friday 20th January 9am JUPITER Class Assembly – All parents welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served under the back porch from 8.30am.

This week's Happiness Hamsters
This award is for children who bring great happiness to others and have been delited with the displays of kindness and warmth extended to others by our delightful young pupils: Lottie R, Zachary C and Freya M.

Mathletics: Congratulations to Dylan F for achieving his Silver Award.

There are four types of Playground Panther. Patrol Panthers look out for rough play and intervene or report to an adult. Polite Panthers are kind and friendly and quick to involve others in their games. Playful Panthers think up exciting new games and encourage others to join in and Promising Panthers may have played roughly before but are now committed to gentle safer play.

This week's Playground Panthers are: Jack B and Robyn C.

OWLS please could you remember to complete an amendment form if you have any changes to your request for OWLS. We regret to say that an email is insufficient for this service. If your child is coming to OWLS from an after school club please remember to tick the A session.

PARKING – We had a sad incident at the start of term with a very distressed resident who telephoned to report that not only had a car driven by one of our parents parked across her drive but, when confronted, the parent concerned had been extremely rude. Please remember to park considerately.

CLUB PAYMENTS – IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PAID FOR CLUBS, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY. THANK YOU.