



St Christopher's School

Weekly News
Friday 13th November 2015

Dear Parents

Last Friday we were all pleased to sense the rush of colour as Jupiter's Firework Assembly got off to a bang! The children told us about the Firework Code and showed us some beautiful paintings before narrating the tale of Hovis the Hedgehog. The actors, singers and musicians did a wonderful job and we all enjoyed this excellent assembly beautifully conceived by Mrs Kay. Well done and thank you everyone.

This week has been very busy with school trips. Year 2 headed to the Barbican on Monday to enjoy a workshop with the London Symphony Orchestra. This varied workshop was a real treat and you can read about it on our website: Event of the Week. Year 2 were once again London bound on Thursday to visit the Museum of London and St Paul's Cathedral - more of that next week.

Year 1 also eagerly set off on Tuesday to RHS Wisley Gardens. This interactive visit consolidated their knowledge of their topic: The Rainforest. The children identified plants from the Rainforest and enjoyed a scavenger hunt along the paths looking at the colours and the textures of the plants. The children returned full of information and plant cuttings (from a Plectranthus)!

Recently we were delighted to appoint an experienced Reception Teacher Mrs Kate Chandler, formerly from Dulwich College, who will join the team in January as Mrs Meredith-Bennett's replacement and work alongside Mrs Self. Mrs Chandler will be visiting during the term to ensure a smooth and efficient handover. Reception will strongly benefit from our new re-structure because part of Mrs Meredith-Bennet's remit as Academic Deputy Head is to work closely with the Reception Team and support the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This week's Lunchtime Superstar is Ziyah O for improving so beautifully with the range of foods and the amount that she now eats. Well done.

Please do take time to ensure that your child does not run on the grass during these winter months. The grass needs to recover from the summer pounding and the amount of mud being brought into Nursery and the rest of the school first thing in the morning is causing the staff great difficulty

Congratulations to all the children in **Morpurgo** House for winning this week's housepoint challenge with **1045** housepoints - a fabulous result!

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This week's Merit Awards

Lexi M, Max G, Jack C, Zachary C, Jamie H, Eliza B, Daisy M, Esme T, Sara H, Baylen B, Tommy C, James S and Thomas M.

Philosopher of the Week

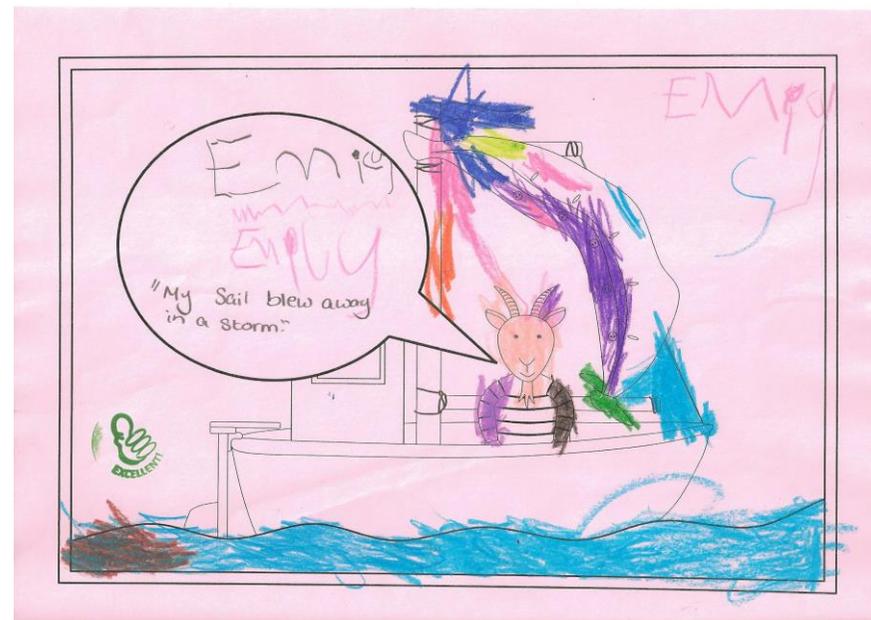
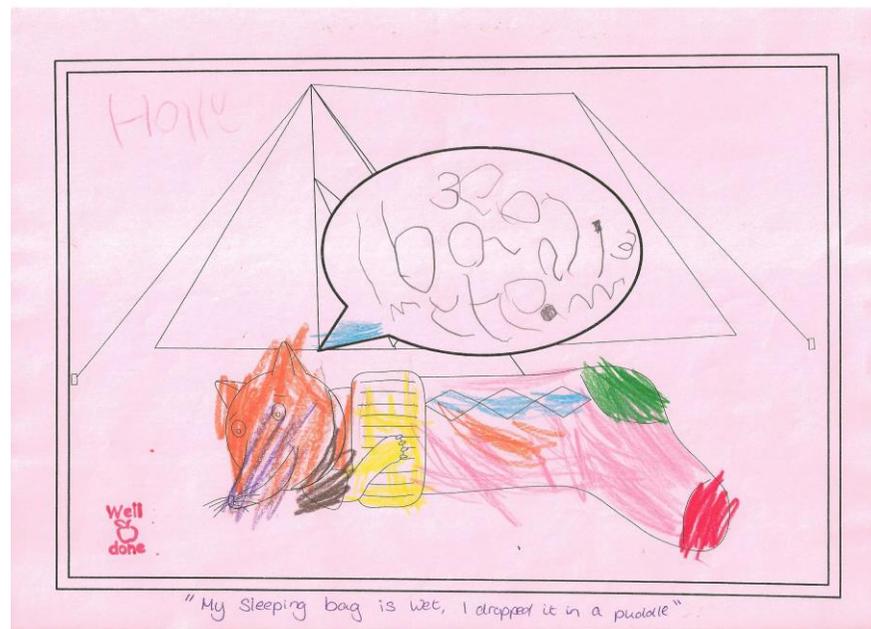
James S

Thought for the Week

Is everyone clever?

Work of the Week - Pre-Reception

In Pre-Reception we have been thinking about what all the animals say in the 'Smartest Giant in Town'. Holly tried really hard to copy some of the letters she could see in the book and Emily did some super colouring. Look how beautifully both girls wrote their names!



Foundation Stage News



In Nursery we have had great fun learning all about 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson. All the Pre- Reception children practised very hard for the assembly. Some children have been working on their 'gross motor skills', such as balance and coordination, using stilts so that they can pretend to be giants. We have also been pretending to wash the giant's clothes and pegging the washing up using some impressive fine motor skills. Some of us find it quite tricky to use scissors to cut along the line as we try to cut and decorate a delightful array of ties and socks for the giant. Please help your child at home with this important skill, (you may need to buy left handed scissors).



Our maths activities this week have been looking at, and making repeating patterns, for the giant's tie and shape patterns on socks. In literacy some children have had a go writing letters to the giant from the different animals that he helps in the story. A few children are having a go using the sounds that they know to write some of the words.

The celebration that Reception children have been learning about this week has been Diwali. Fine motor control continues to develop throughout the Early Years with lots of tricky activities. The children explored and manipulated clay to make some super Diva lamps, decorating them carefully by fixing on beads and painting. The children have also drawn some beautiful intricate Mehndi patterns on templates of hands. We were delighted to welcome Aayushi from Year 2 into Nursery and hear about Mehndi patterns as she showed us her beautiful hand designs.



The children also used candles to practise adding two groups of objects in Maths. The children are learning to use the mathematical vocabulary, 'add', 'plus', 'and' and 'equals' (what a lot of words that all mean the same!). Some of the children can read and write number sentences, for example $5+2=7$. All of the children can use objects to calculate the answer. Some clever children are beginning to learn to put the largest number in their head and count on.

An important part of learning to tell and then write stories is making sure we tell the story in the correct sequence. To help learn this skill the children put pictures of the Diwali story in sequence so they could retell the story. Some children wrote some labels to help. Can your child tell you the story of Rama and Sita?

The Foundation Team

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 17th November

Year 2 to Weston Green School for Sports Afternoon, returning 3.30pm

Tuesday 17th November at 5.30pm: Governors' Meeting

Friday 20th November at 9am

SATURN Class Assembly

Parents and friends are welcome. Refreshments will be available in the Porch from 8.30am.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We will once again be allocating audience tickets for performances according to your child's House: 2 tickets per child plus one ticket per sibling. If you cannot attend on your given day, please try and swap with friends before contacting the office. Tickets will be distributed in the week of 30th November.

Tuesday 8th December 9.15am – MORPURGO HOUSE

Wednesday 9th December 9.15am – DONALDSON HOUSE

Thursday 10th December 9.15am – DAHL HOUSE

Friday 11th December 9.15am – AHLBERG HOUSE

A bracelet was found in Chartwell Place recently. Please contact the office if you think it might be yours.

School Website: Apologies for the login problems on the Parents' Area. These have now been corrected and access is via the same login and password. Please contact the office if you would like a reminder.



Mathletics - Congratulations to Lauren Margrave and Oludara O for achieving their Bronze Awards.

Also to Aayushi K, William W,

Zac P, Ziyah O, Zahra K and Jago G for receiving their Silver Awards.

Special Congratulations go to Caia H for achieving her Gold Award.