Dear Parents
The first Newsletter of the year is full of the names of children to celebrate and what a perfect way to start 2015. This term we have focussed on ‘kindness’. The children have responded magnificently demonstrating this value through thought, action and behaviour, especially in the playground. Kindness Kangaroos are a very prized reward for extraordinary acts of kindness and this week’s recipients are: Lauren H, Sienna A, Tommy C, Isla M, Rocco S and Joaquin G. These children had to describe to their class why they were given this special award and then go home to explain to parents and ring friends and relatives so that everyone could join together and celebrate these special acts of kindness that make the school such a happy place to be.

Also dazzling this week are our Mathletics stars in Year 2. 18 children in Year 2 have currently begun their exciting maths journey and this will hopefully inspire the rest of the year group to get involved in this exciting project. Bronze Certificates were awarded in assembly to: Jacob F, Patrick M, Matthew S and Cameron M and Silver Certificates were awarded to Miles R, Ava S and Dean A. Well done Maths Superstars!

Just before Philosophy Lessons get into full swing Year 2 and I shared the book detailed below which stimulated a wide range of wonderful thoughts and questions and I warmly recommend it to all parents at St Christopher’s. This week’s Lunchtime Superstar is Issy S for impressing the team in all aspects of lunchtime by being a delightful diner. Well done Issy!

We all enjoyed our lively House Assembly on Friday and welcomed the new children into their Houses. This colourful assembly complete with stories by each House author was enjoyed by all and the exciting competitive edge began. So bravo to all the children in Morpurgo House. You have won the first housepoint challenge of the year with a splendid total of 267 housepoints.

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

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**Work of the Week**

Matthew S, age 6, in Year 2 Mercury Class, really captured the anticipation, excitement and shear joy of opening his presents on Christmas morning. Well done Matthew, for your totally independent work.

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**This Week’s Merit Awards**

**Philosophy author choice of the Week**
Virginia Ironside

**Book of the Week**
The Huge Bag of Worries

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Welcome to the Spring Term and a special welcome to our new children and families. We are very pleased that the children have all settled so quickly busily exploring the nursery and having fun.

As we start our learning adventures for this term ‘Where is my bear?’ your child may ask you for a box and a colander so they can role-play going off to the moon like the bear in the book ‘Whatever Next’ by Jill Murphy.

Eliza (pretending to be the owl) and John (pretending to be the bear) had a delicious picnic on the moon, ‘Are there any more biscuits to share?’ The children also love to act out the story ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’, with cross Daddy voices and squeaky baby bear noises. Watch out RADA here we come!

Just like the three bears we have been eating porridge. We tried it with different flavours like dried fruit and sugar but most children like golden syrup best.

The children were given a challenge to build a garage for their cars. In the photo you can see Ayrton who counted 6 cars into his garage.

Many thanks to all our parents for providing the nursery uniform, the children look very smart. We would like to apologise for a mistake on the uniform list; the sentence should read ‘navy or black mittens on strings (no gloves please)’. The string can be threaded through the sleeves of the coat keeping them safe and easy to find.

The Reception children have also been venturing forth ‘Into the woods we go’ and there they found the Three Bears’ cottage. The children have loved to role play police officers interviewing ‘Daddy Bear’ to discuss the sad incident of the little girl going into the Three Bears’ house without asking! They have written reports detailing the evidence in the house such as the broken chair and an empty bowl using adjectives to describe what was seen. To encourage the children’s writing the Reception children have a role play police station and the Three Bears’ cottage.

In science the children thought about what clothes the bears should wear in different weather as well as what material is best to wear in the rain. It was great fun testing out the children’s predictions. In maths the children have been working on finding ‘1 less’ and subtraction up to 20. There are lots of ways to consolidate maths fun using objects, crossing out pictures and counting back using a number line. The teachers are very impressed that some children can even do subtraction calculations very quickly in their heads.

The Foundation Stage Team

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 21st January: Year 1 on a local walk during the morning
Friday 23rd January at 9am: SATURN Class Assembly
Parents are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available in the Porch from 8.30am.

TUBS FOR TABLETS – PLEASE KEEP COLLECTING THE SPECIAL VOUCHERS FROM FLORA & STORK TUBS AT TESCO! CLOSING DATE 20TH JANUARY.

CLUBS

Please ensure prompt payment for clubs is made to professional coaches.

PTA EVENTS

Saturday 31st January: Family Photography Day
Please see letter for information & booking form. This is a very popular event, so don’t delay: first-come, first-served.

SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER BALL ON FRIDAY 5TH JUNE

Would you be interested in sponsoring our Music Festival Programme?

We are looking for a sponsor or sponsors for the programme for this year’s festival on 12th March.

The programmes are given out to the large audience of parents from the local area as well as the participating children The cost will be £50 for a half page and £100 for a full page colour advertisement in a prominent place in our glossy programme. If you would like to publicise your business or you know of a local business who would be interested in this opportunity, please contact the school office.

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Following damage to a member of staff’s car this week, please avoid using the staff car park when collecting from Ballet or Owls unless there plenty of space to manoeuvre safely. Please closely supervise children at all times.