



St Christopher's School

Weekly News
Friday 20th November 2015

Dear Parents

I cannot believe that next week will be the last week of November. How quickly the time is moving and how much we have to fit in to this lovely term before the major celebrations start in earnest.

*Last week we all enjoyed watching the talents of our wonderful Pre-Reception as they performed their version of *The Smartest Giant in Town*. I was at the Headteacher's ISA conference in Northampton but I was lucky enough to enjoy the dress rehearsal and I marvelled at the maturity and talent evident in such young children. Thank you to all our brave performers and to Miss Kate Rendall and the Nursery Team for this super assembly.*

At Conference, I was able to enjoy the National finals of the countrywide art competitions. Each region put forward their First Prize entries and accordingly we entered 3 categories. The standard was exceptionally high and I was absolutely overjoyed to discover St Christopher's had won First Prize in the Nationals in the Textiles category with our beautiful felt Princess Dress. Huge congratulations are also due to Dara Odujinrin whose work inspired by Kandinsky took second place in a tightly fought competition. We really are so lucky to be inspired and taught by our talented Mrs Degg and on behalf of the whole team I want to thank Mrs Degg and the creative artists for their success.

Last week Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous trip to London to The Museum of London and to St Paul's Cathedral. At the museum they were given a talk by 'Charles Dickens' in period costume and full of interesting facts. At the Cathedral they eagerly headed to The Whispering Gallery, marvelling at the architecture of the incredible Sir Christopher Wren.

Year 1 built on their Wisley experience and this time headed out to an Epsom Park for an Autumn Walk collecting textured leaf samples to examine and compare for their science boxes whilst enjoying a local, leafy scavenger hunt.

This week's Lunchtime Superstar is Liberty R for outstanding manners every day. Well done Liberty!

*This week **Donaldson House** have won first place in our popular housepoint challenge. They are at the top of the leader board with **1149** housepoints. Congratulations to all children in **Donaldson House**.*

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This week's Merit Awards

Rory B, Sophie B, Rocco S, Kaila K, Mia P, Henrietta L, Andy D, Sachin W, Arlo R, Sophie M, Lenny S, Zachary C and Annabel H.

Philosopher of the Week

Max G

Thought for the Week

Is God the most important thing in the world?

Event of the Week

This week we were delighted to welcome Mrs O into School to talk to our Reception children about Eid. We are always fascinated to hear about the traditions and customs that associate each religion that we study and the beautiful Mehndi hand patterns are an important part of the Islam religion to celebrate the breaking of fast .



Mrs O delivered a fascinating, illustrated talk



Henna leaves or leaves from the Mehendi Dye plant are crushed with lemon and water



It takes great patience to create the designs



But just look at the result!



John is delighted!

Foundation Stage News

Shhh! The Reception children are planning a surprise party for Mrs. Self! The literacy activity has been to write a list of all the things the children think they need, for example games and balloons. Some of the children included adjectives to add more detail such as *pink* balloons. Nathan very thoughtfully suggested flowers!

In Maths the children have continued to work on their addition skills finding out how many different ways they can make a total of 5 or 10 objects. Using objects to help most of the children added two numbers e.g $6+4=10$ but some children found that you can add 3 or more numbers e.g. $5+3+2=10$. The children are getting very clever at recording their number sentences.

It has been great fun in the role-play area having tea parties with teddy bears, solving the everyday maths problems of sharing food and cake equally. The children haven't forgotten the teachers, making lots of cups of tea. There has been more maths on the playdough table making plates of biscuits and adding all the biscuits together. The staff and children would like to thank Mrs Oozeerally for coming in to school to show the children how to do henna Mehndi patterns. The Pre-Reception children have continued to enjoy the story 'The Smarted Giant in Town' using the props from our assembly to retell and re-invent the story.



This week we have introduced the story of the first Christmas. Can your child remember the baby's name? Why didn't they travel in cars? And who brought presents for the baby? The children are learning new songs and making props and costumes ready for the Christmas performance.



The art room is always a hive of industry. This week we have made a wonderful, creative, *mess*, playing with cornflour gloop, glitter, glue, sequins and of course paint. We have always have great fun and even the youngest Pre-Nursery children love to get 'stuck in'.

Please could parents put a plastic bag in the bottom of their Nursery or Pre-Reception child's bag in case their child needs a change of clothes. (The use of plastic bags is of course carefully monitored)

Many thanks to all the parents who have bought 'Flora' from the special offer. Please can you bring in the lids so we can win our special an iPads for the school.

Thank you all in advance.
The Foundation Team

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 23rd November at 9am: Music Assembly
Parents and carers of children participating in our Music Clubs welcome.

Thursday 26th November: Pre-Nursery finishes

PTA Christmas Fair: Saturday 5th December 1 - 3pm

Please see recent letter with information and how you can help.
Santa's Grotto booking form: Please return by Friday 27th November
Christmas Hamper Donations by Friday 27th November

Friday 4th December: MUFTI Day /Bring a cake

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

PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

Please return photograph orders by next Tuesday 24th November



Mathletics - Congratulations to George T for achieving his Bronze award. Also to Oludara O, Lexi M, Lauren M and Ned S for gaining their Silver Certificates.