Dear Parents
This week I have heard cheers of joy spontaneously erupt and without even needing to look I correctly guessed that it was due to some serious snow flurries! The children love snow and as soon as it settles they will be outside making the most of any snow falls we are lucky enough to enjoy. Please remember to send in scarves and navy NAMED gloves during this chilly weather. In the event of a disruptive snow fall please see the website for urgent information.

On Saturday Staff returned to school to train in Yoga and Mindfulness and you may well have heard about this from your child because many of the exciting skills that we learnt are being incorporated into the daily routines to really benefit the children. Look out for the signs of a warrior or cat pose!

Well done to all of you for making such a success of the Candle Jar initiative. Please send in any photos of your child engaged in fundraising activities either in hard copy or digitally for us to place around the giant candle in the Reception area. We are very proud of them all.

On Thursday Tom's Talking Reptiles arrived in the School Hall including snakes, lizards and frogs. Year 1 are studying our wonderful world and this exciting visitor talked about habitats, conservation and awareness. Apparently reptiles are neither more nor less dangerous than other animals and Tom's aim is to help children overcome fears and learn facts to replace myths. See the website for photos!

This week's Lunchtime Superstar is Christopher B for his delightful manners and clear instructions when making his lunch choices. Well done Christopher.

Please can I remind you that the newsletter can be found in digital form in the Pre Prep section of the website every week. This allows you to share it with family if appropriate and to click on any links with ease. The paper copy, as I have always stated, is invaluable as a delightful document to share with your child. The Class Teachers report great joy as the newsletter is handed out for book bags with children accessing and enjoying both the news and the photos, especially in Year 2.

Congratulations to Ahlberg House for the second win of the term of with a terrific total of 500 Housepoints.

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This Week’s Merit Awards
Sophia A (who was missed from last week), James W, Max T, Freya C, Satvika R, Logan R, Thomas S, Felicity V, Remy O, Christopher D, Elise D, Ava C and Mathias P.

Philosopher of the Week
Fraser W

Thought of the Week
Is it better to work as a team?

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Work of the Week
This week's Work of the Week is by Arisa A from Year 2 Venus Class. Arisa has written an excellent account of her weekend. She used speech marks, connectives, super work choices, full stops, capital letters and feelings. Wow! All unaided.
Nursery and Pre-Reception News

Welcome to our new Rainbows, who have had their first week at Pre-Nursery. It was lovely to welcome the children and their families to St Christopher’s. This week our nursery rhyme is ‘1,2, Buckle my Shoe’. Each group received a present at the beginning of the week of a beautiful shoe and a copy of the poem. Children love to open gifts and were delighted with their shoe! Our sound of the week is ‘a’. How many things can you spot around your home that begin with ‘a’. There will be more information regarding early reading and writing skills at our Curriculum Evening meeting next Wednesday. Do please try and come along and join us. We have been thinking about ordering objects by size this week using the vocabulary tallest and shortest. The children have been measuring their feet using blocks; who has the biggest feet in your family? We have been celebrating some birthdays this week with yummy cake making as well as making cheese sticks and popcorn! We have also been concentrating on counting a number of items accurately. Some of us find this tricky so perhaps you could practice at home by counting out your pasta for dinner? Have a lovely weekend!

RECEPTION

In Reception we have been reading the story ‘Toys in Space.’ In the story the alien ‘The Hoctopize’ has lost his toy called ‘Cuddles’ and as a result is taking all toys of the world in an attempt to find his lost one. We talked about ‘The Hoctopize’ and his feelings as well as having a circle time about ‘taking without asking.’ However when we came into school on Tuesday our class bears had been stolen! In the bear’s empty bags we found notes from ‘The Hoctopize.’ He had lost his toy ‘Cuddles’ again! We have searched high and low around school with our handmade binoculars and used the Ipads to take photographs of ‘alien activity’. Afterwards we decided to write letters to ‘The Hoctopize’ asking for the return of our bears. Fortunately he received these letters and our bears were returned to us via parachute with a sorry letter. There was much excitement on Wednesday when we had Mrs Degg with us. She taught us how to mould and manipulate clay. We used these skills to make birds which have been fired ready to be painted in our next session. The children have been very busy with their addition skills this week using Numicon, buttons, beads and small alien figures. They are doing fabulously; some are even able to solve an addition sum practically and then write the corresponding number sentence! Top job!

The Foundation Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 30th January – 7pm Nursery and Pre-Reception Curriculum Meeting.
Thursday 31st January – Reception and Year 1 Explorer Dome morning.
Friday 1st February 9am – NEPTUNE Class assembly – All Neptune Class parents welcome. Refreshments will be served under the porch from 8.30 am.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES – 11.45am – 12.15pm & 2.45 – 3.45 pm

We were so pleased to see such a positive response to our Kind Koala initiative. Well done to the following children for demonstrating acts of particular kindness this week:

PLAYGROUND PANTHERS

This week’s playground panthers are: Rayyan W, Oliver N, Lambert S and Sophia A, Sam S and Reis P.

Mathletics: Congratulations go to Max T and Baxter M for gaining their Silver Awards and to Sophie B and Nathan H for achieving Bronze Awards.

Please remember that you can now follow us on Twitter at StChrisEpsom for information and weekly highlights.