



St Christopher's School

Weekly News

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Dear Parents

*Kung Hei Fat Choi! Happy New Year everyone for today sees the Chinese New Year enter the Year of the Horse. We had great fun working out which of the twelve animals in the Chinese calendar belong to the year in which we were born this week as we heard the story of the Jade Emperor and the famous race from Ancient China.*

*This week Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon chopping vegetables and investigating the interesting variety and range of noodles before cooking and tasting their own delicious stir fried dish. Thank you so much to Mrs Chong, Zachary's mother who shared so much information as well as her culinary skills to both year 2 and to Nursery during a second visit which provided Nursery with an opportunity to cook and enjoy some delicious Chinese food. Thank you to all our families who have either visited or been booked to visit the school for giving up their time and talents so generously. We love having such enthusiastic guests into school.*

*Last Friday we all enjoyed the Class Assembly produced by Saturn Class. They are learning about the Rain Forrest and they acted, sang, danced and dressed up in colourful animal costumes. We also learnt about the rainforest water cycle and particularly enjoyed hearing tips from each child about 'How to turn your bedroom into a Rain Forrest' with advice such as, 'First turn your heating up' followed by 'Next use a hose to soak your bedroom carpet!' Apologies in advance to all Year 1 parents! Thank you Saturn for such an enjoyable and polished assembly and thank you to Mrs London, assisted by Mrs Degg for the wonderful performance.*

*This week's Lunchtime Superstar is Jacob F for trying a dish he was sure that he didn't like and returning to the Catering Team to not only tell them that he had enjoyed it but to ask for seconds!*

*We are always delighted to receive your views both to celebrate what we are doing well and to let us know about your suggestions for development in areas that we could do better. Accordingly we will be sending out an annual questionnaire which we will follow up with feedback to you with detailed analysis. Please do take the few minutes necessary to capture your ideas and return this to us as soon as possible but at the latest by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February so that the results will reflect the views of as many families as possible. Thank you. Well done to all the children in Dahl House who have shot to the top of the leader board this week with a total of 508 housepoints.*

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

**This Week's Merit Awards**

Georgina W, Alex S, Phoebe J, Ava S, Stanley G, Rocco S, Arlo R, Vihaan S, Yasmin V, Michael S, Lara K

**Philosopher of the Week**

Savannah W

**Thought for the Week**

Should you carry on with your own life when others need help?

Work of the Week – Jupiter Class

In Year 1 we have been learning about speech bubbles and speech marks. Destiny M wrote this fantastic piece of speech from the beautiful fairy and cleverly used a speech bubble. She will then put this speech into a story using speech marks in her literacy book.  
Well done Destiny!



I'm going to get you and  
turn you into a frog and once I've  
done that I will sell you to a witch  
and she will put you in her cauldron and  
drink you all up and put you to  
her rat and dogs!

## Foundation Stage News

Foundation Stage children would like to wish everyone 'A Happy New Year'. We hope that the Year of the Horse is lucky for you. This has been a wonderful week of learning about Chinese culture and celebrations.

The Neptune Class assembly was a wonderful finale to the week. The children worked so hard, they sang a Chinese Happy New Year song beautifully and remembered a super poem about a fiery dragon. The children worked in a group to make a wonderful, scary, red Chinese dragon – did you see his teeth?



All of the Foundation Stage children have been learning the story of how the Chinese New Years got their names. Can your children remember which animals swam in the race? Did you think the rat was clever or a cheat? The Reception children loved writing and illustrating the story in little zig zag books. They got into the spirit of the celebrations sharing a traditional Satsuma with their friends. They enjoyed trying prawn crackers and noodles too!!

In Nursery we have been working on 'fine motor skills' using chopsticks and tweezers to pick up noodles. The 'gross motor' activities included trying Chinese ribbon dancing using large rhythmical movements of the arms and whole body.

We were very impressed by some wonderful imaginative and creative interpretations to the music of bells.

In Maths this week some of the children counted coins into red Chinese New Year envelopes, great counting children! Lots of children have tried their hands at writing Chinese characters and colouring dragon mask pictures. We have continued to develop our cutting skills making and decorating Chinese Lanterns with scissors as well as using knives to cut vegetables to make 'Chinese Stir Fry'. Thank you so much to Mrs Chong for coming to cook with us and teaching us to use chopsticks.



We are still learning lots of Nursery Rhymes. In Nursery next week we are going to learn about eggs and walls, can you guess the rhyme?

**PLEASE NOTE: 12.0'CLOCK COLLECTION.**

In Nursery we are going to introduce a new home time routine at 12 o'clock. All the children will wait in the art room. As we see each parent/carer arrive at the door we will call the child to the door and say "Goodbye". Thank you for your co-operation.

### **The Foundation Team**

Please remember the Reception children all need raincoats, fleeces and PE kits in school every day. Thank You.

The Foundation Stage



## **Next Week is Austrian & German Food Week**

### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Governors' Meeting

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Year 2 Activity Afternoon at Chinthurst School

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 9am: MARS Class Assembly -

*Parents are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available in the Porch from 8.30am.*

### School Questionnaire

Please complete and return your questionnaire by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### Pupil Data Forms

Thank you for returning your forms so promptly. We are still waiting for a few. Please note they must be returned even if the information on our database previously submitted is correct.

### Nursery Places for Siblings

If you are considering a Nursery place at St Christopher's for your younger child in 2014/15 and have not already registered, please let the office know immediately. We are also already experiencing high demand for places in 2015/2016 and would encourage you to register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Please contact the office for a registration form.

