



St Christopher's School

Weekly News

Friday 7th February 2014

Dear Parents

Last week we were delighted to watch Neptune Class perform an assembly all about the Chinese New Year actually on the day of the festival. The children welcomed us all into the hall with their tuneful song, Kung Hei Fat Choi and proceeded to tell us about the customs associated with this exciting time of year. In stunning masks they then acted out the Great Race with all the animals taking part. We also enjoyed a full Dragon Dance around the Hall accompanied by musicians playing authentic music and ribbon dancers adding to the atmosphere. All of this joy provided by a young Reception Class! Well done to the clever children in Neptune and special thanks to Miss Eames ably supported by Mrs King for producing such a spectacular.

This week is Austrian Week and as well as delicious food at lunchtime, we welcomed into school Aiden's Mummy and the Lumsden's German Nanny Jessi who prepared and cooked a delicious Apple Strudel with a very enthusiastic Year 1. Thanks also to the Nanny of the Radleys, a former family who came in to cook Der Kaiserschmarrn with our Reception children. We are very lucky and most grateful to you all for so kindly sharing your talents.

On Thursday afternoon Year 2 were invited to Chinthurst School for an afternoon of extra-curricular challenge. The Chinthurst staff were very kind and worked around the wet weather to give our children some enjoyable opportunities including indoor football and netball in the gym and science and art fun. It was lovely to see our year 2 children working together with their host year 2s. Our thanks to everyone involved.

Thank you to all those families who took the time to complete their school questionnaire. We received just under 100 responses and we will look at all submissions and give you detailed feedback from your valuable comments in due course. If you haven't completed your questionnaire yet and could do so this weekend we would be very grateful so that we can get a really accurate poll of our parents' views.

*Congratulations to **Dahl** House who following their success from last week have retained their position at the top with a total of **627** housepoints.*

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This Week's Merit Awards

Millie M, Oliver H, Lucy D, Natasha C, Raadhika W, Poppy L, Luke S, Joaquin G, Lucas C, Abby S, Noah T, Toby H, Arthur L.

Philosopher of the Week

Dominic Q

Thought for the Week

Has everyone got goodness in them?

Event of the Week

Every year in January we invite back the children from last year's Year 2 so that we can see just how much they have grown and admire the range and selection of uniforms at the Reunion Tea Party.



We began with a circle and put out photos of the Year 2 from their time at St Christopher's from Nursery upwards. We also had the photos of Beauty and the Beast revolving on the Hall Whiteboard. The chatter initially is nonstop as the children quickly catch up with old friends.



We had a super turn out this year with William travelling over from Switzerland specially. We tried to take a photo of the whole group but it was too big to fit into shot this year! Here are a few of our lovely last Year 2



After much laughter, a party tea and a quiz, we took the children on a tour of the school and showed them the new Mercury Classroom. They gasped in admiration at the new library! Thank you children. We all enjoyed seeing you again. Keep in touch!

Foundation Stage News

The children in Mars class love rhymes and rhyming. This was clearly evident in their wonderful marvellous assembly! Well done children.

Twinkly, sparkly, shiny, fuzzy are some of the adjectives that the children in Reception have used to describe their stars. Yes, this week the children are learning all about stars and the rhyme Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Night time is a good rhyme time. The children have made moons and explored 'Moon Sand' for the rhyme 'Hey Diddle, Diddle'.

On Tuesday the Reception children enjoyed their Maths activities as they set off on a hunt looking for shapes around the school. They found lots of 2 dimensional shapes such as squares, rectangles and circles. They also learnt that arches are made with curved sides but other shapes have straight sides. The children counted the sides and looked at the corners.



Making the moon



Reception moon made from foil and pasta

The Nursery Rhyme in Nursery this week has been Humpty Dumpty. We started with the story of how Humpty wanted to climb on the wall but the Kings Horses and the Kings Men told him 'No, Humpty you will fall.' The children were shocked to see that Humpty was a REAL egg and could not be put back together again! We looked at the inside of an egg and talked about the yellow yolk and the gloopy albumen. Later in the week we looked at a boiled egg that did not break easily!

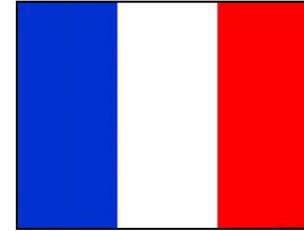
We used real bricks to make the wall for our story which introduced our maths focus, to explore things that are 'heavy' or 'not heavy'. We have also been using the mathematical language to compare weight: 'light', 'heavier', 'and 'heaviest'. Understanding and using these tricky mathematical concepts are invaluable to prepare children for future learning in the maths focus on Space, Shape and Measure. Why not explore in your home and garden and find things that are heavy or light or things that weigh the same. Can your child carry their heavy box of cars? How heavy does the box feel if it is full of cuddly toys?



Adjective Stars

We have also tried to build with 'duplo' bricks and large blocks outside to make a strong wall like real builders. Some children had a go at making a 'Humpty picture' using squares and rectangles to make a repeating pattern for Humpty's wall. We looked at the shapes and talked about how they are different, the rectangles have two long sides and the square's sides are all the same.

Thank you to all the Nursery parents who came to the Reading and Writing Workshop. We hope it was useful.
The Foundation Team



Next Week is French Food Week

DIARY DATES

Monday 10th February: Year 2 visit to the Barbican Centre
We will be leaving promptly after registration.

Friday 14th February at 9am: JUPITER Class Assembly

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



PTA News

Our thanks go to Mrs Lisa Manley and her team for brilliantly organising the PTA Quiz Night and to Mr and Mrs Jones for compiling the splendid quiz. Nearly £300 was raised towards PTA funds at this enjoyable evening.

**Our thanks also go to Mrs Ros Cook for once again co-ordinating the family photography day – we will let you know how much was raised.
Thank you to all our parents who supported these events.**

SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER BALL ON SATURDAY 3rd MAY

CLUBS

We have one space in Stage 1 Violin on Thursdays and two spaces in Football Club on Tuesdays. If you are interested in your child joining these clubs, please let the Office know.