



St Christopher's School

Weekly News

Friday 16th October 2015

Dear Parents

On Friday we welcomed some prospective parents into school to enjoy our first Open Morning of the year. We were delighted to see record numbers and all our guests enjoyed seeing the school on working day. They were particularly impressed by the maiden speeches of our Head Boy and Head Girl together with their Deputies. The speeches were a highlight for me too. Well done Arthur, Daisy, Louisa and Stanley. You wrote and presented your speeches with style.

Some of you may have followed our quest to fill a new post that we have created: an Academic Deputy Headteacher to work alongside Mrs Garrod our Pastoral Deputy Head. We were delighted to appoint our very own Mrs Meredith-Bennett last week who stood out in a strong field and has past leadership experience which will prove invaluable in this exciting new role. She will take up her post in January and move to Year 1 in the New Year where she will share classroom responsibilities with Mrs Russell who will become part time. We are currently appointing a Reception Teacher to take her place and work in harmony with Mrs Self in Mars. As always our focus will be on the smooth transition for the children. We are also delighted to have been able to create another new post for an additional Teaching Assistant. Mrs Hilary Burke will be joining the team after half term and will be situated in Neptune Class and Nursery and Mrs Caroline Richardson will join Year 1 five mornings a week. We are all delighted with the additional support that these two new posts will offer and know that you will make the new staff welcome in our happy school community.

May I wish you all a happy and safe half term holiday break. Please remember that when we return all children must be in full winter uniform. Do please take a moment to check that every part of your child's uniform is clearly labelled so that your child can manage their uniform independently and we can minimise the time spent searching for any lost property.

This week's Lunchtime Superstar is Dylan F for always cleaning his plate and enjoying seconds every day.

Congratulations to **Dahl** House for winning this week's housepoint challenge. They soared to the top of the leader board with an excellent **820** housepoints.

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This week's Merit Awards

Harriet G, Toby H, Lauren M, Matthew S, Dylan F, Jasmine C, Iman O, Leo R, Naomi B, Milo H, Freya M, Jamie H and William W

Philosopher of the Week

Freya B

Thought for the Week

Why do people break promises?

Work of the Week - Neptune Class

This week the work of the week is from Iman O in Neptune Reception Class. When writing her news on Monday, Iman chose a super sentence starter and then used her phonic knowledge to independently sound out the rest of the words for her news. Iman is only 4 years and 3 months old! What a superstar. Well done Iman, you have made a wonderful start in Reception.



DIARY DATES

HALF TERM - 17TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd November - NO FOOTBALL CLUB

Extra session on Tuesday 8th December.

Thursday 5th November - Pupil Portraits

Lawrence Photography will be taking photos of individual pupils and (in school) sibling groups. Please ensure your child is wearing clean, smart uniform and has neat hair.

Friday 6th November at 9am

JUPITER Class Assembly

All parents and carers welcome to attend. Coffee will be served under the porch from 8.30am

PTA FUN MATS - Apologies for the delay in circulating the Fun Mat orders. The PTA had planned to circulate these before half term but are currently waiting on the suppliers. If the children have not brought them home today, they will be sent home on their return on Monday 2nd November. In the meantime if you have any queries, please contact Rachel R.

Tuesday 10th November - PTA 2nd Hand Sales

11.45am and 2.45pm in Saturn Classroom

Good quality items at terrific prices!

RECEPTION – YEAR 2: WINTER UNIFORM

Please remember that winter uniform should be worn after half-term. The holiday is a good opportunity to practice with unfamiliar items, eg boys should be able to tie their ties and do up the top & cuff buttons on their shirt. If you would like any guidance about the items required, please contact the School Office.



Poppies for Remembrance Day will be on sale at school after half-term

**Mathletics
Congratulations for Bronze Awards to: Alexander M
and Joe C**

**Also well done to Sachin W for earning
his Silver Award.**



Foundation Stage News



I am not sure if the pirates found many volcanoes on their pirate islands but the scientists in Reception have been learning how to make their own volcanoes. Can your child remember what ingredients they added to make their volcanoes erupt? The children were fascinated to find out how a powder and two liquids bubble and foam when they are mixed together.

Some naughty pirates have been in the classrooms and have removed some numbers from the number lines. The children had to

work out which ones had been taken and then they tried hard to write the numbers that were missing.

The teachers are very impressed with the children's news writing. They are so clever listening for, and writing, the sounds they can hear to form words and even trying to write sentences. The writing focus this week has been leaving 'finger spaces' between each word and ending the sentence with a full stop. This is grown up work children, keep practising!

The Nursery children have been learning about important people who we meet when we are not well. In the garden the vets have been busy helping some very poorly pets and indoors we are learning to take turns being the doctor, nurse and patient. We looked at the book 'Going to Hospital' by Anne Civardi and Stephen Cartwright. We will need a lot of training to learn to be doctors so we will continue this theme after half term.

Science and maths activities are great fun in Nursery too! The children looked at the bucket and said 'Can we fill this too? It's bigger'. Some of the boys had enjoyed mixing up and measuring 'medicine' in the water tray. What fun!

In our phonic sessions we have been listening out for rhyming words. This is a very hard concept for lots of children to grasp. Please help your child at home by reading and talking about the rhyming words in books, poems and nursery rhymes that you share with your child. Maybe you could have fun making up some nonsense rhymes together.

If you have any comics or children's magazines that you no longer need please could we have them for our doctor's surgery role play area.

The children in the Foundation Stage enjoy outdoor activities in all weather. If your child has grown out of their Wellington Boots please could you pass them to the Reception or Nursery staff so we can learn in rain or shine. Many Thanks.

The Foundation Team

