



Weekly News

Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Winter Concert

At St Christopher's, we look forward to all our music concerts and events. We aim to foster a love of music by bringing the whole school together for concerts where the children inspire each other with their talents. This was the case on Monday, when we had children as young as 4 performing on the piano and were even treated to a delightful performance of the Wallace and Gromit theme on the clarinet. Our Year 2 choir tested out a brand-new song that they are learning for an upcoming music festival, and we had a fabulous performance by our recorder group. We look forward to seeing what our talented children offer next term! A big thank you to all the parents who came along to support our talented musicians.

The RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch



On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome a special visitor to our morning assembly, Mr Marshall, a conservation scientist for the RSPB. Mr Marshall, who has a child in our nursery, very kindly came in to speak to our children about the Big Schools' Bird Watch. During his engaging talk, he explained to the children that the RSPB helps to look after birds in particular but also other creatures as well. The children were so inspired by the talk that the nursery children immediately went back to the nursery, found their binoculars, and started to search for birds on the school grounds. If you are interested in getting involved in the Big Garden Birdwatch, between 26 and 28 January people are being asked to spend an hour observing and recording birds that visit your space. To learn more about this event, please visit the [Big Garden Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk) website.

Year One News

This week in Maths, we have continued to look at place value using number lines. The children have made their own number lines using chalk and have been estimating where to place numbers. Additionally, they confidently applied mathematical symbols such as < (less than), > (greater than), and + (equals) to compare different numbers. Our literacy focus has been to use question marks and exclamation marks appropriately. We read the story of Oliver's Vegetables and then identified the punctuation in it. Drawing inspiration from this, the children wrote their own sentences, ensuring the correct placement of punctuation marks. Following on from the amazing talk from the conservation scientist Mr Marshall, the children have made some bird cakes in preparation for taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. Some beautiful pieces of art were produced in Year 1 this week where we focussed on using different-sized brushes to paint a piece of fruit or a vegetable. The children were inspired by looking at the fruit paintings of Cezanne.

Year Two News

Rehearsals for Panto Pandemonium are now in full swing. Scenes have been blocked and movement has been added. The children have been working on volume and speaking clearly so that they can project their voices in the Hall. Alongside this, they have continued their individual research projects to answer the question, Are Trees Important? In Science, the children were fascinated by teeth. They learnt about the different types of teeth humans have as well as the important function each type has. Plenty of valuable discussion took place about how to look after your teeth and the children enjoyed sharing their own experiences. In Topic, Year 2 have continued to explore the fascinating life of Henry VIII. They learnt about his wives and other aspects of his life. They were excited to discover that one of his palaces is nearby, Hampton Court, and they were shocked to find out that he had a Groom of the Stool! After learning all about Henry VIII life, the children used their newfound knowledge to create a mind map of what they found out.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health week, from 5-11 February, is a mental health awareness week that empowers, equips, and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK. The theme this year is "My Voice Matters" and it is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. We will be talking to the children about what is important to them and on Friday 9th February we will be celebrating how unique we all are and invite children to wear their best disco clothes to school that day as it coincides with the PTA Valentine's Disco after school.

Valentine's Disco on Friday 9th February

Our wonderful PTA is organising a disco for the children on Friday 9th February, tickets are bookable via the PTA website. Children are invited to wear their disco clothes to school which will enable children to celebrate their uniqueness and save parents from changing their children after school!

Swop Shop on Friday 9th February

The PTA will be holding a Swop Shop on Friday 9th February offering parents the opportunity to acquire pre-loved costumes for a small fee. If you have any costumes that your child has outgrown or no longer wears, we welcome your generous donations. Please drop off these costumes at the school in the morning, and the PTA will then gather and organise them for the Swop Shop event

World Book Day 7th March 2024

I know World Book Day is a few weeks away yet, but as we are holding the swop shop in 2 weeks, I thought I would announce that this year's World Book Day theme is for children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. It's going to be a day filled with literary fun and imagination!

Parking

We would ask that parents are mindful when parking on the pavement that this restricts families with prams and buggy's to be able to walk safely to school. Several parents have reported that they have had to walk in the road with their children as they are unable to get past cars that are obstructing the pavement.

This weeks lunch time superstar is Muzhi D in Reception for scrapping your plate clean this week. Well done for enjoying your lunches so much!

Top of the leader board this week is Kemp House with a superb total of 465 House points. Congratulations to Kemp house.

Merit Awards:

Joshua M, Oliver K, Zara L, Daisy GD, Grace C, Ethan W, Jamie BR, Charlie L, Daniel G, Kit W, Reva M and William I .

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

Work of the Week

James in Year 2 used adverbs superbly in this piece of literacy. The text that inspired him is 'The House Held Up By Trees, by Ted Kooser.

L.O.C options with adverbs



Slowly, the tiny saplings start to sprout.



Gradually, the wind was blowing the trees.



Delicately, the trees were growing really tall.



Quickly, the house starts being held up by trees.

Spelling:
really

What super adverbs you have used here James. You even remembered to use a comma after the adverb. Wow!

Nursery and Pre-Reception News

We have had a busy week as always in Nursery. Our learning this week has been all about how to keep healthy and brushing our teeth. In Blue room the children have been painting healthy foods using real fruit and vegetables for inspiration. In the kitchen we have continued to make a healthy vegetables soup, as the children enjoyed this very much, and in Green room we have been using playdoh to make healthy plates of food to share. In maths we have been learning about repeating patterns! We looked at different patterns using colours and shapes. In our phonics session this week for the Pre Reception children; our focus sound was 'a'. The children have been saying and writing 'a' and have made apples to help them remember the new sound. We also got to enjoy a very special assembly hosted by one of our very own Nursery parents. We learnt so much about the RSPB and we cannot wait to have our very own bird watching station set up in the Nursery garden next week! Enjoy your weekend, we wonder what birds you can find in your garden!



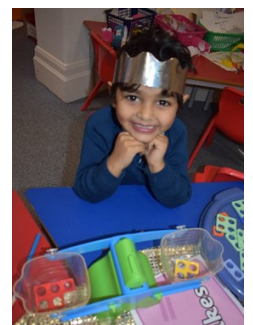
Reception News

It's been a bubble-tastic week this week in Reception! We started the week off by thinking about dragons. We read several books about them, but one really caught our imagination. It was all about a dragon who blew bubbles instead of fire. Being keen scientists, we wanted to learn more about bubbles and decided to test whether different shaped wands would create different shaped bubbles. We tried square, triangle and even rectangle wands. Can you guess which 3D shape they became? Yes, they were all sphere shapes. We couldn't believe it!

In literacy, we read the story 'The Paper Bag Princess'. The princess had to trick the dragon to rescue her prince, but when she did, he wasn't impressed and didn't even say 'Thank you'! We thought he needed to write a letter to say sorry for being ungrateful. So, we all wrote the letters 'in character' as the prince. We are getting very skilled at applying our double letter sounds in our reading and now in our writing too!

In Maths we were looking at the equals sign = as a balance. Using Numicon and balance scales we checked our calculations. Many of us could use different ways to find the same amount too e.g. $5 = 2 + 3$ and $5 = 2 + 1 + 1 + 1$.

What superstar mathematicians we have!



The Foundation Team

Friday 2nd February - PTA Quiz Night



Friday 9th February - St Christopher's PTA Valentines Disco

Tickets are £5. Go to events on the PTA website <https://www.pta-events.com/stchristophersepsom/index.cfm?event=shop>

Tickets are first come first served and will not be available on the door.

Please note that Owls collection will be from the main front door on Friday 9th due to the children's disco in the hall. If you are returning to Owls after the disco finishes at 4.15, please can you email the office so that we can amend the Owls register for Friday.

Friday 9th February - Swap Shop in the Outdoor Classroom



Saturday 11th May - 85th Anniversary Ball

Epsom Race Course



Mathletics: Congratulations to **Ethan W** and **Arthur SA** for your Gold Certificates.

Congratulations to **James M** and **Zara L** for your Platinum Certificate.





**St Christopher's Valentines
Disco**

Friday 9th Feb 2024

THE PTA INVITES YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND THE
VALENTINES DISCO, WHERE THEY CAN DANCE
TO THEIR HEART'S CONTENT.

BOOK NOW VIA THE PTA WEBSITE



Celebrating

85 years



You are cordially invited to attend...

St Christopher's School

Reach for the Stars Ball

Saturday 11 May 2024

The Derby Suite, Epsom racecourse

7.30pm to 1am

Black tie & gorgeous gowns

Join us for an incredible evening of
dinner, drinks, dancing and fun.

Tickets £95 per person, including arrival drinks,
seated main course & dessert, 1/2 bottle of wine
and a live band!

