



## Weekly News

Friday 8th November 2024



### **Dear Parents,**

Welcome Back! I do hope everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing break with friends and family. We are looking forward to a fantastic term ahead filled with exciting activities and of course, our Christmas Fair, which is being held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Diwali Dancing**

We had a fantastic first day back with Dance Days visiting our school. They led workshops inspired by Diwali, teaching the children traditional and creative dance moves to celebrate this beautiful festival of lights. The energy and enthusiasm were wonderful to see as the children learned about Diwali through the art of dance. A huge thank you to our PTA for arranging this wonderful experience.

### **Remembrance Service at Bourne Hall**

I was incredibly proud of our Year 2 pupils on Wednesday, as they represented St Christopher's at Bourne Hall for the opening of their Garden of Remembrance. Their rendition of "In Flanders Fields" was beautiful and incredibly moving. On Monday, the whole school will come together at 11am for a moment of silence and stand in the playground to remember those who gave their lives so that we may enjoy peace.

*"We will remember them".*



### **Special Visitor to St Christopher's**

We were delighted to welcome Rudi Eliot Lockhart to school on Friday. Rudi is the CEO of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) and was delighted to meet staff and children during his visit.

### **Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Odd Socks Day on Tuesday marks the start of national Anti-Bullying Week in the UK. It provides a chance for children and adults alike to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way. Children and adults alike are asked to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is to wear odd socks.

### **Year One News**

This week, Year 1 explored *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and the children created fantastic story maps to help sequence the events. They then used their maps to rewrite the story, focusing on capital letters, full stops, and adjectives. Some children demonstrated their creative side by changing characters – **Izzy** replaced the goats with sheep who were on the hunt for sweet-smelling grass!

In Maths, the focus was on understanding "greater than", "less than", and "equal to" and applying these concepts with the appropriate mathematical symbols.

In Science, the children used their sense of touch to identify objects in a feely bag. They were blindfolded to make the challenge even trickier! **Daniel** described a "bumpy cylinder with a smooth inside" and correctly guessed it was a coffee cup. This activity was a big hit, with many wanting to try it again at home.

The children have been crafting 3D rockets using recyclable materials. The results were impressive, with colourful rockets, creative nose cones, and unique decorations.

In preparation for next week's focus, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, the children created maps with a key and symbols, marking areas such as woods, paths, and cottages.

Finally, following our PSHE work on similarities, we have been exploring differences. **Ralph** discovered that he loves to play golf, while Miss Kay hasn't tried it yet!

## Year Two News

Year 2 have jumped right back into their story writing this week, producing some thoughtful and expressive retellings of *The Heart and the Bottle* by Oliver Jeffers. They used descriptive language to capture the main character's emotions, with **Vihaan** writing, "She decided to put her heart in a bottle to protect her from more pain," and describing her as "devastated and distraught" after her grandfather's passing. **Charlie** showcased mature storytelling phrases such as, "She put her heart in a bottle, which fixed things at first," using clever time connectives such as "time passed" to show the character's journey into adulthood.

Further literacy work had the children writing in the first person as if they were a cat chasing an alien! **Lucy** took it upon herself to write, "I sprinted and dashed but I couldn't get it – it was too fast!" capturing the excitement beautifully.

In Maths, the focus was on reinforcing multiplication and division, applying strategies to solve word problems with confidence and skill.

Science brought a practical challenge: determining the best type of paper for wrapping a present to be mailed. **Thomas** could have landed a spot in Santa's workshop with his swift mastery of wrapping techniques, proving very helpful to his team. **Lyana's** organised notetaking made it easy for her to transfer data into her findings – superb teamwork and focus from all of Venus Year Two!

## Christmas Fair 2024 News and Dates

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2.00pm – 5.00pm**

This year, the PTA are bringing something truly enchanting to St Christopher's. Some of the highlights include:

- Santa's Grotto – this year, each child will receive a special gift and a chance to meet Santa. Book your slot at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stchristopherepsom> For just £7, your child will enjoy a magical moment with Santa and take home a surprise gift that holds a bit of Christmas magic.
- Raffle with some amazing prizes, including a brand-new PS5, a pair of Google Earbuds and Tickets to Wicked the Musical. Buy your raffle tickets at the fair or online at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stchristopherepsom> £15 for strip of 5 tickets.
- Don't forget to buy your tickets at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stchristopherepsom> The passports are £10 per child, which includes 4 activities and 2 games.

The PTA do need help with fundraising and have asked for the following support (please see the Christmas Fair newsletter for more information):

- Jolly Bags to be returned to school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- Mufti Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – parents are asked to bring in bottles for the tombola on this day.
- Elfridges – House colour gifts to be brought in between Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

## Volunteering at the Christmas Fair

The fair would not be a success without parents or grandparents volunteering to look after a stall. No previous experience required!

Book your 30-minute slot at: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1011657160069/true#/invitation>

I would just like to thank everyone in advance for all your support in making this Christmas Fair a success, it is hugely appreciated.

This weeks lunch time superstar is Zhibo for being very kind and giving your portion of the last piece of cake to your friend.  
Well done Zhibo!

Top of the leader board this week is **Ahlberg** House with a superb total of **305** House points. Congratulations to **Ahlberg** house Ahlberg.

## Merit Awards:

Laksh P, Arvid M, Dawn F, Marth VA, Eva B, George Z, Thomas M, Zhibo X, Sofia L, Heidi L, Florence P and Estrella W

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

## Work of the Week

Year 2 have been working on re-telling the story 'The Heart and The Bottle' by Oliver Jeffers using feelings and time connectives. Well done Charlie for using clever time connectives to show the characters journey into adulthood.

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> NOV  
L.O. uses time connectives  
The Heart and the bottle

✓ "Grandad I'm bored" moaned Lyana  
well do a <sup>picture</sup> exclaimed Grandad.  
✓ But I don't want to" added Lyana  
just read a historical book Grandad  
♥ - groaned <sup>read</sup> exasperatedly. Lyana read  
three and half chapters but... ✓  
when she got to the bright cosy red  
chair it was empty. suddenly! Lyana  
fell to the floor as Lyana became  
heartbroken. <sup>hour</sup> ~~four~~ hours later Lyana  
put her heart in a glass bottle  
to keep it safe ~~in~~ which fixed  
things at first. ✓ Time past and Lyana  
was a grown up now but Lyana was  
still devastated. She even <sup>was</sup> ok with  
now realised the bottle had  
become. Lyana <sup>was</sup> strolling until...  
Lyana saw a girl who was curious  
Some wonderful, thoughtful word choices  
Charlie. This is fabulous!  
I can see speech marks, synonyms for said  
and time connectives too. Now! 3hp.



## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

Welcome back from half term! It's been a very busy week in Nursery; we began by sharing our half term news and finding out about all the children's adventures. Some children enjoyed Halloween and dressed as skeletons and some children went on exciting holidays. WHIZZ, BOOM, POP, WHOOSH, BANG! These are the sounds that we've been hearing in Nursery this week, as we've started off this half term with FIREWORKS! In the garden we have been busy building and keeping warm around our bonfire! Whilst gathering sticks, the children talked about keeping warm and decided they needed hot chocolate, which we then enjoyed on Friday as special treat! The children had a great time making their very own hot chocolate, counting out two scoops of powder, adding their own warm water and giving it lots of stirring -a delicious treat to sip around the bonfire. We've also been learning about Diwali this week. The children have been making their own diva lamps from salt dough and using their cutting skills to make some lovely tiger striped paper chains. The children have also been creating their own glittery firework pictures and using a range of different shapes to create rockets. What a bright and brilliant week in Nursery.



## Reception News

This half term has certainly started with a bang, as we've had a wonderful time celebrating both Diwali and Bonfire Night! We've been busy exploring Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and it's been so lovely to hear all about how some of our friends celebrated this special occasion at home with their families. A big thank you to the PTA for organising a fun Diwali dance workshop. We had a blast learning some new dance moves and exploring different ways to move to the rhythm of the music.

As part of Diwali, fireworks play an important role in the celebrations, and this led us seamlessly into our exploration of Bonfire Night. We took a little trip back in time to learn about the history of Bonfire Night and, most importantly, how we can stay safe when enjoying fireworks. Our creativity really shone through as we got busy making our own firework displays using brightly coloured paints and a generous sprinkling of glitter, sparklers you can wave and sparklers you can eat!

We also had a lot of fun playing with the sounds of fireworks. The children really enjoyed exploring onomatopoeia, the fun words that mimic the sounds of fireworks, like 'pop', 'boom', and 'whoosh'. It's amazing to see how well the children are applying their phonological awareness to these words in their writing.

In addition to all the noise and colour, we also explored shapes. We used different shapes to design firework rockets which the children independently photographed to upload and share with you on SeeSaw!

It's been a wonderful start to the half term, and we can't wait to see what the next few weeks will bring! Keep an eye on SeeSaw for more updates and photos of all the fantastic learning and fun we're having.



**The Foundation Team**

## Dates for the Diary

### **Tuesday 12th November - Anti Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day**

*Children can wear odd socks to school*

### **Friday 15th November - Mufti Day**

*Children can wear their own clothes to school. In exchange , we ask that a bottle of wine, fizz or other luxury item be bought in. The PTA will be collecting the bottles on the back porch.*

### **Friday 15th November - Return of your PTA Christmas Jolly Bag**



**Mathletics:** Congratulations to Arvid M, Florence P, Ivan C, Sophia M, and Chloe B for your Silver Certificates



### **Spotty Box: Awards for success outside school:**

Clara C - Star of the week at swimming

Sebastian C - football team won u7's Street 2 Pro tournament

