



Weekly News

"St Christopher's – nurturing independent, highly-motivated and engaged children."

Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents,

Poetry Recitals

We have had a wonderful week where the children have been performing their poems. From heartfelt performances to imaginative creativity, every child brought their words to life with confidence and enthusiasm. It was truly inspiring to see the children's expressive voices, dramatic gestures, and growing love of poetry. A huge well done to all our young performers – you made us proud! Thank you to our families and teachers for encouraging such wonderful creativity. A specific well done to our winners:

Early Years Poetry Recital Winners



1st Finn (Reception), 2nd Sasha (Pre-Reception), 3rd Ashwin (Reception)

Key Stage One Poetry Recital Winners

1st Alisa (Year 2), 2nd Luigi (Year 1),
3rd Charlie (Year 2)



Cross-country competition at Daneshill - Thursday 27th February

A team of 12 runners (6 boys and 6 girls) were selected to run for the school in an 800M race this Thursday. To keep up with our impressive young poetry readers this week, Mrs Barker has summarised the trip in rhyme.

St. Christopher's Race Day Cheer

Through mud and rain, they trained so well,
Splashing, dashing—couldn't you tell?
Race day came, the buzz was high,
The field was HUGE! Oh my, oh my!

Off they sped with all their might,
Rory L & Martha...a real highlight!
Year 1 girls raced up a year,
Brave and bold, they showed no fear.

With excellence, they ran so fast,
With empathy, cheered 'til the last!
With endeavour, they all crossed the finish line,
Teachers and parents proud to see them shine!



Open Morning at St Christopher's

We had a lovely Open Morning today, welcoming prospective parents to our school. The children truly shone, impressing our visitors with their enthusiasm, kindness, and confidence. They were a real credit to you all and to our school community. We also always appreciate our parents recommending St Christopher's to their friends and neighbours. Thank you for your continued support in making our school such a special place!

Year One News

The Year 1 classrooms were filled with wonderful poems on Monday, making it a tough decision for Miss Kay and Miss Speer to choose representatives for the finals. In grammar, the children explored suffixes (-est, -ing, and -er) and learned how to apply them correctly. Our comprehension task had the children captivated by the story of the Titanic, discovering where it was built, where it set sail from, and why it never reached New York.

In Maths, this week, the children practised subtraction using number lines, counting back, and recording their answers with the correct mathematical notation.

In topic, the children successfully used an atlas to locate and name the seven continents and five oceans of the world. We have had fascinating hands-on lesson on absorbency with the children investigation which material would be best for soaking up a puddle with water. The children really enjoyed being scientists!

Year Two News

There was great excitement in Year 2 this week as the children became scientists, investigating the effects of different liquids on eggshells. This experiment helped the children understand how these liquids might affect their teeth! They tested milk, cola, tea, and vinegar, ensuring a fair test and observing the changes daily. Some results were quite startling – be sure to ask Year 2 what happened to the egg in vinegar!

In literacy, a mysterious box arrived in the classroom with a label that read, "take care when opening to avoid me floating away". This sparked lots of curiosity, with children using a variety of question starters. Chloe's insightful question, "Where did it come from, and should we open it?" got everyone thinking. When they finally opened the box, they discovered a cloud balloon inside, leading them to explore a new book: 'Lizzy and the Cloud' by the Fan Brothers. The children have been learning about expanded noun phrases and practising how to use them to describe and specify nouns.

In Maths, Year 2 have been sharpening their number skills, focusing on multiplying and dividing by 2, 5, and 10. Strategic thinking was essential in the "Hit the Target" doubling and halving game, and they explored how number patterns and arrays can help when dividing by 10 and 5.

The Victorian topic has continued to inspire the children. They have been exploring what life was like for both rich and poor people during the Victorian era. Remy and Faith were fantastic models, wearing examples of Victorina children's clothing. Remy cleverly deduced that he was dressed as a poor boy because his sleeves were unfinished, and the colours were dull. The class learned that poorer people often wore darker clothes since keeping them clean was difficult in factories and mines, where many worked. In Art, Year 2 have been studying the work of the famous Victorian designer, William Morris. They carefully copied some of his intricate patterns before using his style as inspiration for their own creative designs.

It's been a week full of curiosity, discovery, and creativity in Year 2!

Gate Security

I would like to kindly ask for your vigilance when entering and leaving the school premises at the back of the school. We have noticed that some parents have been leaving the gate open after passing through, which poses a security concern.

To help ensure the safety of all our children, please make sure the gate is firmly closed behind you each time you enter or exit. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Changes to Owls Timings

A letter has gone out to Owls parents about new arrangements for picking up children. The letter includes the following information:

We would like to inform you about a change in the pick-up arrangements for Owls which will begin from Monday 24th February (the first Monday after half term). Due to an increase in numbers, we are adjusting the pick-up timings to ensure a smooth transition between activities, to have sufficient time to eat tea and to better support our systems for safely releasing children to their parents or carers.

We have carefully planned the new timings to maintain flexibility for parents as much as possible. However, please note that if you arrive outside of these times, staff will not be able to step away from their scheduled activities, except in exceptional circumstances.

The following times are the new collection times for children who are at Owls:

16.00 – first collection time

16.15

16.45

17.15 – from 17.15, parents can come and collect their children at any time after 17.15 up until 18.00 when Owls finishes.

This week's lunch time superstar is Tabitha for being super adventurous and trying lots of new foods. Well done Tabitha!

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

“St Christopher’s – the best possible start through excellence, empathy and endeavour.”

Work of the Week

Year 2 have developed their writing skills through their literacy topic, based around the book 'House Held Up by Trees' by Ted Kooser. They concluded this topic by crafting descriptive poems inspired by the book's imagery. Take a look at Vihaan's poem, filled with wonderful figurative language.

The House Held Up By Trees

By Vihaan

An old house held up by branches,
Tall towering trees,
Surrounding the ancient, creaky dilapidated
cottage
Strongly held with twiggy singermails
The hands of ~~the~~^{the} tree holding the house.
This house is covered around in creepers
Sagging them powerfully.
Crazily waiting the hands of the spiny
tangled vines.
The sky was a blue blanket with cotton
wool balls sewn in.

Nursery and Pre-Reception News

What a busy first week back after the half term. Not only do we have our new story of the week, 'We're going on a bear hunt', but we also had poetry recital week!

The children have impressed us all with their poems, they all showed great confidence in practising their poems in front of their friends during group time. Congratulations to those who made it to the final and to those who received highly commended certificates!

With our book being 'We're going on a bear hunt' the children have been busy in the creative room re-telling the order of the story through different media. Working hard on their fine motor skills, the children tore blue ribbon to create the river and cutting strips of green tissue paper for the 'Swishy, Swashy grass' just like in the book. To help us go on our own bear hunt the children have been designing binoculars and talking about where we might find a bear... 'the woods' 'the forest' 'a cave'. In the garden we have been looking closely at some of the words we read in the story, 'over, under and through'. Using the giant blocks the children created bridges to go under, walls to go over and a 'big cave' to go through. To help us recognise the bear the children made loose natural parts to create the bear with conkers and wooden chips and in the kitchen we made bear face toast. Chopping banana for the ears and nose and using raisins for the eyes. All of the children we're happy as their bear wasn't so scary but very very yummy!



Reception News

Welcome Back!

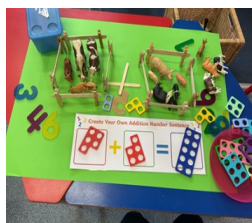
This half-term, we are diving into an exciting new topic—the farm!

Our farmyard-inspired story this week was *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins. This delightful book gave us a wonderful introduction to farm life and the animals we might encounter. We explored the positional language and showed off our skills as budding computer programmers. Using Bee-Bot robots, we coded instructions to navigate over, under, though, and around different obstacles on a farmyard map. The children also began crafting their own story maps, taking inspiration from Rosie's journey around the farm.

Of course, our maths learning has been farm-themed too. We've been counting and adding animals in the pens and practising how to record number sentences in written form.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all the children who participated in our annual poetry recital. The standard was exceptionally high this year, making it harder than ever to choose our finalists. Well done to everyone who learnt and performed a poem—we are so proud of you all!

We can't wait for more farmyard adventures ahead!



The Foundation Team

Dates for the Diary

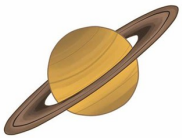
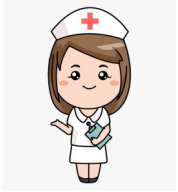
Tuesday 4th March - Pancake relay

Children to wear their PE kit with House T-shirt over their sweatshirt



Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

*Children to come to school dressed as super hero's
Fantasy & Real-Life*



Friday 7th March - Saturn Class Assembly

Refreshments for Saturn parents will be served under the porch from 8.30am

