



## Weekly News

“St Christopher’s – nurturing independent, highly-motivated and engaged children.”

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents,

### **Do Share I’ll Listen (DSL) Assembly**

Another week of exciting learning at St Christopher’s! On Monday, we held our termly “Do Share I’ll Listen” assembly, reminding the children of the role of our DSL’s (Designated Safeguarding Leads) as people who are in school to help and listen to any worries children may have. At St Christopher’s the DSL’s are Mrs Grehan, Mrs Gunn, Mrs Payne and Miss Louvel. The children were reminded that they can, of course, speak to any member of staff during the day but that our job is to help keep children safe in school. If a child feels worried or upset, the DSL is someone they can talk to, who listens carefully, helps children feel safe, and makes sure they get the right help when they need it.

### **Wellbeing and Mighty Minds at St Christopher’s**

Here at St Christopher’s, our children’s wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to giving them the tools they need to thrive. Our *Mighty Minds* programme has been running since April last year, with regular assemblies and class activities supporting positive mental health.

So far, we have explored *A Positive Toolbox*, helping children understand how their brains work when they experience big emotions. They have learned child-friendly strategies such as using a worry filter, practising mindfulness, and developing their inner cheerleader. Last term, we focused on celebrating each child’s unique qualities, building self-esteem, and recognising that we all learn in different ways.

This term, our theme is *Take 5 – the five steps to mental wellbeing*, which you may recognise from the NHS. We will explore these steps in a fun, age-appropriate way, using picture books as a starting point and practical activities to help build happiness. This includes showing kindness, noticing the small wonders in our world, and building positive connections with others. Relationship skills will be developed further in the summer term through assemblies focusing on resilience, personal space, and managing change.

### **Year One News**

Year 1 have begun the term with an exciting discovery! While walking through the school, the children noticed something unusual — a cupboard door covered in important warning signs! Using their Phase 5 phonics, they carefully read words such as *danger*, *caution*, and *dangerous creature inside*.

The children then made predictions about what might be hiding behind the door. They explained their ideas using the word *because*, giving clear reasons and referring to the clues they could see. Later in the week, we received a letter from the fire brigade, warning us that we must be prepared to douse a dragon! Using time words and bossy verbs, the children wrote a set of instructions for Mr B to follow if he ever sees smoke. Year 1 are full of curiosity and can’t wait to continue their investigation to discover what could be hiding inside the cupboard!

In Maths, we have been focusing on subtraction. The children used number lines and counters or objects to support their learning. We then challenged ourselves to solve addition and subtraction problems at the same time, carefully checking the symbols to decide what to do.

In Topic, we have been learning about clothing from the past. The children really enjoyed looking at and trying on some Victorian clothing from Bourne Hall. They thought about similarities and differences with what we wear today — although the baggy bloomers were not a favourite!

Next week, we will be learning about traditional clothing from around the world. We would love to see examples of traditional clothing worn at home, such as saris, kaftans, or traditional Chinese dress. Please either upload a short video to Seesaw or, if you prefer, send the item into school by 19th January. We will keep everything safe in school for the week.

## Year Two News

It has been a busy week in Year 2 as we gear up for the St Christopher's panto season! Rehearsals are well underway, with lines and cues being practised, props being made and costumes tried on. Well done to all the children for the fantastic effort they have shown in learning their parts so far.

In Maths, the children revisited addition and subtraction strategies, with a particular focus on using the column method and solving word problems. A challenge called *Strike it Out* encouraged them to think strategically, using available digits in a calculation before their partner could strike theirs out first. There was plenty of mathematical thinking on display, with careful planning and problem-solving throughout.

In English, Year 2 were introduced to their new text, *House Held Up by Trees* by Ted Kooser. Linking with their Science learning, the children began by exploring the trees around our school grounds, looking closely at leaf shapes, berries and seed casings to help identify different species found at St Christopher's. This inspired some wonderful descriptive vocabulary for their writing, including words such as *entwined*, *delicate* and *aromatic*. The book cover prompted some thoughtful questions, leading the children to use their expanding vocabulary and powers of persuasion to write an estate agent's advertisement for an imaginary house.

The theme of trees continued in Art lessons. The children used masking tape to create the shapes of silver birch trunks and branches before applying and blending watercolour paints in a wash. Oscar carefully selected just the right colours to create a sunset effect. Once the paint had dried and the tape was removed, the resulting gasps of delight were wonderful to hear. As Henry proudly remarked, "*I really love my painting!*" — quite right too!

## Wet Weather

At the moment, we are experiencing particularly rainy weather. We do go outside when it is raining so we ask that all children have their rainproof coats with hoods on school every day, clearly labelled. Also, if children are having Forest School, please do send them in with wellington boots.

This week's lunch time superstar is Luca in our Nursery class, for impressing the kitchen staff at how well you have settled into having St Christopher's lunches, well done Luca!

Top of the leader board this week is **Kemp** House with a superb total of **568** House points. Congratulations to **Kemp** house.

### Merit Awards:

Maria Ö, Samuel M, Harvey M, Axel K, Rowan B-R, Nola T, Georgia S, Harry P, Oscar M, Ivy R, Martha V-A,  
William I and Luigi CM

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

*"St Christopher's – the best possible start through excellence, empathy and endeavour."*

## Work of the Week

In literacy this week, Year 1 have been using their detective skills, when they discovered a mysterious door. Austin used his incredible writing skills from the clues to guess who could be behind the door!



I think there is  
a dragon because  
there are  
foot prints  
and a dragon  
tail and  
warning signs on  
the door! ✓✓



Amazing work today Austin, great  
job using your 'reading eyes' for your  
Spelling!

## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

What a wonderful first full week back after the Christmas break! It has been filled with lots of exciting activities and new learning in Nursery. Our traditional tale this week was *'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'*.

In the Kitchen, we became real life story explorers and tried different flavours of porridge. Some were yummy, some were a bit funny - then we talked about which ones we liked best. We even got to chop our own fruit toppings, carefully using the bridge technique.

In Green room, we created evidence files just like detectives. We talked about what happened first, next, and last, and practised retelling the story in the correct order. Nursery showed great understanding of what Goldilocks shouldn't have done and how she could be kinder next time. Well done!

In the Creative area, we made our very own Baby Bear chairs using junk modelling. We also made bears, using tissue paper to give them fluffy fur. They look brilliant and very cuddly!

Alongside our traditional tale, we have also started our phonics learning. Our first sound was 'S', and we have been thinking about objects that begin with the same sound: *sun, scissors, sandwich and snail*. We practised making our sound marks in porridge oats and on large sheets of paper.

Well done to Pre-Reception, Nursery, and our new starters for settling into the term so well!



## Reception News

We've started the new term with our exciting topic *'Turrets and Tiaras'*! The children have already begun exploring the key features of a castle and learning what they are used for.

We have been reading the book *'I Don't Want a Cold'* by Tony Ross, featuring a Little Princess. Inspired by the story, we investigated how germs spread and how to stop them. Using glitter on our hands, we were amazed to see how easily they can travel around the classroom. We were fascinated to find glitter in all sorts of places! We then carried out a simple science experiment, pretending pepper in water was germs. When a soapy finger touched the water, the pepper quickly moved away, showing how soap helps wash germs away.

In phonics we linked our learning by making a volcano for the letter 'V' a sound the children won't forget! Creative time included making kings and queens from cardboard tubes to live in our castles, who certainly look very regal.

We can't wait to continue our castle adventures and share more learning with you soon.





## Dates for the Diary

### Wednesday 21st January - Year 1 Sports Morning

*Can children please wear their PE kit to school. They will also be expected to bring their St Christopher's fleece and water bottle*

### Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th February 9am - Year 2 Panto 'A Hint of Snow White'

*Tickets available now via ParentMail*



### Friday 6th February - PTA Quiz night

*Tickets now on sale via the PTA website*



### Monday 9th February 2pm - Winter Music Concert



**Mathletics:** Congratulations to Quinn S for your Bronze certificate

Congratulations to Ralph C for your Silver certificate

Congratulations to Oscar M for your Gold certificate

Congratulations to Sebastian PdM and Ashwin S for your Platinum certificates



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

Georgia S for your Olympic Day Diploma





PTA Quiz



# IT'S QUIZ TIME!

FRI 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
TICKETS £20 PER PERSON  
TEAMS OF 6-8  
7.15PM - 10PM

FISH & CHIPS (& VEGGIE OPTION)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



SCHOOL SUBJECTS, WITH A TWIST



WILL YOU TAKE HOME THE SMARTEST  
GROWN UPS TROPHY THIS YEAR?

