



Weekly News

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

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Former Pupils Return for Special Assembly on Dog Safety with Chinthurst School

The whole school enjoyed a special assembly today as they welcomed back former pupils who are now at our sister school, Chinthurst School, alongside Headteacher Miss Trundle, Deputy Head Mrs Winchester, and a very special four-legged guest, Scout – their much-loved wellbeing dog.

It was so wonderful to welcome back some of our alumni Daisy D, James, Daisy GD and Leila, now in Year 4, and Florence in Year 3, who returned to help deliver an engaging whole-school assembly focused on dog safety and understanding dog behaviour. Our former pupils were thrilled to see their old friends and teachers, and we were all excited to hear about life at Chinthurst.

Scout behaved impeccably throughout the visit and played a starring role as Miss Trundle taught the children about how to read a dog’s body language - from wagging tails that signal happiness to ears going back when a dog feels uncomfortable. The children also discovered why it’s important to give dogs space when they walk away or lie down, and that shaking can be a natural way for dogs to release stress. Our alumni helped to demonstrate how to safely greet a dog while out walking, calmly offering a hand to sniff before gently stroking from collar to tail.

The assembly ended with a lively Q&A for Miss Trundle, as the children eagerly asked questions to find out more about Scout. They discovered that Scout’s favourite smell is sausages, that her fluffy coat keeps her cosy in winter (with a raincoat for rainy days or chilly weather) and that she loves getting dressed up for special events at school like World Book Day.

A big thank you to Miss Trundle for sharing her expert advice on dog safety and for introducing us to Chinthurst's pawesome pooch, Scout. It was lovely to welcome back our former pupils too and to see how much they have grown and are flourishing in their next chapter.

If you would like to find out more about Chinthurst’s Year 1 Early Offer process for Year 3 entry, please contact Chinthurst’s Admissions Manager, Louise Hughes, at lhughes@chinthurstschool.co.uk.

Year One News

In English, we had great fun using our *bossy commands* from last week to write instructions for travelling on a flight with “Dragon Air”! The children chose some wonderfully exciting destinations, including Disneyland, Chelsea Football Stadium, Thailand, the swimming pool and Pizza World.

Later in the week, we received a surprise letter explaining that the dragon was feeling rather squashed inside the cupboard! The children talked thoughtfully about setting him free and shared how this might make them feel. They used the conjunction *but* to explain their mixed emotions, such as: “*I feel sad the dragon is leaving but I know he will be happier with more space.*”

In Maths, we went number-hunting on number lines! Some numbers had mysteriously fallen off, and the children used their estimation skills to make sensible guesses about which numbers were missing. They explained their ideas clearly and showed super reasoning skills.

Our young scientists continued investigating absorbency in science. The children loved testing different materials to see which ones were the best at soaking up water — there were lots of curious minds at work!

The children were lucky to enjoy Art with Mrs Degg, where they explored Vincent van Gogh’s *Starry Night*. They carefully used crayons to recreate the beautiful swirling patterns and effects, producing some fantastic artwork.

In Computing, the children became coders! They learned what an algorithm is and discovered why giving instructions in the correct order is so important — especially when telling a computer what to do.

Year Two News

This week, Year 2 have been art historians. They have been investigating Tudor portraits linked to their History topic, with a particular focus on Hans Holbein's portrait of Henry VIII, as well as the Armada Portrait and the Rainbow Portrait of Elizabeth I. It was fascinating to spot the many symbols and hidden clues within the paintings. Dawn noticed that Elizabeth's dress was covered in images of eyes and ears, showing that the Queen could see and hear everything that was happening. The children then used their excellent observation skills to draw a portrait of Henry VIII inspired by Holbein. The more they looked, the more details they noticed.

With Mrs Degg, the children have begun their Van Gogh projects. They explored the experimental, directional mark-making techniques he used and discussed how Van Gogh tried to express how objects made him feel, rather than creating a realistic copy. The children then experimented with their own mark making using pastels.

In English, the children have continued their work based on *House Held Up By Trees*. They sequenced sentences to describe the life cycle of trees, improving their writing by using a range of time conjunctions and adding more detail. Lucy particularly impressed us with her sentence: "*In due course, the seeds blow away and disperse like a magician.*"

In Maths, Year 2 have continued to focus on developing their mental maths skills. They have been practising mental addition and subtraction and have also begun learning their times tables.

It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 2 as final rehearsals have taken place for next week's pantomime. The children have been working incredibly hard on their acting skills to bring the story to life, and our audiences are certainly in for a treat!

Maths Superstars

It's that time of year again when Year 2 are putting their mathematical brains to the test by learning their times tables! A huge congratulations to Daniel for earning the first bronze star of the year. What a fantastic start!

Reminder - PTA Quiz Night – Next week is quiz week!

Our Teacher's table are ready and brushing up on their general knowledge! Today's your last chance to book your ticket so if you haven't already, let our wonderful PTA know if you want to join us!

- ❑ Friday 6th February
- ❑ 7.15pm – 10.00pm
- ❑ Teams of 6–8
- ❑ £20 per person (includes a delicious fish and chip supper!)

This week's lunch time superstar is Maria in Reception for being very adventurous and trying lots of new foods. Well done Maria!

Top of the leader board this week is **Donaldson** House with a superb total of **1155** House points. Congratulations to **Donaldson** house.

Merit Awards:

Alexander D, Emma S, Leo S, Akshaana S, Chloe L, Sebastian PdM, Eva B, Alfie H, Daniel G, Izzy H, Henry W and Macie C

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

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

Work of the Week

Saturn class have been experimenting with oil pastels to recreate 'Dance' by Keith Haring. This is Sylvie's wonderful piece!



Nursery and Pre-Reception News

What a busy and exciting week we've had! Our learning has been inspired by '*The Three Little Pigs*', with lots of hands-on activities. The children designed and built houses using bricks, sticks and straw, helping them explore materials and structures.

They also made their own pig puppets and used them to act out the story, building confidence, imagination, and storytelling skills. Through role play, the children took turns being the pigs and the wolf and used lovely language and expression. We've also been busy drawing around 2D shapes, linking these to the shapes we can see in the houses we designed.

In the Playdough area, the children have been printing bricks to make their own houses. They practised counting the dots on the bricks and matching them to the correct number, building early number recognition and counting skills in a fun, hands-on way.

Our little chefs have been hard at work in the cooking area making cheese straws. They showed fantastic listening skills, independence, and enthusiasm while following instructions and exploring new tastes. And the Nursery smelt yummy!

Our sound of the week was 't', using "the train goes along the track" to help us remember the sound.

Thank you for your continued support, we're so proud of the children's enthusiasm and engagement this week!



Reception News

It's been a fun-filled, action packed week in Reception!

In phonics, we learned the new digraph 'sh', and the children did a fantastic job spotting and using it in their reading and writing.

The role-play area was transformed into a shoe shop, where the children loved labelling shoes, counting pennies, and measuring their feet using cubes, rulers, and a real shoe measure.

Our story, '*Zog and the Flying Doctors*', by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler inspired discussions about future jobs. The children thoughtfully wrote about what they would like to be when they grow up and how they could work towards their dreams.

In maths, we have been exploring odd and even numbers, linking this to pairing shoes and using a ten frame to see whether numbers made equal pairs or had one left over.

In French, we've been learning colours, see which ones your child can remember.

Mars have also been very busy rehearsing for their class assembly, while Neptune have started learning about Vincent Van Gogh, experimenting with texture and watercolour to make a background for their next masterpiece.

Well done, Reception, for another fantastic week of learning!



The Foundation Team

Dates for the Diary



Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th February - Year 2 Pantomime

Refreshments for Year 2 parents will be served under the porch from 8.30am



Friday 6th February - PTA Quiz Night

Tickets available on the PTA website

Monday 9th February - Winter Music Concert 2pm

Year 2 & invited musicians

Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th February - Parent teacher meetings

Thursday 12th February - Saturn Class Assembly

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



Friday 13th February - Mars Class Assembly

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



Mathletics:

Congratulations to Chloe L, Sebastian PdM for your Emerald Certificates



Spotty Box: Awards for success outside school:

Learn to swim:

Level 1: Henry H, Charlie H, Edward C, Jack R and Chloe L

Level 2: Otilie H

