



## Weekly News

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

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents,

### **PTA Valentine’s Disco**

A huge and heartfelt thank you to our phenomenal PTA for organising such a fun-filled Valentine’s Disco just before half term. The children had a truly magical and memorable time.

I am certain we all agree that the PTA’s hard work, enthusiasm and creativity make a tremendous difference to our school community. We are so grateful for your time, talent and the enormous effort that goes into creating such special events for our children. Thank you for all that you do – it is very much appreciated.

### **The Great Pancake Race**

On Tuesday morning, we gathered for our much-anticipated annual Great Pancake Race. Excitement filled the air as children, proudly representing their houses, lined up at the starting line, ready to race while skilfully flipping their pancakes.

With laughter echoing across the playground, the competitive spirit was clear. Each participant gave their very best effort to keep their pancake soaring through the air and skilfully land it back in the pan. There were some impressive flips, a few daring saves, and plenty of smiles along the way!

A special thank you goes to Mrs Rendall, whose legendary “indestructible pancakes” truly lived up to their name. They withstood every flip, drop, and mid-air twist! Her efforts ensured that every child had a pancake to race with – no matter how many times it hit the ground.

It was wonderful to see such fantastic team spirit, determination, and, most importantly, so much fun. We are already looking forward to doing it all again next year!

### **Poetry Recitals**

We have had a wonderful week celebrating poetry, as the children took to the stage to perform their poems. From heartfelt recitals to wonderfully imaginative interpretations, every child brought their words to life with confidence and enthusiasm.

It has been truly inspiring to see their expressive voices, dramatic gestures and growing love of poetry shining through in each performance. The courage and pride shown by all of our young performers was a joy to see.

A huge well done to every single child who took part – you made us incredibly proud!

Thank you as well to our families and teachers for nurturing, encouraging and championing such fantastic creativity.

A special congratulations to our winners:

#### Early Years Poetry Recital Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Alexander (Mars Class), 2<sup>nd</sup> Julia (Neptune Class), 3<sup>rd</sup> Eden (Pre-Reception)

#### Key Stage One Poetry Recital Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Martha (Venus Class), 2<sup>nd</sup> Daniel (Mercury Class), 3<sup>rd</sup> Heidi (Saturn Class)

## **Year One News**

In Literacy, we enjoyed a fun-filled Poetry Week. The children learned about onset and rhyme, and how to identify rhyming words. They had lots of fun creating rhyming strings — some of them were very funny! Later in the week, the children used their rhyming strings to write imaginative rhyming couplets, showing wonderful creativity and confidence with language.

### Rhyming Couplets by Florence

*Once there were some bees, buzzing in the trees, kicking the fleas off their knees, trying not to sneeze, eating lots of cheese!*

We reached an exciting milestone this week in Maths as we were introduced to finding the difference for the first time! The children explored it as a form of subtraction and loved building towers, comparing their heights and physically breaking off the difference to see how much more or less there was. We then took our understanding a step further by using related addition and subtraction facts. Using part-whole models and bar models, the children began to see the links between numbers and develop a deeper understanding of number relationships. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing as they explain their thinking and make connections in their learning!

For Topic, our learning moved on to a local historical event as we explored the history of the Epsom Derby. The children were fascinated to learn about the history of this famous race and why it is such an important part of our local area. Creativity was in full swing as they designed their own colourful jockey silks and badges and were delighted when the teachers surprised them with hobby horses. There was great excitement as they raced them around the playground!

In Science, we began our new unit on animals, focusing on identifying mammals and birds. The children learned the key features of each group and then applied their knowledge by exploring non-fiction books in the library to find out more about different mammals and birds.

## **Year Two News**

This week, the children have been busy across a range of subjects and have shown great enthusiasm in their learning.

In Literacy, the children performed their poems to the rest of the class, using clear voices and expressive reading. We spent time both celebrating and thoughtfully critiquing each performance, sharing positive and constructive feedback. This helped to build confidence and further develop speaking and listening skills.

This week in Maths, the children revised measuring length using rulers and metre sticks. The children began by making sensible estimates before measuring carefully and accurately — a fantastic way to build both confidence and precision. They then used their measurements to solve a range of problems, applying the four operations and making clear links between measuring and problem solving. It was wonderful to see them thinking so logically and explaining their reasoning with growing confidence.

In Science, our focus turned to healthy, balanced meals. The children explored what makes a nutritious packed lunch by tasting a discussing a typical example. We discussed different food groups such as fruit and vegetables, carbohydrates and protein, and then designed their own healthy packed lunch. They showed excellent understanding and thoughtful discussion during this lesson.

The children were historians researching Henry VIII in detail and creating a fact file about his life. They learned about key events and discovered interesting facts about his six wives, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout.

Overall, it has been a very busy and productive week in Year 2. The children have worked hard across all subjects, and we are very proud of their effort and positive attitude to learning.

## Year 2 Maths Superstars

Huge congratulations to our Year 2 mathematicians who have been successful in achieving their times table stars this week. Well done to Tristan for achieving his bronze star! An amazing achievement.

This week's lunch time superstar is Caitlyn, the kitchen team were very impressed with you for chatting to them about your delicious lunches. Well done Caitlyn!

Top of the leader board this week is **Ahlberg** House with a superb total of **2560** House points. Congratulations to **Ahlberg** house.

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

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

## Work of the Week

Year 2 have been busy writing stories this week. Using a picture as a stimulus, Ivy worked hard to add interest using expanded noun phrases, powerful verbs and adverbs. Well done Ivy!



On a windy fresh evening while the queen was going to bed two selfish knights on brave, handsome horses crept quietly towards the tall graceful palace <sup>palace</sup> in till they noticed two giant glowing orange strange <sup>eyes</sup> eyes there. A powerful <sup>earthquake</sup> earthquake started to shake until they jumped with <sup>(surprise)</sup> surprise and shouted "It's a dragon!"

Before a wink of an eye they shouted attack! As fast as lightning the dragon dashed out of the cave and <sup>powerfully</sup> powerfully blowed out fire. Then the soldiers demanded to show how strong they were. The dragon blast down to the knights. <sup>thunk</sup> thunk.

## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

What a busy and exciting first week back after half-term we've had in Nursery!

Our story this week was *Mr Wolf's Pancakes* by Jan Fearnley and the children loved it. They helped Mr Wolf by writing shopping lists, choosing ingredients, and even drawing tasty toppings like bananas, strawberries and honey.

On Tuesday, we took part in the whole-school Pancake Day relay race and Nursery, you were fantastic! The children showed wonderful teamwork and big smiles as they carefully carried their pancakes. We were so proud.

In the Blue Room, we designed funny pancake faces and made playdough pancakes to flip and serve in our role play area, which was transformed into Mr Wolf's cottage. We also practised poems and songs ready for the school poetry recital. Some of our Nursery children bravely performed on the big stage and well done to you all for giving it a go!

What a great week it's been!



## Reception News

We welcomed everyone back from half term to our exciting new topic, Dinosaurs! Neptune class have been wearing explorer outfits, hunting for dinosaurs in the sand, while Mars opened a 'Brontosaurus Burger Bar', visited by Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble. The children have loved making burgers with different toppings, eating in or taking away – yabba dabba doo!

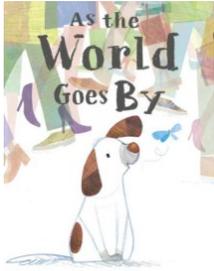
Our number of the week was 16, and our understanding of how teen numbers are 10 plus some more is really improving. We've also been measuring dinosaurs using unifix cubes, carefully lining them up and counting with 1:1 correspondence.

We enjoyed reading '*Dear Dinosaur*' by Chae Strathie and Nicola O'Byrne and wrote our own letters to the main character. To prepare for the pancake race, we practised making pancakes and writing ingredient lists. The poetry recital was another highlight, and we were so proud of our fantastic performers!



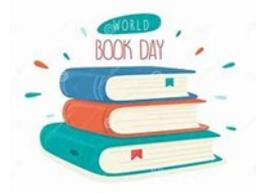
**The Foundation Team**

## Dates for the Diary



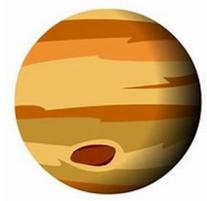
### **Thursday 5th March - World Book Day**

*Children to come to school dressed as a dog, cat, bird, butterfly or duck*



### **Friday 6th March - Jupiter Assembly**

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



# Pancake Day 2026

