



## Weekly News

Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Parents,

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us today for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. It was a delightful event, filled with delicious cakes, coffee, and tea, giving parents the opportunity to catch up with one another and chat with staff. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who donated their time and cake, and an enormous thank you goes out to our amazing PTA for their continued hard work and support!

### **Year One News**

In literacy, Year One have continued to explore the story of Little Red Riding Hood. The children have written letters about Red Riding Hood's journey through the forest, creating some wonderful descriptions of the wolf and the delicious food packed in her picnic basket. They also used chalk pens to create labelled maps showing the route from Little Red Riding Hood's cottage to Grandma's house.

In Maths, the focus has been on counting on using number tracks, and the children have enjoyed playing mathematical games to reinforce their learning.

The Year One topic this week was creating fact files about wolves, which tied in beautifully with the wolves from the traditional tales we have been reading. The children used the internet and non-fiction books to discover fascinating facts, such as how a wolf's ears point up and its tongue hangs out when it's happy.

On Wednesday, we had a brilliant trip to Gatton Park, and the weather was perfect for a full day outdoors. In the morning, the children embarked on an exciting quest, using costumes, character stones, and objects from various locations to inspire their imaginations and create their own stories. After lunch, the children explored the park using their sense. Two of the highlights were creating a natural orchestra, using objects from nature to make music, and making concoctions with herbs from the garden, stimulating their sense of smell in a fun and creative way.



### **Year Two News**

This week, Year Two have been learning to write commands followed by exclamation marks! They have also practised extending sentences using "that", "and", and "or". These skills have been incorporated into their writing, where they are starting to use adjectives and similes to add depth. It's wonderful to see them thoughtfully crafting their sentences.

In Maths, the focus has been on comparing amounts and numbers, ranging from single to three-digit figures. The children have been learning to order these numbers from greatest to smallest (and vice versa) and have practised using symbols in their comparisons. They also revisited telling the time, focusing on half-hour and quarter-hour intervals.

For their Topic Work, the children explored map skills, learning about bird's eye views, positional language, and compass points to develop their understanding of direction and geography.

## Sibling Registration

We would like to reach out of our families with younger siblings to encourage families who would like Nursery and Pre-Reception places that you are able to register now for places. Our Nursery and Pre-Reception places do get booked up quickly and we already have children registered to start in 2026 and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out! Please do follow this link to register your child [Register Your Child | St Christopher's School & Nursery Epsom \(st-christophers.surrey.sch.uk\)](https://st-christophers.surrey.sch.uk)

If you have any questions regarding registration or availability of spaces, please contact the school office who will be more than happy to help.

## Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Mhairi Watts as a Key Worker to our Nursery Team. Mrs Watts is an experienced key worker and is very much looking forward to joining our wonderful team. I know you will give her a very warm welcome when you meet her.

## Dates for the Diary

We have some wonderful events coming up this term. Our Harvest Festival is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at St Martin's Church; it's the first event in the school calendar when the whole school gather to celebrate this autumnal festival. We look forward to seeing you there!

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, the PTA are organising our annual Halloween Disco for the children. This will be a Mufti Day where the children are welcome to wear clothes in the Halloween colours of orange and black.

**We do have 2 changes to our school calendar; Father's Day Challenge will now be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Sport's Day will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.**

This weeks lunch time superstar is **Florence D** for enjoying her lunch every day and bravely and politely asking for seconds. Well done Florence!

Top of the leader board this week is **Kemp** House with a superb total of **853** House points. Congratulations to **Kemp** house.

Merit Awards:

**Tristan T, Georgie GD, Alisa S, Rory L, Luca G, Chloe B, Isabella D, Florence D, Chris X, JT - C, Quinn S and Beatrice T**

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

## Work of the Week

This week Year 1 visited Gatton Park. We all enjoyed the trip. When we returned to school, Dawn helped create a class word bank filled with ideas. She then used the word bank to write about Gatton Park, all on her own. Well done Dawn, great use of your sounds to write about Gatton Park!



## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

What a fabulous week we have had in Nursery. This week we have been learning about Autumn time, the children were fully prepared for their learning when they arrived on Monday morning as they had been on an Autumn hunt at the weekend. We were very impressed with all the children, as they have also been learning to put their coats on all by themselves for the chilly Autumn weather to come. Our focus book of the week has been 'Owl Babies'. As there are three Owl babies in the story, we have been practising our counting skills. We were able to show how we can count three objects using different resources such as conkers, fingers, and leaves. The children made some delicious Owls in the kitchen using bread for a body, banana for eyes, and slices of orange for wings. We also made some baby owls in our creative room, for this we had to practise our cutting skills to create the wings. We used scissors to cut in a straight and zigzag line. Finally, we learnt that in each year we have four seasons, we made a season's tree using lots of different resources to show how the tree changes during all four seasons. Well done Nursery! You have been superstars!



## Reception News

This week in Reception, we have been truly inspired by the beautiful autumn changes all around us. The children have been busy creating autumn crowns, which served as a wonderful stimulus for our writing activities. We encouraged the children to use descriptive language to express the colours and textures they incorporated into their unique creations. It's heartwarming to see their progress in the 'Ready for Writing' books, as they confidently apply their phonics knowledge, particularly in identifying initial sounds in words. In our phonics sessions, we have successfully learned our first set of satpin letters. The children have even begun reading some decodable words made up of these letters, such as sat, tap, and pin. Their enthusiasm for phonics is truly commendable!

In Maths, we explored ordering numbers and various ways to represent them. We created a large number line that we matched with Numicon and natural materials, like conkers. To challenge ourselves, we had a class activity where we worked as a team to order the number line. We were incredibly impressed with the problem-solving skills the children demonstrated when they noticed and corrected errors.

We cannot wait for our school trip next week and look forward to sharing our exciting news and photographs with you.



**The Foundation Team**

## Dates for the Diary

### Thursday 3rd October - Reception trip to Painshill Park

*The children should wear their PE joggers and sweatshirts with trainers and their waterproofs, if the weather is very wet and wellies are required we will send an email requesting them to be brought in. Bookbags do not need to be sent in. A packed lunch will be provided.*

### Friday 4th October 9.15– 10.30 - Open Morning for Prospective Families



**Mathletics:** Congratulations to **Faith H, Leonardo D, Luca G, Samuel B. Lars R, Chris X, Edward F and Cora M** for your Bronze 1 Certificates

Congratulations to **Arvid M and Lars R** for your Bronze 2 Certificates

Congratulations to **Lars R** for your Bronze 3 Certificate



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

Lars R - Level 2 & swimming crash course certificates

Zhibo X - Yellow Belt Green Stripe certificate for TKD London

Chris X - White Belt Green Stripe certificate for TKD London

Charlie L - Student of the Week at Stagecoach for a fantastic first week back and super singing.

Isabella D - Level 2 bike ability certificate

Florence P - Certificate for completing the Summer Reading challenge

Max P - Certificate for completing the Summer Reading challenge

